

A National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for Australia

Following our productive SIG workshop last year to explore the essential aspects of a national strategy, we were very fortunate in securing the help of Kerryn O'Rourke, a public health fellow from March to June this year. During this time, following our first reference group teleconference and when Kerryn was sifting evidence for the discussion paper, Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia (the umbrella organisation for all state and territory family planning clinics) approached us. They asked to collaborate, as they were also drafting arguments for a national strategy. Kerryn proceeded to merge the two documents and expand it into a comprehensive framework.

Since completing the first draft framework, Kerryn and Angela have presented a two page summary (attached) to seek support from the All-party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APGPD) in Canberra at the invitation of the Australian Reproductive Health Association (ARHA). Members of APGPD gave their strong support and the Chairperson, Dr Mal Washer offered to assist with a launch in Canberra in February, post election. This was echoed by the two Vice-chairpersons, Sen. Claire Moore (Labour) and Sen Lyn Allison (Democrats) so that whatever the outcome of the election, the group should continue their support. Our gratitude to ARHA, who have donated \$2000 towards publishing the document.

WSIG plans to consult widely with community and clinician groups for feedback and in-principle endorsement throughout August and early September. At our annual conference late September, WHSIG workshop will hold a short consultation with the ATSI SIG on indigenous perspectives and then present it to SIG members and discuss post election advocacy and action. We strongly urge you to come to Alice Springs and join us on the next leg of this exciting journey.