

# CREATING AN ANATOMICALLY CORRECT MODEL OF THE CLITORIS AND VULVA – CLITERATE

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## Background:

The world health organisation acknowledges that understanding genital anatomy is crucial for sexual and reproductive health. Despite increased medical research, there is still limited understanding regarding vulva and clitoris anatomy within the wider public as well as health professionals. Health professionals have not had access to tools that quickly and accurately explain genital anatomy in an accessible format. Bridging the gap between health provider and client knowledge is crucial for providing optimal care.

Our aim was to create an anatomically correct model to educate people about genital anatomy in a clinical setting.

## Methods:

An occupational therapist working in the disability sector, identified a lack of accurate models and engaged an industrial design team from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. This team were provided with an educational brief, two existing inaccurate models and original research articles from Dr. Helen O'Connell. This information was converted into a printed 3-D model and sent to occupational therapists, Nurses, Teachers, Physiotherapists, Sexologists and Doctors for feedback. Further consultation with the International Clitteratti informed the final design.

## Results:

The research resulted in the production of the Cliterate model, a spherical, pull-apart design that accurately explains the relationship between the clitoris, vulva, and pelvis. It will support health professionals to educate people of all abilities regarding sexual and reproductive health.

## Conclusions:

This project identified gaps in educational materials used by health professionals. Collaboration between industrial designers, health, and educational professionals and the international Clitteratti (an international group of model makers and medical experts in the area of clitoris anatomy) resulted in a practical way to increase the knowledge of genital anatomy.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Anita Brown-Major is the founder of Cliterate, part of the occupational therapy Thrive Rehab practice. This research project has produced an anatomical working model that is available for purchase. Anita has personally funded the development of the model.