



www.fpv.org.au

September 2009

CEO update	1
Health promotion soapbox	2
Sexuality education forum	3
FARREP	3
PSST resource successful	4
Sexual health in Victoria	4
Nurses' courses	5

CEO update

Following a successful planning process, Family Planning Victoria is now focused on implementing the first phase of our 2009-2012 strategic plan. We are actively working towards achieving our key objectives for each of our priority areas in order to move closer to our vision of sexual and reproductive health for Victorians.

Our implementation process will be guided by our core values, which are:

- Leadership – facilitating the highest standard of service in sexual and reproductive health
- Openness – fostering an open-minded, non-judgmental and approachable service
- Expertise – providing superior knowledge and experience
- Trust – offering the highest level of confidentiality, privacy, honesty and integrity

- Passion – working with commitment, drive and dedication
- Community – empowering the communities and individuals with whom we work.

We consider these values to be particularly important in the area of sexual and reproductive health, and are determined to bring them to all our work. I look forward to updating you on our journey towards realising our vision over the coming months.

Lynne Jordan

Welcome to Sexual Health update

Thank you to everyone who entered our 'name the newsletter' competition.

The competition was open to all e-update readers, including FPV staff. Congratulations to Mandy Stevens, our education capacity building project officer, for submitting the winning entry: sexual health update. She's won a \$50 FPV Resource Centre gift voucher.

Health promotion soapbox: healthy public policy



Healthy public policy is an integral part of health promotion and a key action area in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.

The recent reforms to Victorian abortion and assisted reproductive technology laws are excellent examples of healthy public policy interventions that are collaborative, multi-sectorial and participatory.

When you are influencing public or organisational policy, you are effectively mobilising change in a social system. This is complex, incremental and often non-linear work that occurs over a significant period of time.

At the heart of any policy change process are the values of the system in which you are working. Identifying these values and understanding the challenges and opportunities they represent is the

leadership work integral to developing healthy public or organisational policy. The [New South Wales Capacity Building Framework](#) is useful in guiding the process of organisational policy development. This resource addresses five key areas that can inform policy development: resource allocation, leadership, organisational development, partnerships and workforce development.

Sexuality education forums

Planning for the inaugural sexuality education forum scheduled for December is now underway.

Planning for the inaugural sexuality education forum scheduled for December is now underway. The first of three forums to be conducted through the Sexual Health of Young Victorians Phase II project, it will identify key Victorian partners in sexuality

education and canvas issues facing the sector. Project officer, Juliet McEachran, said an aim of the forum was to foster greater collaboration within the sector and increase communication and understanding between agencies and stakeholders.

‘Through this forum we hope to deliver presentations by key stakeholders that encourage conversations and build a shared understanding of barriers and

enablers in sexuality education and develop an action plan to address them.’

The Sexual Health of Young Victorians Phase I was conducted in 2003 and examined education, data and health provisions. Phase II commenced in April 2009 and is due to report in 2010.

For further information, contact Juliet McEachran.

P/ 03 9257 0124 or

E/ jmceachran@fpv.org.au

FARREP

The Victorian Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program



Our work in the Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) is off to an excellent start with the appointment of our program facilitator, Claire Naffah.

Claire has extensive experience working with refugees, special humanitarian entrants and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, having coordinated the refugee and settlement program in

the south east region. She has also developed numerous capacity building programs focussing on women’s reproductive health.

FARREP aims to build the capacity of health and community service providers, including doctors, nurses, welfare and settlement workers to support and work with affected communities to prevent female genital mutilation (FGM).

Claire’s role is to develop a two-year health promotion framework to be integrated into the activities of the Victorian FARREP service system.

‘This begins by building strong relationships with FARREP service providers and promoting multi-sectoral collaboration. To do this we need to provide accurate information, build trust, raise awareness in the broader community and demonstrate an understanding of the complex social and cultural context within which FGM occurs,’ Claire said.

For further information, contact FARREP Facilitator, Claire Naffah.

P/ 03 9257 0176 or

E/ cnaffah@fpv.org.au



Partnerships in Safer Sex and Testing (PSST) resource successful

An impact evaluation of the recent PSST project has found the project successfully raised the profile of sexual and reproductive health among primary care partnerships (PCPs) and their member agencies.

