DIGITAL AND DATA CAPABILITIES FOR SEXUAL HEALTH: SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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Background:
The *Australian Digital Health Capability Framework* (ADHCF) was launched by the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) in late 2023, as part of a deliberately agnostic policy agenda for digital transformation within health services, workforce training and education. The ADHCF assesses individual employee skills but does not address the technical and ethical concerns that may be encountered in sexual and reproductive health organisations. The *Digital and Data Capabilities for Sexual Health Model (DDCSHM)* and *Checklist* compliment the ADHCF by supporting holistic organisational strategy development.

Approach:
The *DDCSHM* was developed via transdisciplinary qualitative mixed-methods: a narrative review of literature addressing the intersection of digital literacy, data literacy and sexual health (n=30); key informant interviews with digital and data researchers and public health researchers and practitioners (n=29), and iterative consultations with an expert advisory group including clinicians, and representatives of Australian sexual and reproductive health and peer-advocacy organisations.

Outcomes:
There are many aspects of digital transformation warranting organisation-specific approaches to policy and strategy ie.:
"How does the organisation approach the use of for-profit sextech or medtech apps and platforms in sexual health promotion and clinical contexts?"
"Where potentially sensitive health consumer data are gathered passively (via website analytics) or actively (via client management platforms), what strategies are in place to prevent or respond to data breaches?"
The *DDCSHM* and *Checklist* offer a series of conversational prompts to guide productive dialogues between managers and board members, sexual health professionals, community stakeholders and sexual health consumers, promoting ethical and inclusive approaches to digital transformation.

Innovation/Significance:
As clinical and health promotion services are digitised there is increased risk of exclusion for sexual health consumers already experiencing stigma, disadvantage and marginalisation. Sexual health leaders seeking to develop robust digital transformation strategies must also build organisation-wide digital and data capability, in order to meaningfully assess the risks and opportunities in play.