

# **Trial of a universal precautions approach to stigma reduction in the BBV/STI field**

**Funded by:  
Australian Government Department  
of Health**



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY



Centre for Social Research in Health



# The team

Centre for Social Research in  
Health, UNSW

Burnet Institute

Aus Research Centre in Sex,  
Health and Society

Kirby Institute, UNSW

Partners:

NAPWHA

AFAO/Health Equity Matters

Scarlet Alliance

AIVL

Hepatitis Australia

NSW Multicultural HIV and  
Hepatitis Service

ASHM

# BBV stigma and...

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Broad range of conditions which attract stigma

93 identities, conditions and attributes reported as attracting stigma in a sample of US adults

- most participants (>95%) indicated that they lived with at least one attribute
- 90% reported more than one
- average of six.

“stigma affects a substantial segment of the U.S. population at any given time, with most individuals being stigmatized at some point in their lives” (p451).

Pachankis et al. The Burden of Stigma on Health and Well-Being: A Taxonomy of Concealment, Course, Disruptiveness, Aesthetics, Origin, and Peril Across 93 Stigmas. *Pers Soc Psychol Bull.* 2018;44(4):451-74.

# BBV stigma and everything else...

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*autism, bipolar disorder, blind, criminal record, disability, drug use, facial scars, gender, HIV, incontinence, living in public housing, low education, multiple tattoos, old age, overweight, psoriasis, race, sexuality, short stature, teen parent, unemployed, working in manual industries*

Not feasible for health systems to respond to each (93) condition, identity, practices

A universal precautions approach to stigma (and quality of care) assumes that all patients are fearful of exclusion or poor treatment on the basis of one or more conditions, practices, or identities

Treloar, Cama, Lancaster, Brener, Broady, Cogle, Donnell (2022). "A universal precautions approach to reducing stigma in health care: getting beyond HIV-specific stigma." *Harm Reduction Journal* 19(1): 74.

# This project - aims

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Develop and trial a world-first approach to stigma reduction based on UP

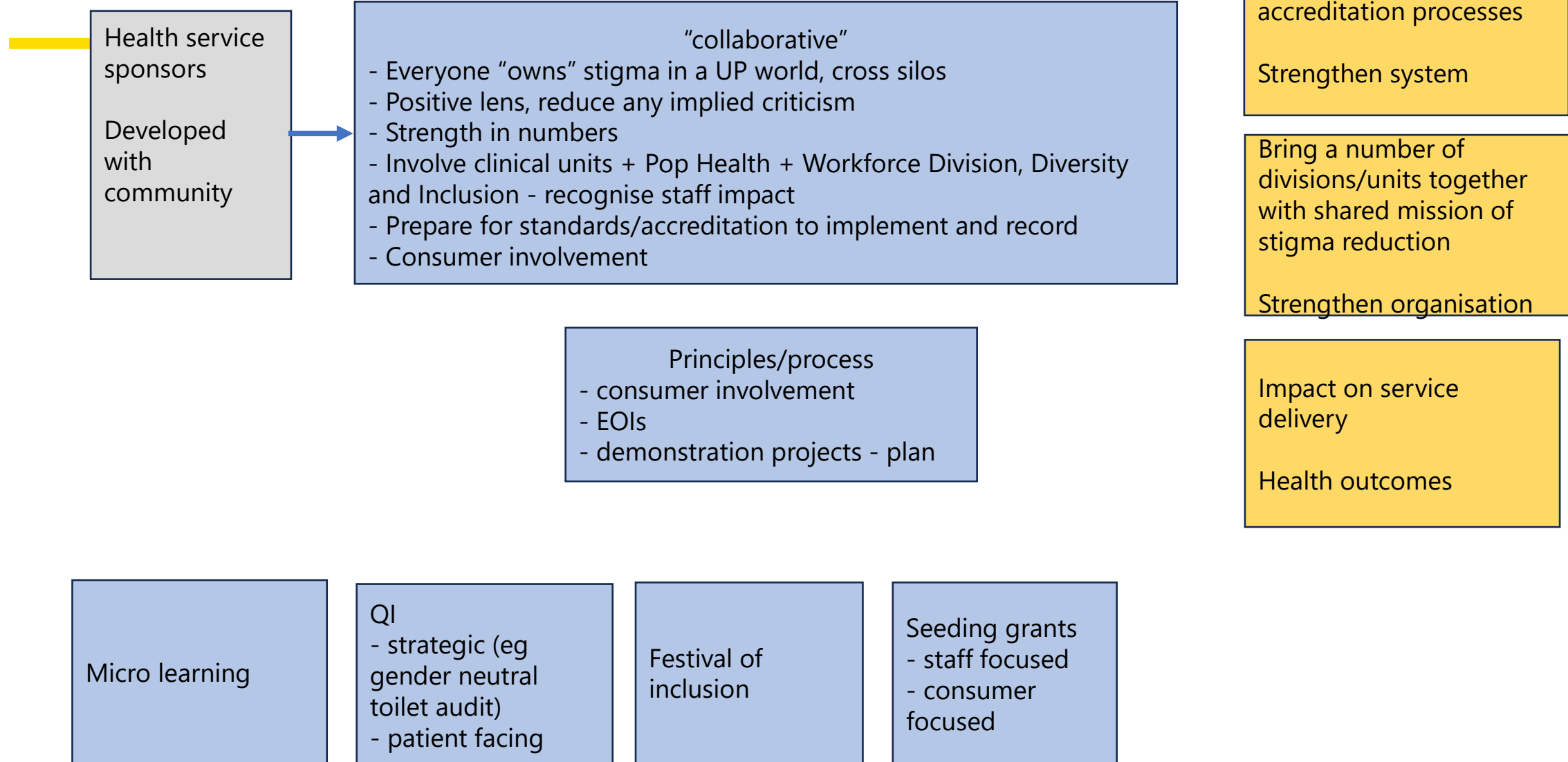
Aligned with and leveraging: equity, access and quality

Scalable approach to diverse health settings

Key questions

- Does a universal approach work?
- What can we learn from trial sites for subsequent implementation?

# New structure





**UNSW**  
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# Tackling Stigma

Overcoming Stigma as a Barrier to Healthcare  
- Nov 2024, UNSW Sydney

A new conference focused on  
stigma research & interventions

Where: UNSW Sydney campus

When: 21-22 November 2024