

2016 Year in Review

What is the HIV Services Advisory Group?

Alfred Health's HIV Services Advisory Group (HSAG) continued to help the health service plan for future services and identify community needs and future trends in HIV care. Established in October 2014, HSAG includes community members and advocacy groups as well as clinical, academic and government representatives.

The group meets every two months at the Positive Living Centre in Prahran and is chaired by Prof. Andrew Way, Chief Executive, Alfred Health.

HSAG Membership

Community and Advocacy Group Members

- Mr Philip Elphinstone
- Mr David Menadue
- Mr Max Niggel
- Mr Simon Ruth
- Mr Bernie Slagtman

Work is underway to ensure our membership includes a more diverse representation including women living with HIV and the transgendered community.

Other representatives

- Prof Christopher (Kit) Fairley – *Director, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre / Professor of Public Health, Central Clinical School, Monash University*
- Prof Jenny Hoy – *Director of HIV Medicine, Alfred Health*
- Prof Mark Stoove – *Burnet Institute*
- Prof Andrew Way (Chair) – *Chief Executive, Alfred Health*
- Ms Heidi Bulda – *Nurse Unit Manager, Fairfield House, Alfred Health*
- Ms Suzanne Corcoran – *Executive Officer, Alfred Health*

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is also represented in the group.



Max Niggel, HSAG Community and Advocacy group member

"Being a community representative on Alfred Health HIV Services Advisory group has been a very rewarding experience. The Alfred's approach to engaging with the current and emerging needs of the State-wide HIV service has made significant progress through the work of the group. It has been exemplary in building trust and shows true collaborative partnerships with our community."

To be able to effect real change and acknowledge the lived experience of people living with HIV can only result in better services for everyone living with HIV."

HIV Services Advisory Group

The year in review

In its second year of operation, the HIV Services Advisory Group (HSAG) has made significant progress in advancing the care of Victorians living with HIV.

Focus areas for 2015-16

HIV Prevention Clinic

The HIV prevention clinic started in April 2016 at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre following significant input from the membership.

Alfred Health NPEP service

Contributed to the expansion of the Alfred Health - Non-occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (NPEP) service - to several new locations over the past 12 to 18 months, ensuring greater access to this important service across regional and rural Victoria.

Quality and Safety

Several members participated in focus groups and interviews as part of Alfred Health's National safety and quality health service (NSQHS) standards accreditation audit. One of the auditors commented that meeting with the consumer representatives on HSAG helped clarify the consumer governance structure and helped Alfred Health achieve its outstanding result against these safety and quality standards.

PrEPX

The PrEPX trial began in June 2016, providing PrEP to individuals with a high-risk of HIV infection. The trial is planned for 21 months with the hope that Truvada will be licenced by the TGA for the PBS in this time. HSAG receives regular progress reports.

Horizon Place

HSAG participated in discussions about the ongoing care needs of patients at Horizon Place to ensure better care and management through appropriate outreach or home based services.

Members contributed to a consultation plan that helped staff and current residents understand the planned changes to this service. It also supported Alfred Health in seeking assurance from DHHS that funding will remain within the service for use in alternative outreach care models for patients living with HIV once Horizon Place closes.

Rainbow Tick

The inclusion of key actions identified from the Rainbow Tick desk top audit initiated by HSAG, were incorporated into the new 2016-20 Alfred Health Patients Come First Strategy and plan. This will ensure implementation and evaluation of practical strategies to ensure inclusive and equitable healthcare for LGBTI patients, families and friends.

Sub-acute Care

The committee agreed that Alfred Health's HIV sub-acute services form an important role in providing ongoing HIV care to the community. These services are provided from a range of service areas including Fairfield House. While Alfred Health has no plans to change the services offered, the committee understands that the nature of the build of Fairfield House is 'short-life' and without substantial investment it is unlikely to be fit for purpose after 2020.

The committee understands that Alfred Health has committed to work with the DHHS to ensure that services continue to be provided from a clearly identifiable facility and that the recognition of the contribution made by staff, patients and supporters at Fairfield Hospital should be maintained.

LGBTI Ministerial Task Force

HSAG representatives accepted an invitation to attend the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Working Group, which advises the LGBTI Ministerial Task Force on supporting inclusive safe care for LGBTI patients, families and friends. Alfred Health staff discussed some of the work already underway to enhance LGBTI inclusivity as well as its plans to facilitate a statewide health sector conference in mid-2017.

The purpose of this proposed forum is to hear the voice of LGBTI individuals and community and health sector staff. It would also aim to identify exemplar practice and examine where extra support is required to provide safe and equitable health care for the LGBTI community. The DHHS Working Group supported the concept of a State wide health forum and will consider its progression in early 2017.



Prof Andrew Way
CEO Alfred Health
Chair Alfred HIV Services Advisory Group

January 2017