



**MSHC**

MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE  
Part of Bayside Health



# ANNUAL REPORT

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

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# About Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

The vision of MSHC is that everyone has access to inclusive, evidence-based compassionate sexual healthcare. Our purpose is to champion sexual health services for those who need it most through cutting edge services, research and innovation.

It is the only centre that provides full-time, free sexual health services to the people of Victoria. The services provided by MSHC include general clinics for the management of STIs and HIV and a variety of specialist clinics.



# About This Report

This annual report outlines the operational performance for MSHC from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. We value transparency and accountability and aim to have all our reportable data available to the community in this publication.

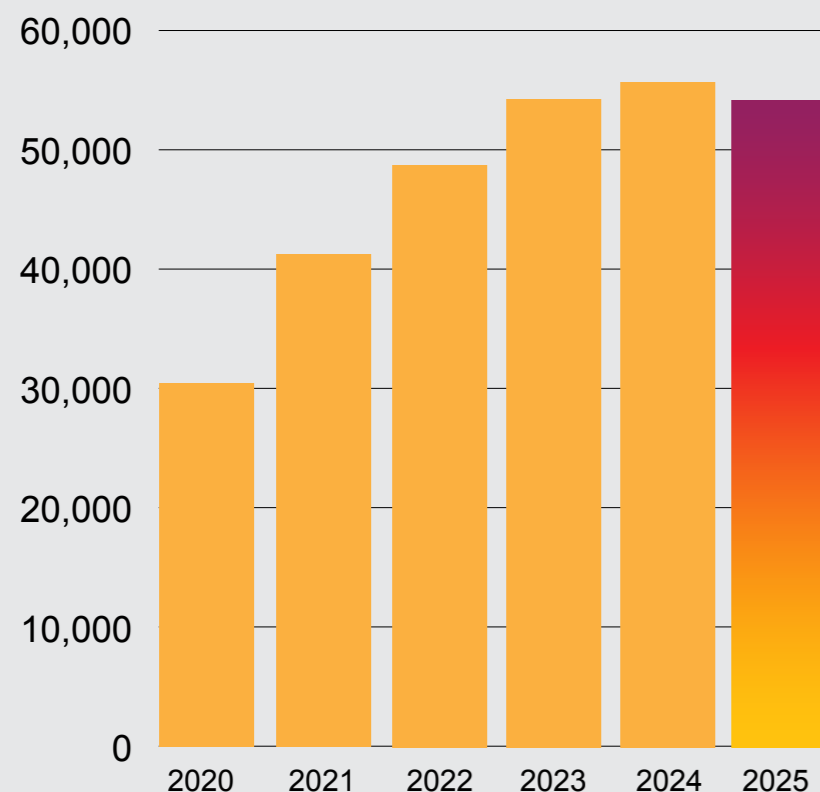
# FAST FACTS

Championing sexual health services for those who need it most through cutting edge services, research and innovation

