

## **CAIRNS INDIGENOUS SEXUAL HEALTH WORKER NETWORK (CISHWN): SHARING HIV KNOWLEDGE**

### **Authors:**

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### **Background/ Purpose:**

Following an increase in HIV diagnoses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Far North Queensland (FNQ) since 2014, education sessions were conducted covering HIV, Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for CISHWN members. It was identified that current resources used by health facilities are very wordy, overloaded with information, aimed at urban men who have sex with men (MSM) and limited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander targeted resources. Most information around HIV, PEP and PrEP is being promoted through the gay community, so it does not reach the target group as a high proportion of the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders diagnoses in FNQ do not identify as MSM.

### **Approach:**

A series of posters and discrete wallet cards were created with information regarding HIV, PEP and PrEP that are intended to be a conversation starter between community members and their healthcare provider.

A double-sided lanyard card for clinicians has been made with information regarding what pathology tests to perform, treatment, follow-up requirements and contact numbers for further support.

### **Outcome/ Impact:**

Once community consultation was finalised, the draft resource was developed with feedback obtained in the focus groups. Lack of community knowledge on HIV, PEP and PrEP has highlighted the importance of a local culturally appropriate resource.

### **Innovation and significance:**

With the support of the newly implemented HIV Response Team, the resource is in the final stages of production. Once completed, HIV education sessions will be delivered to clinicians working for Queensland Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services in the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service district to allow staff to deliver further community education. Data out of the focus groups suggests knowledge on HIV, PEP & PrEP is limited, therefore education will be the focal point when distributing the resources.

### **Disclosure of interest statement:**

No disclosure of interest to declare.