

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Promoting sexual healthcare

Dr Ann Dadich of the Industry and Innovation Studies (CInIS) research group and Dr Jennifer Reath of the School of Medicine are evaluating a diverse suite of educational resources for the NSW Sexually Transmissible Infections Programs Unit (STIPU). This evaluation is also being funded by STIPU.

'Sexually transmissible infections – or STIs – affect an increasing number of Australians' says Dr Ann Dadich. In fact, the prevalence of Chlamydia has risen almost fivefold since 1998. If left untreated, STIs can have serious health complications. As the first port-of-call, primary care clinicians – like GPs and Practice Nurses are well-placed to test for and treat STIs. To optimise their capacity to do this, STIPU GP initiative has devised an array of resources to promote sexual healthcare by GPs and Practice Nurses that include both interactive and online STI educational modules. The evaluation of these resources is the rationale for this study.'

This study involves assessing the quality of the resources and their use in clinical practice by GPs and Practice Nurses. The comprehensive study will involve: (1) online surveys of NSW Divisions of General Practice, GPs, and Practice Nurses; (2) interviews with GPs and Practice Nurses; (3) an analysis of the documents that informed the development of the resources; and (4) a focus group with the individuals who developed the resources.



It is important to ensure that STI education tools are both available and used effectively in clinical practice. Findings from this study will help to refine existing STI educational resources and shape the development of future educational initiatives. This way, patients with STIs can have access to timely and appropriate care.

Project Title: Process and an impact evaluation of resources and training programs developed in the NSW STI Programs Unit General Practice Project
Funding has been set at: \$120,000
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January 2012