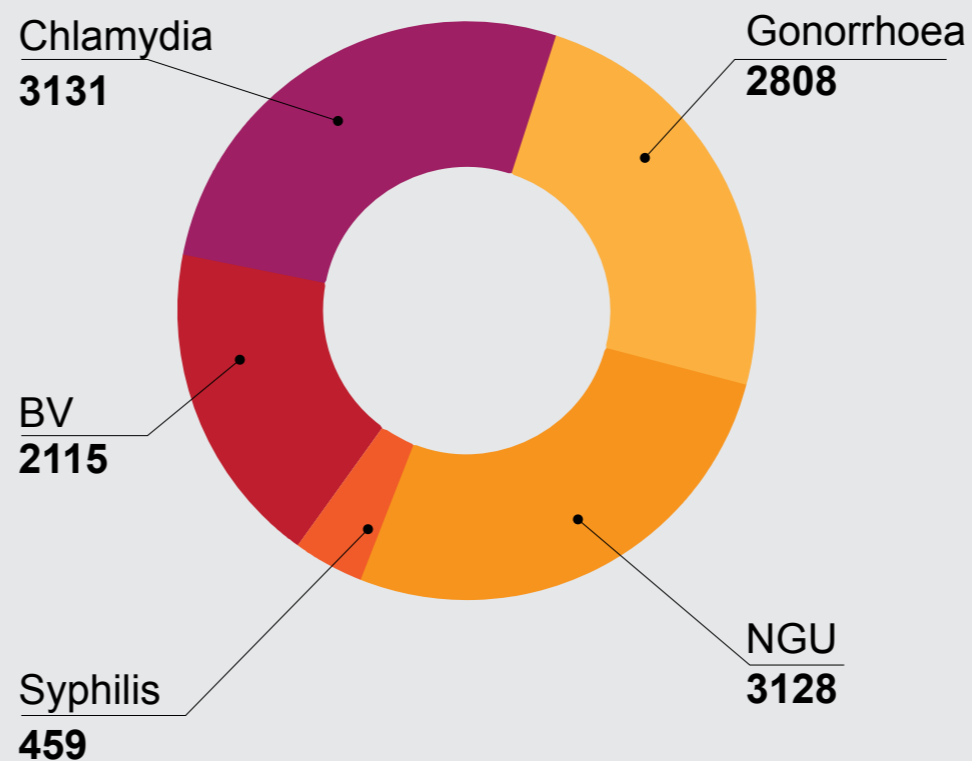
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC), Bayside Health, is the only full time public sexual health service in Victoria. With a trusted brand, MSHC provides clinical services for the prevention, diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV.

MSHC is recognised internationally for its STI research and innovation, along with digital transformation and infrastructure modernisation. MSHC is a leader in digital health innovation where the centre has played a key role in developing AI-driven services.

## Clinic visits 2025



## Positive Diagnoses 2025



**StaySTIFree**  
Victorian Sexual Health Network

Providing training and support to 13 GP partner clinics in our statewide Victorian Sexual Health Network VSHN



Partnership with Monash University and GP training Programme providing education for students and GPs

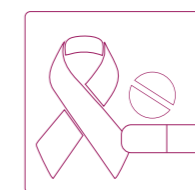
## MSHC Fast Facts 2025



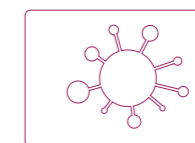
**130**  
Staff



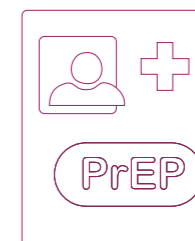
**53,768**  
Sexual health consultations



**2,212**  
People living with HIV  
96% on HIV treatment



**64**  
Mpox diagnosis



**990**  
PEP consultations  
**904**  
PrEP clients



**139**  
Peer reviewed Publications



**609,340**  
Visits to MSHC web site



**87,925**  
SMS messages to sexual partners via Let them Know

In 2025, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) remained at the forefront of improving sexual health outcomes for the Victorian community and beyond, driven by innovation, collaboration, and a strong commitment to equitable care. As a specialist tertiary sexual health centre, MSHC plays a critical role as both a statewide clinical service and a hub for research, education, workforce development, and digital innovation. Our purpose remains focused on ensuring that specialist sexual health services are available to those who need them most, while supporting broader access pathways across the health system rather than serving as the first-stop service for all cases.

This year, MSHC provided more than 53,000 consultations to over 25,000 individuals, reflecting sustained demand for our services and the trust placed in our multidisciplinary teams. Despite increasing pressures on public health systems, our staff have continued to deliver high-quality, compassionate, and patient-centred care while driving innovation across clinical service delivery, research, education, and digital health. A major focus in 2025 has been improving access to care to those who need it the most and modernising the way clients engage with our services. We progressed significant digital transformation initiatives and launched our new tele-triage system.

Our research program continues to have substantial national and international impact. MSHC researchers published more than 139 peer-reviewed papers in 2025, including publications in leading journals such as The New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet family of

journals, and Nature family of journals. Our work informed multiple World Health Organization and international guideline recommendations and advanced key areas including syphilis control, HIV prevention, bacterial vaginosis management, antimicrobial resistance, AI-driven diagnostics, and health economics.