FPV's health promotion and evaluation officer, Claire Rickard, said her evaluation showed many PCP managers were now proactively addressing sexual and reproductive health issues and advocating for sexual and reproductive health to be included in their strategic plans.

'Addressing these issues from a strategic planning perspective will ensure that

sexual and reproductive health will be addressed long after the life of the project,' Claire said.

The evaluation also showed the PSST CD resource was very well received, with 64 per cent of recipients recommending it or passing it on to others.

Feedback on FPV's training sessions was also very positive, with many reporting an increase in their confidence in teaching sexuality education.

'Many respondents said that young people were much more engaged thanks to the activities learnt through the training sessions,' Claire said.

The findings indicate that although significant improvements had been made, barriers remain. In particular, PCPs cited a lack of funding for

sustainable interventions as a barrier to effectively promoting sexual and reproductive health.

The PSST Project, conducted in 2007-08, aimed to establish local, sustainable sexual health promotion initiatives for young Victorians disengaged from mainstream education.

The impact evaluation report will be available 31 October 2009.

Contact our resource centre for a copy of the CD.

P/ 03 9257 0146

E/ resources@fpv.org.au

For more information about the project, contact Claire Rickard.

P/ 03 9257 0188

E/ crickard@fpv.org.au

Sexual Health in Victoria

Policies and programs relating to sexual health in Victoria have undergone significant change in recent years and continue to do so.

The Department of Human Services has for some time funded a range of programs which address sexual health needs in the Victorian community. Programs such as Women's Health, Family Planning and the range of funded services in the blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections sector have a direct impact on sexual health. Other services such as mental health, drug and alcohol and refugee services (to name a few) also contribute.

Recently, there has been an increased

focus on sexual and reproductive health within the department through sexual and reproductive health being identified as a health promotion priority and the establishment of the Sexual Health and Viral Hepatitis Forum and its Sexual and Reproductive Health Taskforce.

Work is also progressing on a range of other fronts:

- Through a partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, evidence based sexuality education which is grounded in healthy relationships and the whole-school approach has been implemented and continues to roll out across the state.
- The department's HIV/AIDS, sexually transmissible infections, and

hepatitis C strategies will be evaluated in the coming months, which will inform the development of new strategic priorities.

- Sexual health in rural communities has received particular attention with the establishment of the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health, and
- A range of new programs have been implemented to address rises in HIV notifications.

It is an exciting area undergoing significant change.

Roger Nixon

senior policy officer

BBV/STI Unit, Department of Human Services

Nurses' courses



FPV's Clinical Education Unit (CEU) provides accredited education and training for Division one nurses specialising in sexual and reproductive health.

Our current courses accredited by the Royal College of Nursing, Australia, include:

Pap Test and Introduction to Sexual Health course

A four-day program for participants to develop the clinical knowledge and skills required to become Pap test providers.

Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health course

A five-day course providing current evidence-based knowledge on broader issues in sexual and reproductive health.

FPV's Senior Nurse Educator, Michelle

Cook, said practice nurses valued this approach.

'Nurses say they really appreciate the opportunity to focus on Pap test skills in a course, while nurses who require more in-depth knowledge find our comprehensive course very thorough,' Michelle said.

Nurses who successfully complete both courses within two years, including clinical placements and assessments, receive FPV's Certificate in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Nursing).

Scholarships are available through the 2009 Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (for Practice Nurses) funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and administered by the [Australian Practice Nurses Association](#).

Applications for scholarships close 5.00pm, Friday 25 September 2009.

Course Dates

Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health

1-5 March 2010

3-7 May 2010

23-27 August 2010

Pap Test and Introduction to Sexual Health

19-22 Oct 2009

22-25 March 2010

7-10 June 2010

13-16 September 2010

For course information, visit our [website](#). To book, contact Sandra Halloran.

P/ 03 9257 0129

E/ shalloran@fpv.org.au

For information on scholarships:

P/ 1300 125 744

E/ scholarships@apna.asn.au

Please direct any enquiries about e-update to Claire Rickard at crickard.fpv.org.au