

# INTEGRATING TESTING FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTIONS AND BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES INTO ROUTINE CARE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN NSW: A SECONDARY ANALYSIS OF QUALITATIVE STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

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## Background:

Increasing STI and BBV screening through integration into routine care in primary healthcare settings, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), is a target in state and federal STI and BBV strategies. The BBV & STI Research, Intervention and Strategic Evaluation Aboriginal Systems Projects (BRISE ASP) conducted interviews with key informants to identify factors in successful programs that led to increased STI and BBV testing.

## Methods:

This study is a secondary analysis of interview transcripts collected from key informants within six ACCHS and five Local Health Districts (LHDs) during BRISE ASP. The study explicitly adopts a strengths-based approach to its subject matter and analysis and centres the strengths and capabilities of ACCHS and ACCHS staff. The transcripts underwent an inductive thematic analysis as per Braun and Clarke to identify key themes and make sense of shared understandings and collective experiences.

## Results:

Participants identified that routine screening overcomes community shame and increases opportunities for engagement: embedding STIs and BBVs into routine care adds sexual healthcare to services and settings patients already access and captures asymptomatic cases who present for reasons other than sexual health. The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) 715 Adult Health Check was highlighted as an ideal lever for integration into routine care and to improve consistency of services. For practice change to be sustained, participants recommended systematising collaboration and partnerships between staff from different disciplines.

## Conclusion:

Integration of STI and BBV testing into routine care is widely perceived as best practice by key informants within both ACCHS and LHDs. The incorporation of standardised STI and BBV test sets into the MBS 715 is highly valued as a lever for integration of STI and BBV testing into routine care for Aboriginal patients in NSW.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None