A defining milestone this year was MSHC's designation as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Sexual Health. This recognition acknowledges the global leadership, expertise, and dedication of our staff and partners and positions MSHC as a key contributor to strengthening sexual health systems internationally through research, workforce development, policy support, and innovation. The Victorian Sexual Health Network (VSHN) also continued to expand its impact across the state, strengthening partnerships with general practice clinics to improve local access to sexual health services, HIV prevention, and telehealth care. Through education, mentoring, and shared clinical resources, the VSHN is helping build sustainable sexual health capacity within primary care settings across Victoria.

Importantly, none of these achievements would be possible without our exceptional staff. Across administration, nursing, medical, pharmacy, laboratory, research, IT, and support teams, the professionalism, resilience, and compassion demonstrated every day are what make MSHC such a unique and trusted service. I sincerely thank all staff, collaborators, community partners, Bayside Health, Monash University, the Victorian Department of Health, and our clients for their ongoing support and commitment.

As we look toward 2026, MSHC remains committed to delivering innovative, equitable, and world-leading sexual health care, while continuing to advocate for the importance of sexual wellbeing.



**Professor Doctor Jason Ong**  
Director, Melbourne Sexual Health



## Melbourne Sexual Health Centre teams:

### Administration team

The MSHC admin team provide frontline administrative support to the clinic, including reception services, switchboard, client check-in, medical records management and data entry across all clinical systems. Followed by this is providing dedicated administrative coordination within the HIV service, The Green Room - building long-term rapport with clients receiving ongoing care and contributing to a safe, respectful, and confidential care environment.

Liaising with clients and multidisciplinary clinical staff to manage enquiries, resolve scheduling issues and support clinic operations along with linking up clients with other services.

In 2025 the team contributed to the roll out of a weekly pop-up Saturday MPOX vaccination clinic, this included creating a social media presence for Melbourne Sexual Health Centre to reach out to community stakeholders to promote the clinic. The team also worked on

a marketing campaign promoting Stay STI Free - Victorian Sexual Health Networks GP partnership clinics with educational videos and content showcasing the services and expertise of these clinics.

Our admin team have diverse backgrounds in health administration, retail, hospitality, customer service, writing and organisation operations -

they are truly a hardworking and dedicated team and they each bring a different set of skills that contribute to supporting our clients and staff.

**Luke Bongailas**

Client Services Officer and VSHN



## Nursing team

The nursing team is the largest workforce within the service, comprising approximately 44 staff, including counsellors, Registered Nurses (RNs), Enrolled Nurses (ENs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Coordinators, and the Nursing Services Manager. Supported by colleagues across the multidisciplinary team—administration, medical, and research—the nursing team functions as the operational engine of the service. At MSHC, nurses play a critical role in facilitating access to care through tele-triage at the main clinic. They deliver clinical care and actively support research recruitment, contributing to both service delivery and innovation.

The nursing team leads several key portfolios, including Behaviours of Concern, BOC), Family Violence, Enhanced Engagement, Code Blue, and Infection Prevention. The Follow-Up of Results (FUN) role is an essential function, ensuring that clients receive their results promptly and safely. Within the Green Room (TGR), the coordinator and nursing staff support the largest number of people accessing HIV care within a single service in Victoria, providing specialised and high-volume care. In addition, nurses deliver outreach services in St Kilda and drive connection to the Victorian Sexual Health Network (VSHN). Through this work, they support general practice clinics to implement best practice in sexual health care in the GP landscape, and maintain strong connections across the primary care network.

I believe we are most proud of our collective impact—both on the people we care for and on each other. This includes our contribution to improving access and health outcomes, our innovation in service delivery, and the way we support one another through change and challenge. The team takes pride in maintaining high clinical standards while also creating a workplace where people feel valued, connected, and motivated to do their best work.

**Ria Fortune**  
Nurse Services Manager



# The Green Room team

In The Green Room, the multidisciplinary team of Nurses, Doctors, Social Workers, Psychiatrists, Counsellors, admin staff and Pharmacists that work together to provide free, non-judgmental care that is evidence based for our clients to have the best opportunities to live well with HIV and maintain excellent quality of life.

