



Preventive Health – implementation of the national strategies for blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections

The Government will step up public health prevention and promotion activities around blood borne viruses (BBV) and sexually transmissible infections (STI). This will include a national campaign to increase awareness of STI prevention, testing and treatment, enhanced disease surveillance, and specific activities targeting prevention, treatment and health education for all Australians. This will deliver upon the goals of the National BBV and STI strategies.

Why is this important?

It is important that we continue to build upon the work already being done to improve knowledge and awareness of STI and BBV among at-risk groups, health professionals and the wider community.

When we continue to expand awareness among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – who have higher rates of BBV and STI than Australian-born non-Indigenous people – health and wellbeing improves. In 2017, the rate of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and infectious syphilis were three, seven and seven times greater than non-Indigenous people, with even more substantial differences in remote and very remote areas. Today, the prognosis for people suffering from BBV and STI is very different than it was 40 years ago, thanks to improved awareness testing and treatment. A generation of young people also need to become educated about BBV and STI such as chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhoea and HIV. Some STI, notably gonorrhoea, are also becoming increasingly resistant to drugs used to treat them.

Who will benefit?

All Australians at risk of, or living with, BBV and STI will be better informed about preventing, testing and treating these viruses and diseases. This includes the specific groups identified in the Government's National BBV and STI Strategies 2018–2022, many of whom are vulnerable members of the community.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$45.4 million from 2019–20 to 2022–23.