

Contact Tracing Support Officer – Queensland Health

Queensland Health has commenced a pilot project in response to rising notifications of **sexually transmissible infections** (STIs).

- **Chlamydia** notifications in Queensland in 2008 (15,012) increased by 18% compared to 2007 (12,708) and by 73% over the previous five years since 2004 (8,668).
- **Gonorrhoea** notifications in Queensland in 2008 (1,588) increased by 19% compared to 2007 notifications (1335).
- Sexually active **young people** (15-29 yrs), **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations** and **men who have sex with men** have higher rates of most STIs compared to the rest of the population.

The project aims to partner with and support clinicians including GPs and practice nurses in facilitating contact tracing strategies.

Penny Marshall, Contact Tracing Support Officer, Clinical Nurse Consultant, has been appointed by MetroNorth Health Service District to support contact tracing/ partner notification of STIs

Penny is looking forward to working with clinicians to identify needs and resources to ensure contact tracing is effective and efficient for GP, sexual Health Units and Aboriginal Medical Services' practices and workplaces, ultimately providing the best outcomes for clients, patients and their partners.

Please telephone if you would like **advice** and **support** on contact tracing including:

- Obtaining a **sexual health history**
- Making a **sexual health risk assessment**
- **STI testing, treatment, management** and **education** for patients and partners
- **Resources available** to support your practice
- **Contact tracing requirements**

Penny is happy to provide a free **information session** for your staff on any aspect related to contact tracing.

Please contact Penny Marshall, contact details:

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Sunshine Coast Wide Bay Sexual Health Service
This is a FREE Queensland Health Initiative