In 2025, The Green Room team received the "President's Award" from Craig Brennan, The President of Living Positive Victoria. The award is "Awarded at the discretion of the President to an individual, group or organisation within the broader community that has demonstrated visionary leadership in improving the quality of life for HIV-positive people" Our former TGR Coordinator Libby Power also presented about

the amazing work that the TGR Nursing team provides at the Sparks Nursing Forum run by ViiV Healthcare. This allowed us to showcase our service to other HIV services throughout Australia. Libby Power also instituted simple but effective ways to help our clients who are experiencing financial hardships or homelessness by creating a clothing drive and a tea & coffee station utilising our in-clinic kitchenette, this has been positively received by many clients, which has been amazing to see! The Green Room team has been wonderfully nurtured in 2025 by Libby, bringing many new nurses down from the STI clinic to expand their skills and knowledge.

**Mark Thompson**  
Nurse

## President's Award The team from The Green Room MSHC



*Receiving the LPV President's award at the Positive Living Centreward at the Positive Living Centre*



World Aids Day 2025



Our HIV Nurses at the Sparks Conference

## Medical team

Working alongside the medical team at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) in 2025, the group has played a key role in strengthening sexual health services and education across Victoria. This includes developing HIV service pathways, contributing to the clinical governance of STI programs, and supporting statewide expansion of sexual health services through GP education initiatives within the Victorian Sexual Health Network.

The team has also led and contributed to quality improvement, guideline development, and service redesign, as well as creating STI Health Pathways for primary health networks across Melbourne and regional Victoria. Their work extends to designing RACGP-accredited MPOX education modules and producing engaging STI educational content—including clinical videos—

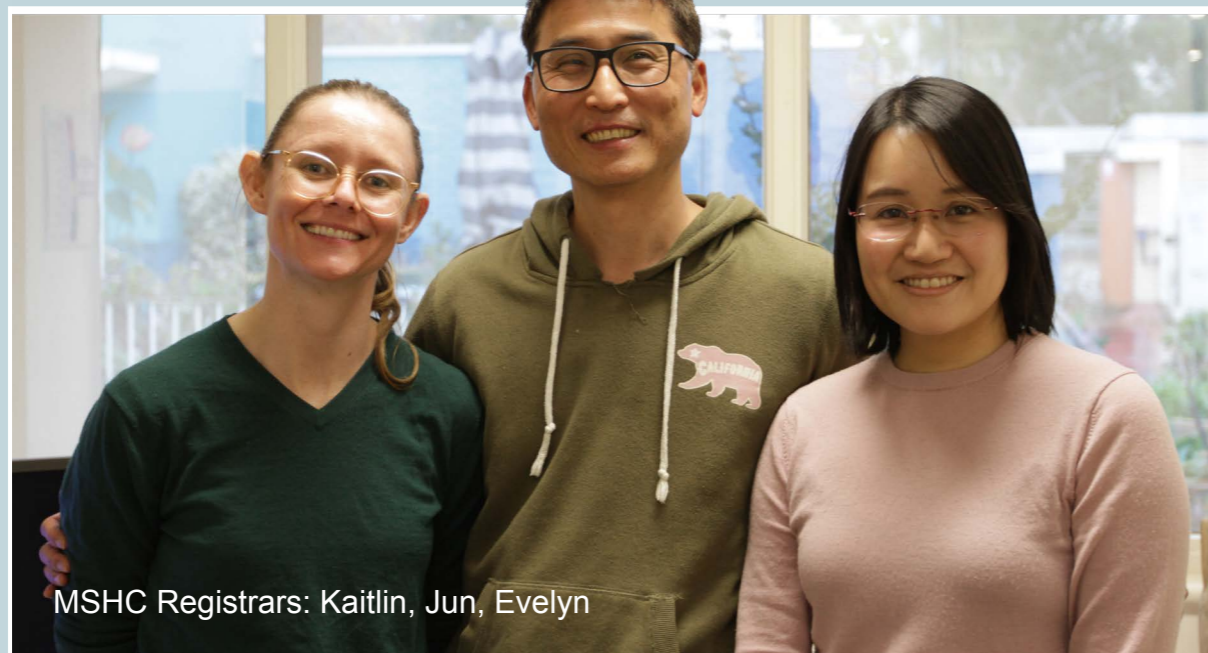
for GPs, nurses, and allied health professionals.

In addition, they contribute to public health communication as content creators for the Stay STI Free website and have developed short courses aimed at expanding sexual health knowledge both locally and internationally.

