



# OVERVIEW | 2016

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR ACTION ON HIV & MOBILITY (CoPAHM)

COLLABORATION FOR EVIDENCE, RESEARCH & IMPACT IN PUBLIC HEALTH



## Overview

HIV diagnoses in Australia have been increasing among people travelling to and from high HIV prevalence countries. The Seventh National HIV Strategy (2014-2017) states people and their partners who travel to or from high HIV prevalence countries, as well as travelers and mobile workers as priority populations in Australia.

The Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (CoPAHM) is a virtual network for those interested in maintaining momentum on the issues highlighted in the HIV and Mobility in Australia: A Road Map for Action paper. The CoPAHM was established by SiREN on 1 March 2015 with funding support from WA Health Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program. The CoPAHM now comprises over 80 members across Australia.

CoPAHM is a forum to develop a cross-sector alliance of organisations, clinicians, community members and members of affected populations who have an interest in HIV and mobility issues and seek to remain connected or collaborate with others working, researching, or developing policy in this area.

A community of practice is *“a group of practitioners with a common sense of purpose who agree to work together to solve problems, share knowledge, cultivate best practice and foster innovation. Communities of practice are characterised by the willing participation of members, and their ongoing interaction in developing a chosen area of practice”*.

This document highlights key activities CoPAHM has been involved in during 2016. Thank you to all our members for their support over the year.

## 2016 Highlights

### Interim Report Card

A second mapping activity was coordinated with CoPAHM members between February – May 2016. All CoPAHM members were invited to provide details of their organisation’s current projects relating to the 71 strategies in the Road Map.

A total of 28 organisations participated with 184 activities recorded. This was consolidated and developed into the *Interim Report Card 2* (available online [here](#)). Action areas highlighted as having strong momentum included community mobilisation. International leadership, global health governance, and research had limited momentum.

The *Interim Report Card 2* was launched at the AFAO HIV & Mobility Forum May 30, 2016 and at the SiREN Symposium June 9, 2016.

### CoPAHM Evaluation

An evaluation tool for CoPAHM was developed in assistance with the International Student Sexual Health Network (ISSHN). The survey tool was designed to determine perceived value of CoPAHM and determine members’ priorities for CoPAHM moving forward. The survey was sent out to all CoPAHM members on July 5, 2016.

In total, 18 CoPAHM members completed the survey. Key take-home messages include:

- The *Interim Report Cards* and discussions regarding CaLD surveillance has been of most value to members
- Members have developed contacts and partners by taking part in CoPAHM
- CoPAHM governance could be improved to include more jurisdictions and engage CoPAHM members more in decision-making process
- CoPAHM could improve knowledge and research dissemination between CoPAHM members

An overview of the CoPAHM evaluation is available on the online CoPAHM Portal. Recommendations on activity moving forward will be discussed with the CoPAHM National Governance Group. We hope to identify some priority actions to address with your support in 2017.

### Research on barriers and enablers to HIV testing among migrants

A team of CoPAHM members were successful in receiving a grant from *Gilead Sciences* to conduct focus groups with people from sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia in regards to barriers and enablers to HIV testing and interviews with health service providers to explore barriers to referring patients to HIV testing.

Objectives of this research are:

- To identify barriers and facilitators to HIV testing among culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) populations
- To assess the perceived acceptability of new HIV testing strategies (rapid tests and home collection tests) among CaLD people
- To identify barriers to offering HIV testing from the perspective of clinical staff and general practitioners

This project will be conducted in 2017 in NSW, SA and Victoria with coordination from WA. This project will be conducted in WA with a successful application to the Australian Health Promotion Association Graduate Scholarship.

### Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

Curtin is leading the development of ARC Linkage grant in collaboration with Kirby Institute, La Trobe University and a number of government and non-government organisations involved in CoPAHM, to assess people born overseas HIV knowledge, behaviours and attitudes nationally, with a specific focus on people born from sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.

### Other activity

During 2016 CoPAHM was presented at the following conferences:

- AFAO HIV and Mobility Forum
- SiREN Symposium
- Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference

CoPAHM was involved in the following working groups and networks:

- International Student Sexual Health Network
- AFAO HIV and Mobility Forum Reference Group
- Kirby Institute HIV Cascade Reference Group

**For further information on any of the above activities, please contact the CoPAHM Coordinator at [copahm@curtin.edu.au](mailto:copahm@curtin.edu.au)**

### Acknowledgements

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For their valuable time, insights and input to the development and governance of CoPAHM, we would also like to thank: Dr Roanna Lobo (SiREN), Gemma Crawford (CERIPH), Dr Graham Brown (ARCSHS), Corie Gray (CoPAHM), Lisa Bastian and Sue Laing (Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program, WA Health), Danny Gallant (Sexually Transmissible Infection and Blood Borne Virus Section SA Health & Ageing), Linda Forbes, Rob Lake and Heath Paynter (AFAO).

Thank you to CoPAHM members for their continued support. We would like to thank those in the sector that have contributed to the mapping and championed the use of the Road Map as a tool to facilitate discussion about HIV and Mobility in Australia.