

## **Policy to practice – WA’s comprehensive approach to sexual health for young people.**

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### **Background:**

The Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program at WA Department of Health (WA DoH) is responsible for the state-wide prevention and control of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses (BBVs). Young people a priority population in the *WA Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) Strategy 2019-2023*, with the majority of chlamydia and gonorrhoea notifications being in people aged 15-29 years.

### **Approach:**

WA DoH’s comprehensive response to reducing STIs fits within 5 action areas - prevention and education, testing, clinical care, workforce development, enabling environments and research. A partnership approach with non-government organisations and other government agencies is used to address these.

### **Outcome:**

SHBBVP coordinates the development of a suite of websites, hardcopy resources, campaigns and training opportunities to support and educate priority populations and build capacity in the sector to deliver prevention and education activities across the state.

### **Innovation:**

WA DoH recognises the vital role that comprehensive relationships and sexuality education (RSE) plays in preventing STIs and BBVs and reducing the public health impacts. For behaviour change to occur, young people need knowledge, skills, attitudes and practice to make informed choices about their sexual health. The SHBBVP create resources using these best practice principles on a broad range of topics including consent, online safety, relationships, puberty and diversity.

### **Significance:**

The annual reach and distribution of websites and resources for financial year 2021-22:

#### Parent/carer resources

- *Talk soon, talk often* ~15,000 copies
- *Yarning Quiet Ways* ~1,000 copies

#### Books for young people

- *Puberty* ~21,600 copies
- *Relationships, sex and other stuff* ~6100 copies

#### Websites

- *HealthySexual* - free online STI test - 743 form downloads
- *Get the Facts* – website for teens
  - 762,000 users
  - Ask a question feature - 515 questions
- Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships – website for schools
  - 200,000 users

#### *Healthysexual* 3 month media campaign burst

- Reach of 688,358

- 10,948 website visits
- YouTube ad ~271,000 views

**Disclosure of interest statement:**

No disclosures