Equally important is the team's strong and supportive culture, which underpins their impact. A genuine sense of camaraderie and collaboration fosters a positive working environment, where staff feel valued and supported. The team take particular pride in the mentorship provided to junior medical staff, ensuring they feel safe, confident, and well-equipped in their roles. This commitment to both professional excellence and team wellbeing is central to their continued success and contribution to public health.



**Melanie Bissessor**  
Sexual health Physician involved in clinical care, research and teaching.



MSHC Registrars: Kaitlin, Jun, Evelyn



MSHC Registrars: Ope, Ryan, Jour

# Research team



Erica Plummer, Catriona Bradshaw & Lenka Vodstrcil

In 2025, the MSHC HIV/STI Health Preference and Economics Group, led by myself, delivered an outstanding year of research, training and policy impact, publishing 70 peer-reviewed papers and strengthening capacity through the mentorship of 4 postdoctoral researchers and 10 PhD students, including the successful graduation of Dr Warittha Tieosapjaroen. Our work achieved 23 policy citations, including 6 from the World Health Organization and 4 from UNAIDS, demonstrating strong global influence. Research highlights included publications in leading journals such as The Lancet HIV, The Lancet Infectious Diseases and JAMA Network Open, spanning priorities such as eliminating HIV transmission in Australia, advancing AI for STI diagnosis and risk prediction, improving equitable access to PrEP and HIV self-testing, strengthening financial sustainability of HIV services in Asia, and developing innovative syphilis testing strategies.

**Jason Ong**  
– Director



Kay Htaik

In 2025, the MSHC Genital Microbiome and Mycoplasma group, led by Professor Catriona Bradshaw and Deputy Head Dr Lenka Vodstrcil, achieved an exceptional year with impact in research, clinical practice and training.

The team produced 25 peer-reviewed papers including the Step Up randomised controlled trial in the New England Journal of Medicine and an invited review of “Bacterial Vaginosis” in Nature Review Disease Primers. The findings from the Step Up trial led to rapid updates in guidelines, including the Australian STI guidelines, Therapeutic Guidelines,

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology guidelines, UpToDate professional guidelines, BV guidelines for the US jurisdictions of New York and California, and the International Society for Vulvovaginal Diseases.

As a consequence of the clinical impact, the team were also commissioned to a BASHH column on male-partner treatment to their society journal Sexually Transmitted Infections, and an article on Insights into partner treatment for publication in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health. The findings were covered by >350 media outlets globally, including print, online, radio, TV and podcasts (Scientific American, ABC Labnotes and Triple J) and received invited presentations for the US Infectious Diseases Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology; the WHO, and STI and HIV World Congress and physician webinars across the US, Europe and Australia.

The global impact of the work was evident to the New England Journal of Medicine who selected the publication in the “15 most impactful articles in advancing clinical practice and patient care in 2025”, and to TIME magazine who listed Professor Bradshaw in the 2025 TIME100Health list, due to her contribution in “leading change in health and driving meaningful change toward a healthier world for all.” In recognition of their

impact, the team were awarded the Australian Sexual & Reproductive Health Alliance Innovation Award (Bradshaw, Vodstrcil, Plummer); School of Translational Medicine Excellence Award (Bradshaw) and Translational EMCR of the Year Award (Vodstrcil).

In addition, the team strengthened research capacity through mentorship and supervision of postdoctoral researchers, PhD and honours students, and research assistants. PhD student Dr Kay Htaik received a High commendation in the 2025 Alfred Health Medical Service Prize for Clinical Research, and Early Career Award Best oral presentation and Best Abstract Award in ‘Clinical Management’ at the ASRH conference.

Laura Grimminck Matthews was awarded the Public Health Excellence in Honours in Population and Global Health and Natasha Wild the Best ECR Oral Presentation at the 2025 Bladder & Kidney Health Symposium and Best Abstract Award in Translational and Discovery Science at the ASRH conference.

