



**Joint Australasian Sexual Health and  
HIV&AIDS Conferences  
VIRTUAL**

**Monday 6 - Thursday 9 September, 2021**

---

**Welcome to the  
2021 Joint Australasian Sexual Health + HIV&AIDS  
Conferences**

Dear Ivy,

A very warm welcome to the [2021 Joint Australasian Sexual Health + HIV&AIDS Conferences](#). We particularly welcome our first-time delegates. We're sure you'll find the discussion and information here lively, interesting and helpful, and we are all looking forward to hearing from you as well.

This year marks 30 years since the first conference convened by the [Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine \(ASHM\)](#). The event has grown and changed so much since 1991, when a group of dedicated and passionate clinicians first met to discuss emerging HIV science. These joint conferences are now the premier HIV and sexual health events in the Australasian

region.

With such a long and rich history behind the conferences, we're also delighted to see so many long-time delegates returning to share experiences and ideas.

The conference brings together such a wealth of knowledge and diverse perspectives both local and international — from science, clinical medicine and allied health to community-led programs, indigenous health, policy and social research. You all represent so much expertise and experience that is really making a difference in the world, improving lives and expanding knowledge.

Even though we are once again separated by distance this year, we hope that you'll still forge many new connections both within and outside your discipline.

*On behalf of Edwina Wright, Catriona Ooi, Jason Ong and Eric Chow, Co-convenors of the Joint Australasian Sexual Health and HIV&AIDS [National Program Committee](#).*

---

## Your daily newsletter

Good morning Ivy,

I'm Bill Condie, Science Writer with Science In Public. I'm looking forward to sitting in on many of this week's sessions, to deliver daily conference highlights straight your inbox so you don't miss anything from the busy program.

Each morning, I'll share new findings and reflections, highlight what other delegates are saying and sharing about the conference in the media and on social media, as well as flag any last-minute changes to the conference program.

The conference will run as a joint conference from today until Thursday, when we will mark the very first [Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Day](#)

with a special program hosted in the same virtual event portal as the Joint Australasian Sexual Health and HIV&AIDS Conferences.

Today's program focuses on sexual health and we will soon give you a taste of what to look forward to both later today and over the rest of the week.

If you need to contact me with feedback or ideas for what you'd like to see highlighted here, please email me at [bill@scienceinpublic.com](mailto:bill@scienceinpublic.com). But first some housekeeping...

## Finding your way around the virtual program

Last year's COVID restrictions led us to pioneer a virtual platform for our joint conferences. At the time we thought it would be a one-off, but here we are again all joining in from our homes and offices. The good news is that we have a few tricks up our sleeve that we learnt from last year, to help make your remote conference experience rewarding and engaging.

You should have by now received your login for the virtual event portal (if you have not, or you're having trouble accessing the portal, please contact [conference@ashm.org.au](mailto:conference@ashm.org.au) or +61 2 8204 0770). We've also made a short video to show you how the event portal works – [watch it here](#).

The conference program has two formats — the [LIVE program](#) features a schedule of keynotes, plenaries and panel discussions taking place throughout the week, while the [ON-DEMAND oral](#) and [poster programs](#) are available to you at any time.

You'll also be able to visit exhibitors by clicking on the "Meet with Exhibitors" tab to the right of the portal when you login.

We've also got some great **prizes** up for grabs. The more you explore and interact in the virtual platform the more points you earn, improving your chances to be in the draw to win a free registration to the 2022 conference, vouchers for Dymocks, Gelato Messina and other great prizes. To see how many points you have and what goals you've reached, click on the '**WIN POINTS**' icon at the top of the virtual platform.

So set your Do Not Disturb and sit back and enjoy the conference.

---

## Session highlights for Monday - Focus on Sexual Health

### Plenary – Sexual Literacy

At this morning's plenary session we'll hear from international keynote speaker **Professor Jessica Fields**, speaking about Sexual Literacy. Professor Fields will explore complex topics in sexual and reproductive health, including teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, respectful relationships, love, desire and pleasure.

Professor Fields will also co-chair a **4:00pm** session under the Social, Political & Cultural Aspects theme to explore what sexual literacy means, how it can be measured, the role of porn in creating it and how we can promote sexual literacy among adults through sex and relationships therapy. Queer trans advocate **Emery Wishart** will also look at trans youth perspectives on sexual literacy.

### Morning session highlights

In the **11:30am** Epidemiology, Prevention and Health Promotion session, we will learn about STIs in different population groups, from female sex workers in Melbourne and Sydney to infectious syphilis trends and risk factors among women and heterosexual men.

We'll also hear about the ethnic disparities in PrEP experiences among gay and bisexual men in Auckland, as well as trends in sexual practices and STI positivity among lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women.

Adolescent access and experience of abortion care in NSW is one of the topics being covered in this morning's Social, Political and Social Aspects theme, along with an exploration of young people and unwanted sexual events, and the sexual and reproductive health rights of young people with intellectual disability.

### Abstract Spotlight Session

Make sure not to miss the **2:00pm** Abstract Spotlight Session, featuring a paper from **Cat Kirby** from Family Planning Victoria on The role of telehealth in abortion and contraception care.

---

## Join us on Twitter!

Join the conversation on Twitter using **#HIVAIDS2021** and **#SH2021**

We'd like to hear what sessions you will be attending and which posters you think are a must-see. If you have a session or poster during the day that you're particularly looking forward to, tweet it out with the hashtags **#HIVAIDS2021** and **#SH2021** to help other delegates find the sessions that interest them.

If you're live tweeting, please use the hashtags so that we can follow and re-tweet you (we'll be tweeting from **@ashmmedia**).

---

If you have any questions or technical troubles, contact us at [conference@ashm.org.au](mailto:conference@ashm.org.au) or on **+61 2 8204 0770**.

Have a great and insightful first day at **#HIVAIDS2021** and **#SH2021!**

Cheers,

**Bill & ASHM Conference and Events Team.**

---

Share the conference with your network:

Conference Website



Share



Tweet



Share

---

Daily News made possible with support from  
our Major Supporter and Platinum Sponsors

Major Supporter



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Platinum Sponsor



Platinum Sponsor



*Sponsorship is governed by our Sponsorship Policy and the sponsor has no control over content, tone, emphasis, allocation of funds or selection of recipients. ASHM does not endorse or promote any sponsor's product or service.*

**Joint Conferences Secretariat**

E: [conference@ashm.org.au](mailto:conference@ashm.org.au) | T: +61 2 8204 0770 | W: [shhivconferences2021.com.au](http://shhivconferences2021.com.au)

If you would like to be removed from the HIV&AIDS / Sexual Health mailing list click 'unsubscribe'. **PLEASE BE AWARE that this will remove you from all future correspondence regarding any ASHM managed conferences.**

---