

Is there STIGMA in your practice?

A major role for the STIGMA Group in inner-metro Sydney: increasing access, skills and knowledge of General Practitioners

The Sexually Transmissible Infections in Gay Men Action Group (STIGMA) was formed in 2000 to provide leadership and a coordinated response to the rising incidence of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) among gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM) in inner-metro Sydney.

STIGMA develops resources and implements campaigns that encourage both the awareness and provision of sexual health care for gay men and MSM. STIGMA supports a 'gay friendly' approach in general practice settings, creating several initiatives to encourage this.

In NSW, over 50% of HIV and STI testing and management occurs within general practice settings

HIV and STI Testing Guidelines for asymptomatic MSM

In response to the sustained high rates of STIs among MSM in central and eastern Sydney, STIGMA developed the STI testing guidelines for MSM.

The guidelines reinforce the necessity of regular STI screening among MSM as a preventative measure for STI epidemics. Many STIs do not result in symptomatic presentations, therefore regular STI screening is needed to identify infections which would otherwise remain untreated.

The 2014 guidelines have been approved as an accepted clinical resource by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The guidelines are endorsed by the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) and the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance.

To view the guidelines visit bit.ly/STIGMAGuide

More than 8,000 copies

of the guidelines have been distributed in the last two years

Gay Friendly GP List



General practitioners (GPs) listed on the Gay Friendly GP List identify as being gay friendly and self-nominate. It lists GPs by suburb and includes information about bulk billing and additional languages spoken other than English. GPs specialising in HIV treatment management (S100 prescribers) are also listed. The List is currently hosted on the ACON website.

STIGMA is updating the List to include GPS enhanced functions and a feedback mechanism for community members to provide feedback based on their experiences with listed GPs. Through the Gay Friendly GP List, STIGMA provides free condoms in general practice. These condoms come with an insert that lists Sydney's six public sexual health clinics and other relevant links.

Since its inception in 2010, the number of GPs on the Gay-Friendly GP List has grown from 43 to

152

The STIGMA newsletter is distributed to over

2480 GPs

↑ 1950 condoms distributed to general practice

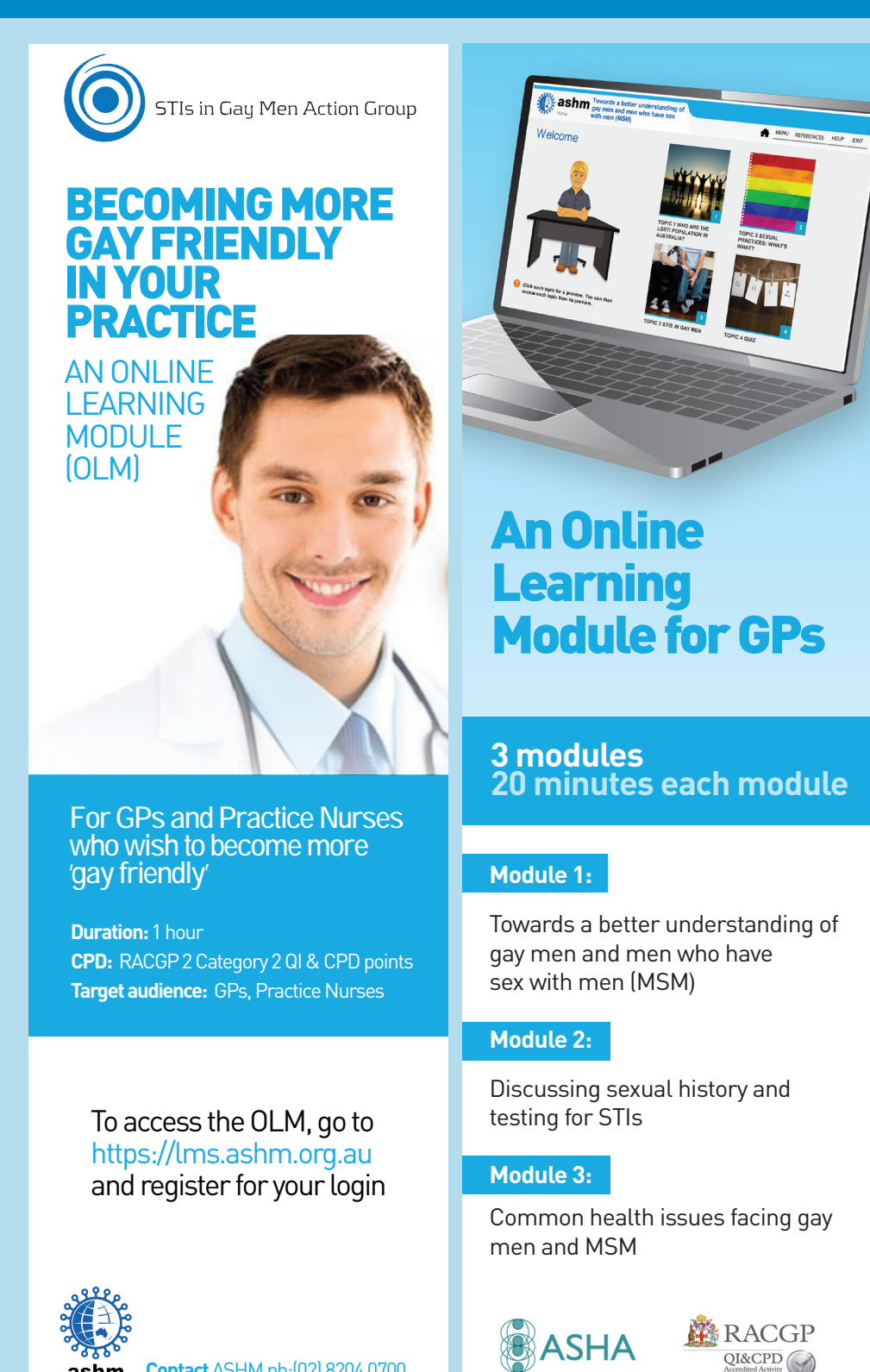
Becoming more Gay Friendly in your Practice

Launched in 2015, the Becoming more Gay Friendly in your Practice online learning module is Australia's first online training that promotes optimal care for MSM in general practice settings.

The 60-minute self-paced module provides GPs with skills to undertake sexual health screening and recognise psycho-social issues commonly experienced by gay men and MSM. Feedback from participating GPs has been overwhelmingly positive:

The training package is excellent. I have been a GP for 12 years, however (I) have learnt a lot and identified areas for further knowledge / experience development

As a gay male GP, there were things that I didn't know about the LBGTL community that I learned from this module. Thanks for putting it together and making it freely available to all GPs.



26 participants have completed the online learning module

Over 50%

Identified changes they would make to their practice as a result of the training

90% identified the structure as 'good' or 'excellent'

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