**Lenka Vodstrcil and Catriona Bradshaw**

In 2025, my research group focused on syphilis research. A central activity was SOS Global, an international observational study investigating the role of asymptomatic *Treponema pallidum* shedding in syphilis transmission between women and heterosexual men. Recruitment is underway at nine international sites, comprising four in Australia, four in the United Kingdom and one in South Africa, with additional sites in China and South Africa expected to commence shortly. The success of SOS

Global has led to the establishment of the Global Syphilis Research Alliance, an international network created to support ongoing and future collaborative syphilis research ([www.global-sra.org](http://www.global-sra.org)). 2025 marked the final year of the NHMRC Partnership Project Grant focused on improving syphilis diagnostics. This program delivered evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of multiplex PCR testing for *Treponema pallidum* and herpes simplex virus in general practice, resulting in increased detection of primary



The MSHC research team at the STI&HIV 2025 World Congress in Montreal, Canada.

syphilis and publication in *Lancet Primary Care*. The grant also supported evaluation of routine repeat syphilis serological screening later in pregnancy across antenatal services in Victoria, which showed increased rescreening rates and detection of syphilis cases in late pregnancy.

Collaboration with researchers at the Peter Doherty Institute has enabled evaluation of a world first CRISPR based point of care test providing results for syphilis, herpes and mpox within one hour from anogenital lesion samples. This collaboration is also developing a non culture molecular method to assess the viability and infectiousness of *T. pallidum*, which will complement the completed SOS 2 trial measuring clearance of *T. pallidum* following treatment for secondary syphilis. In addition, Chen and collaborators secured an NHMRC Development Grant to develop a PCR based point of care test for syphilis and herpes.

#### **Marcus Chen**

- Research

The Health Data Management and Biostatistics Unit, led by Professor Eric Chow, conducted extensive research in 2025 across multiple areas of sexual health and STI prevention. The team remained committed to mentoring and building research capacity with the successful completion of PhD student Julien Tran, whose work explored the use of digital anorectal self-examination to support earlier detection of primary anorectal syphilis.

Their research also addressed key public health and policy issues, including the decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria and the sexual practices of female sex workers with non-commercial partners. The unit continued to prioritise innovative approaches to gonorrhoea prevention, notably contributing to the large-scale GoGoVax clinical trial, which investigated the effectiveness of the Meningococcal B (4CMenB) vaccine in preventing gonorrhoea among men who have sex



with men. The team has also maintained strong international collaborations, with a continued focus on international studies on STI prevention, supporting global efforts to advance STI prevention and improve sexual health outcomes.

