



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

Tony Abbott MHR

8 August 2006

ABB115/06

Chlamydia projects to target high-risk groups

The Commonwealth Government has committed \$3.5 million to chlamydia prevention.

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmissible infection (STI) in Australia. The annual notification rate has increased more than threefold in the last decade, to about 41,000 notifications in 2005.

It is a serious infection which, if untreated, can lead to complications including infertility. The disease often presents without symptoms.

The Government is providing \$3.48 million for projects which will target high-risk groups such as young people aged 16–25 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, homosexually active men and pregnant women.

The projects will be conducted in urban, rural and remote Australia, including hospitals and community centres.

This funding is part of the \$12.5 million allocation which the Government announced in June 2005 to increase awareness of chlamydia, improve surveillance and develop a pilot-testing program as part of the first Nationally Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy, 2005–08.

Details of the successful projects are attached.

For more information call Mr Abbott's office on ph 02 6277 7220

PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE CHLAMYDIA TARGETED GRANTS PROGRAM

ORGANISATION	STATE / TERRITORY	PROJECT TITLE
The Australian National University (Canberra Sexual Health Centre)	ACT	Chlamydia education and testing for tertiary students in the ACT
Alice Springs Hospital Emergency Department	NT	Chlamydia testing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women at the Alice Springs Hospital Emergency Department
Riverland Regional Health Service Inc.	SA	Development and implementation of a mobile testing clinic model for chlamydia testing in the Riverland region
Sexual Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania	Tasmania	Identifying parameters for participation in chlamydia testing programs of high risk groups in Tasmania
The University of Sydney (Cyberspace Consortium)	National (NSW based)	Interactive, Internet-based education and information for young people about chlamydia
Scarlet Alliance	Tasmania, SA & NT (NSW based)	Development of a chlamydia education training package that can be delivered in specific settings by peer educators to sex workers
The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health	Victoria	A community-based program of chlamydia testing and treatment in rural and regional Victoria
The Alfred Hospital	Victoria	Using the Internet to provide sexual health information to homosexually active men
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation	Victoria	Improved chlamydia awareness and testing within the Aboriginal youth community of Echuca and surrounding areas
University of Melbourne, Sexual Health Unit	Victoria	Chlamydia testing of antenatal women in four major Melbourne public hospitals
University of Melbourne, Sexual Health Unit	Victoria, Queensland, ACT (Victoria based)	Development of a mechanism for chlamydia contact tracing for use nationally
Royal Perth Hospital	WA	Chlamydia testing in the Royal Perth Hospital Emergency Department
Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation)	WA	Testing of Aboriginal people for chlamydia in the Fitzroy Valley
University of Queensland (Centre for Military and Veterans' Health)	NT, Queensland, NSW (Queensland based)	Trial of chlamydia testing as part of the Annual Health Assessment at Australian Defence Force facilities
Collaborative to be overseen by the Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District - Queensland Health	Queensland	Trial of a home self-collection kit for chlamydia testing

PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE NATIONAL CHLAMYDIA PILOT TESTING PROGRAM

ORGANISATION	STATE / TERRITORY	PROJECT TITLE
University of Melbourne	Operating in Victoria NSW ACT	A longitudinal study of young Australian women investigating chlamydia incidence and reinfection rates
Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Adult Medicine Division, Royal Australian College of Physicians	NSW	Development and trialling of a national sexual health learning program for general practitioners
La Trobe University, The Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society	Victoria	Development of a chlamydia education resource for teachers, parents and young people
Rural Health Education Foundation	ACT	Development of an accredited education module for rural and remote general practitioners and other health professionals on various aspects of detecting and managing chlamydia
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research	All states and territories	Establishment of a national sentinel surveillance system for chlamydia