



**family
planning
victoria**

Sexual & Reproductive Health
Care. Education. Advocacy.

eUpdate

www.fpv.org.au

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from the CEO

2008 has been a busy and successful year for Family Planning Victoria (FPV). As long time advocates for the removal of abortion from the Crimes Act, our views were regularly sought throughout the year as the community and parliamentarians debated the prospect of reform. Like many of you, we welcome the historic and meaningful change that has now occurred.

Another FPV highlight has been the changes we have made to our internal structure. The creation of the Clinical Education Unit, the development of the

Information and Communication team and the strengthening of our community and school based education program has developed our capacity to undertake our core health promotion activities.

The importance of effective communication tools was reinforced through our involvement in the research project *Making it Real: Relevant Sexual Health Communication for Disadvantaged Young People*. The findings of this research have given us a solid evidence base to plan future practice and strategies.

We have already made an impact with the creation of our PSST (Partnerships in Safer Sex and Testing) CD and the SAID (Sexual Assault and Intellectual Disability) resource – a much needed resource for sexual assault counsellors to work with women who have cognitive impairment.

National advocacy has also been an important feature of our work this year. As a member of Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia, we called on the Australian Government to develop a national sexual health strategy, bringing Australia into line with many other developed countries. Such a strategy would shift the focus from specific health issues such as sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS to people and relationships and sexual and reproductive health rights. FPV will continue to be involved in this important advocacy work into 2009.

Thank you to all those agencies and people who have partnered with FPV through 2008. We look forward to working with you again during 2009.

Lynne Jordan
CEO FPV

health promotion soap box partnerships

Partnerships can be defined in many ways and may take many forms, but they always imply:

- a balance of power and influence between partners
- the retention of each partner's core values and identity
- mutual respect, trust and transparency
- mutual benefit.¹

They are an important way of bringing together a range of skills and resources to increase the efficiency of our work in sexual and reproductive health and enhance its impact and reach.

However, to be successful, partnerships must have a clear purpose, be aligned with core business, enhance the work of all partners, and be well planned and evaluated.

Healthy partnerships are a vital part of

our health promotion leadership practice. They have allowed FPV to share information, resources and experiences and ensure we are collaborating and not competing to deliver best practice interventions to improve the sexual and reproductive health of all Victorians.

To ensure your partnerships are on track, see the [VicHealth Partnership Analysis Tool](#).

1. Healthy People 2005 New Directions for Public Health in NSW



watch this space

Dr Sally Cockburn, the new Chair of the FPV Board, has a long held passion and wealth of expertise in sexual health and wellbeing. Also known as Dr Feelgood through her media appearances, Sally's enthusiastic leadership is typified by a comment made during her keynote address

at the 2008 Annual General Meeting:

'I want parents and children to be able to talk about sex even around the dinner table'.

Along with Sally, the Board has 12 passionate, skilled and committed members, including new members Lyn Allison, former Victorian senator and leader of the Australian Democrats; Keith McLachlan, an experienced company director with finance

and administration expertise; and Matthew Penn, a general practitioner with a focus on managing sexual health issues through his work at the University of Melbourne and the Centre Clinic in St Kilda.

The Board recently undertook strategic planning for the period 2009-12, offering FPV and all Victorians a dynamic and far-sighted vision for the sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing of our communities. Watch this space for more details on our strategic direction and opportunities for working with us in 2009.

seXfactor

Now in its fourth year, Melbourne SeXfactor 2008 brought together almost 200 young women from the Wyndham and Hobsons Bay municipalities for two days of laughing and learning, as comedians and dancers presented sexual health messages with a focus on body image.

Guests included renowned comedians Monica Dullard and Kelly Nash, and *So you think you can dance* finalist, Arna Singleton.

Special thanks to School Focused Youth Services for providing funding and to the local schools and youth services for all their hard work. The following comments suggest the day was very worthwhile!

'Today was awesome, I want to do it all again xxx.'

'Don't have sex without protection.'

'I loved the comedians because they gave us advice as well as making us laugh. I loved the whole day because it gave us heaps of information.'

'Only have sex when you're ready.'

'It was sweet as and thank you.'

'You can do anything when you put your mind to it.'

SeXfactor 2009 will target young men.

new plan new staff

Family Planning Victoria is delighted to welcome Michael West, senior policy officer and Kimberley Ivory, senior medical officer.



Michael West
Senior Policy Officer

From Michael

My first week at FPV coincided with the Abortion Law Reform debate and subsequent passing of this sound piece of government legislation. Congratulations Victoria!

My professional background has been predominantly in the NSW state government public health sector in the field of health service management, specifically HIV/AIDS and sexual health

promotion. My population health work has focused on interventions in partnership with marginalised populations – specifically culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, sex workers and young people.

I have an abiding interest in organisational and community driven change interventions which address the

health and wellbeing needs of vulnerable communities and also in the capacity of our public health systems to support, care for and include diversity.

FPV has recently undertaken its strategic planning process for 2009-12. This is an exciting time to join this agency as the vision for the future is dynamic and focused. We look forward to collaborating with you over the coming years to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians.



Kimberley Ivory
Senior Medical Officer

From Kimberley

I come to FPV from a background in rural general practice, freelance journalism and community arts activism on the beautiful NSW mid-north coast. It's an unusual career path that only a job as diverse as the SMO position at FPV could satisfy.

In Port Macquarie I wore many hats, working in sexual health and child sexual assault services for the North Coast Area Health Service and running a private skin cancer practice while supporting two

adolescent daughters through senior high school.

Now the chicks have flown the nest, I am free to explore my inner city-slicker, complete my Master of Public Health in Sexual Health at Melbourne University and submerge myself in the hedonistic delights of Melbourne's vibrant cultural life!

I have always aspired to the FPV vision of reproductive choice and open and accurate human sexuality education. I hope to complete my Master's research project in the area of communication in sex

education, so am extremely pleased to be surrounded by the experts in the field.

And it's the perfect time to start; a new strategic planning cycle, a time of change and restructuring, a dynamic and committed Board, all make for exciting opportunities to move forward and grow our reputation for sexual and reproductive health education excellence.

I look forward to working with all the FPV staff and our partner organisations both new and established. Thank you all for your warm welcome so far.

in brief

FPV education and training

Our 2009 education and training calendars are now available on our [website](#).

New website

Stay tuned in early 2009 for our new and easy to navigate website!

PSST.....

FPV has received fantastic feedback from PCPs already using the PSST CD-Rom, and are continuing to provide consultative support to PCPs wishing to use this resource. An impact evaluation of the project is planned for 2009. Feedback received through our recent partnership analysis will help us improve our management of future multi-agency partnerships.

KISS

The KISS project at Knox Community Health Service (KCHS) is continuing, with the working group visiting youth sexual health clinics including our Box Hill and Action Centre sites as it plans its new clinic for Knox. For more information contact Shelley Walker at Shelley.Walker@kchs.org.au.

Safer Sex in the Sticks

Congratulations to Swan Hill District Hospital for their great success with *Safer Sex in the Sticks*. Aimed at reducing STIs in young people in the Swan Hill area, the project has recently won a Victorian Public Healthcare Award! For more information contact Gayle Taylor at Gayle.taylor@swanhillhosp.vic.gov.au.

**Enquiries and
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