#### **Kate Maddaford**

-Research Coordinator

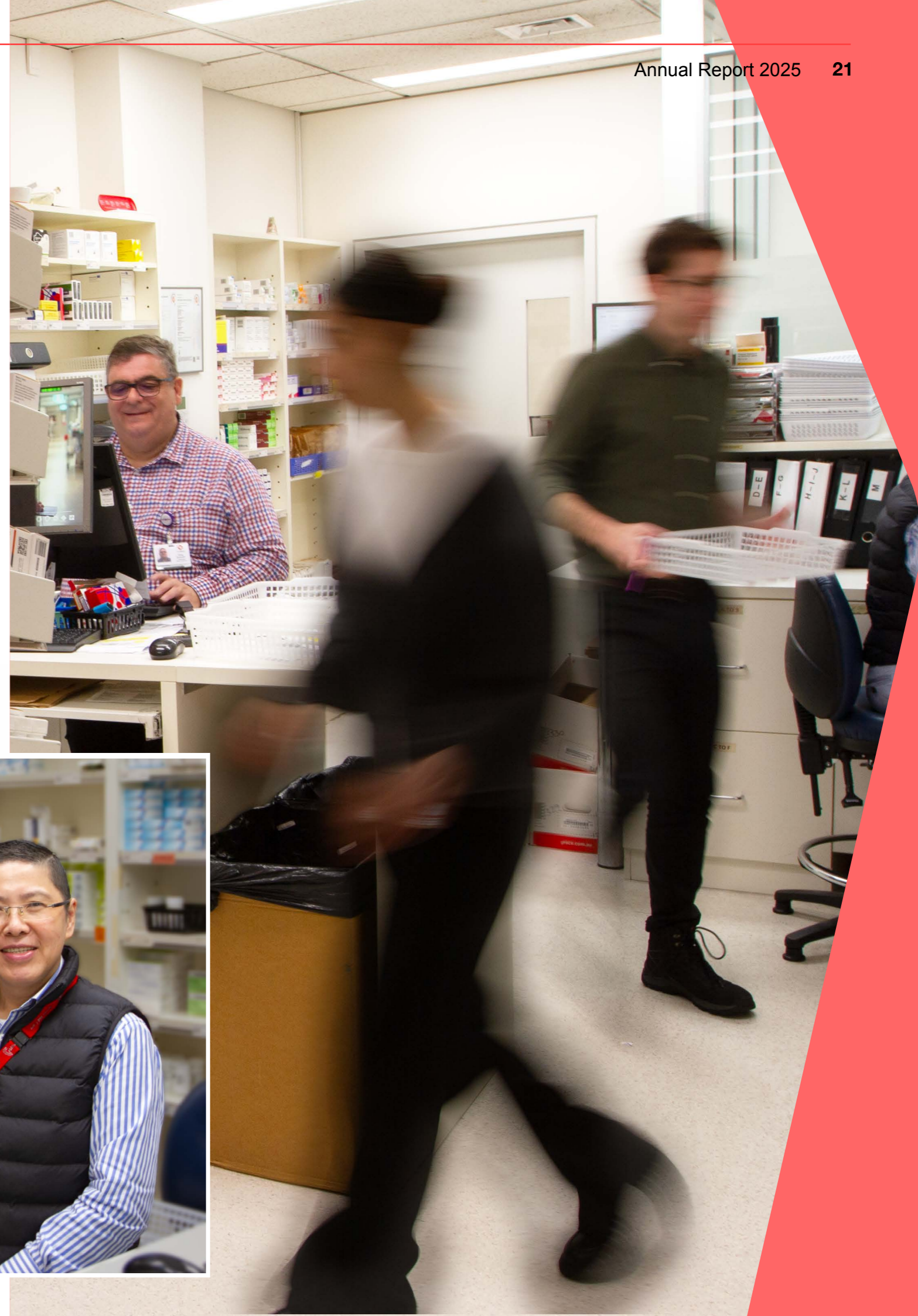
## MSHC Pharmacy team

**M**SHC Pharmacy works with doctors, nurses and MSHC clients to provide clinical advice and supply medications for the management for sexually transmitted infections and people living with HIV.

Achievements for 2025 included implementing ePrescription dispensing at MSHC - Maintained continued supply of benzathine benzylpenicillin during the ongoing global benzathine shortage to help in the management of syphilis - Supported TGR prescribers and GP prescribers in switching patients from atazanavir to alternative ARV regimens, when atazanavir was discontinued and delisted from the PBS Pharmacy based publications and research - Aguirre I, Mackie K.

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea. Australian Pharmacist. 2025;44(7):28-36. Accreditation number: CAP2509DMIA. - Duncan A, Mackie K. Understanding syphilis: clinical features and pharmacological management. Australian Pharmacist. 2025;44(7):38-46. Accreditation number: CAP2509DMAD. - Grande M, Aguirre I, Poole S, Chow EPF. Pneumococcal vaccine uptake in people living with HIV at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. 2025.

We are most proud of how the pharmacy team members work together to optimise service delivery and ensure medications are safe and effective for MSHC clients.



MSHC busy Pharmacists Imogen, Joshua, Greg and Andy

## Information technology and digital infrastructure team

In 2025, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre took a significant step toward a more connected, responsive model of care, using digital innovation to strengthen prevention, improve access, and advance equity in sexual health. As demand for services continued to grow, real time data tools gave clinicians and leaders a clearer and faster understanding of patient needs and emerging disease trends. This enabled earlier intervention, more targeted responses, and more timely care for the community. At the same time, researchers who once waited weeks to access data could now do so almost instantly, accelerating the translation of evidence into practice and supporting faster public health action.

For patients, these changes were experienced in simple but meaningful ways. Communication became more reliable, helping people stay engaged with care and supporting prevention through timely reminders and partner notification. Access to services improved through streamlined digital referrals, reducing delays and making it easier to connect with the right care. Outreach services were also strengthened, extending access to communities who may face barriers and ensuring more equitable care beyond the clinic.

