The Queensland Health Gender & Sex Sub Working Group

Towards better collection, management and use of sex and gender information in Queensland Health.

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eHealth Queensland





On behalf of eHealth Queensland

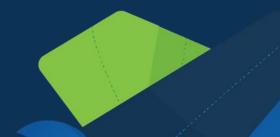
- I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this event.
- I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of Australia.

Our presentation

- Overview of the eHealth Queensland Gender and Sex Sub Working Group (GSSWG) including its
 - Composition
 - Activities
 - Achievements
 - Lessons learnt
- Details of implementation and adoption experience the Consumer Integrated Mental Health and Addiction (CIMHA) application
- Questions & Answers

The GSSWG — Composition

- Formed in July 2020 as an informal, non-decision-making working group to consider ICT-specific approaches for adding gender identity to applications.
- Currently, a multi-disciplinary working group of 36 members from across Queensland Health including
 - Executives and Managers
 - Medical Practitioners and Nurses
 - Health Information Managers
 - Business Analysts and Architects
 - ICT Specialists
 - Health and Clinical Informaticians



The GSSWG — Activities

- Proposing changes to improve Queensland Health data standards for sex, gender identity and related data elements.
- Assisting Queensland Health stakeholders with queries.
- Providing input to Queensland Health representatives on state-wide national committee consultations.
- Inviting and learning from external Australian and international organisations including Australian Government agencies, software vendors and standards development organisations.
- Raising awareness, advocacy, and supporting meaningful and effective change.

The GSSWG — Achievements

- Developed a Problem Statement to raise awareness.
- Recommended changes to Queensland Health's state-wide data standards to ensure definitions and permissible values for sex, gender identity and related data elements to meet contemporary expectations.
- Leveraged the work of HL7 International's Gender Harmony project in Queensland Health standards.
- Supported multiple state-wide clinical applications to implement support for gender identity and related data elements.

https://hl7.me/GHP

 Successfully campaigned for changes to national services to add support for gender identity during the pandemic.

The GSSWG — Lessons

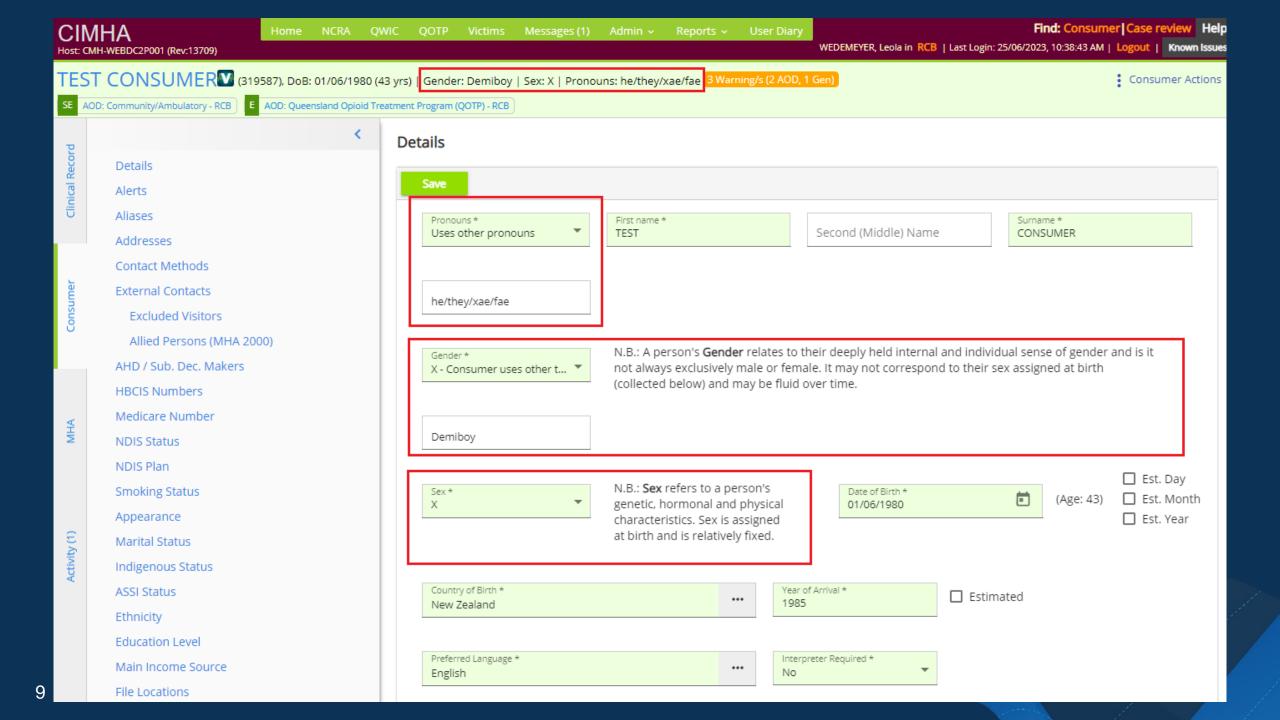
- A working group of dedicated and passionate members can be very effective in addressing the challenge of providing equitable care.
- Standards are the key to success.
- National alignment has improved, but there is still work do be done.
- Updating technical specifications and digital health applications are easier than one might think — the key is to start.



CIMHA

- Statewide clinical information system for mental health alcohol and other drugs care.
- Enhanced in November 2022 to record consumer gender and pronouns data elements.
- Title element removed from consumer registration / demographics modules and documents.
- Sex element retained for interfaces with other Queensland Health systems and national reporting.





CIMHA

Gender – uses other term		
Agender	Gender identity label TBD	Transgender
Bi	Gender queer	Transition to female
Bi-sexual	Lesbian	Transmale
born female identifies as male	Pansexual	Transmasculine
Demiboy	Poly trans	
Different term	Prefers not to label gender	
Exploring	Queer	
Female to male	They, them	
Gender fluid	Trans	

CIMHA

- 40 consumers with 'uses other pronouns' option selected.
- Combinations such as he/him or they/them, she/they/him, they/him.
- Other entries It/It's/Xe, Mix Masc/fem pronouns, Ze/Zhem.
- Consideration of data element and structured data requirements may be required on wider adoption of the element within Queensland Health.



Questions & Answers

Thank you