Behind these improvements is a small, dedicated IT team working closely with clinical and administrative staff to deliver integrated, secure, and reliable systems. Their focus has been on practical solutions that respond quickly to changing needs, support frontline care, and build a stronger foundation for future growth. Through close collaboration and a shared sense

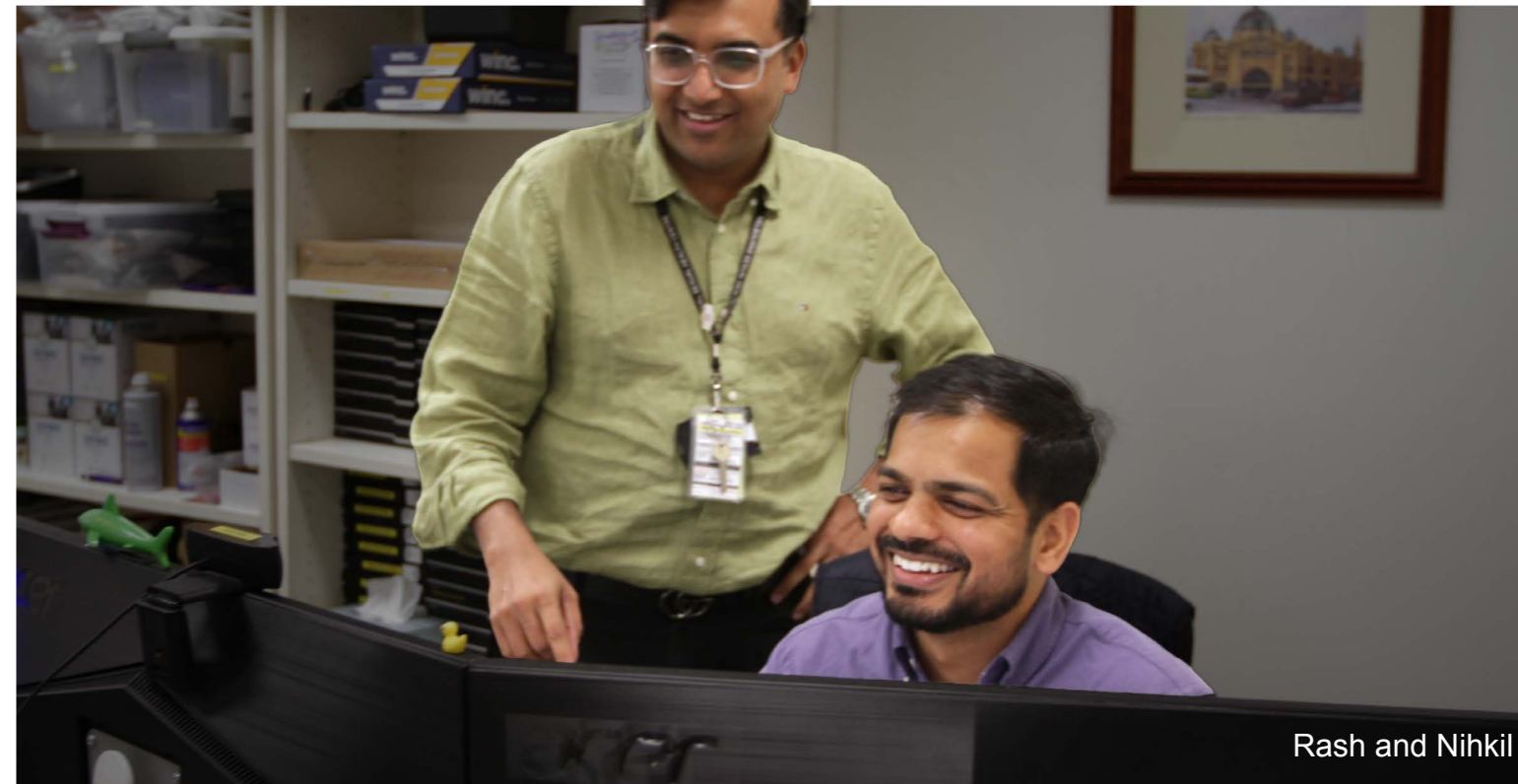
of responsibility, the team has helped create a digital environment that is more resilient, scalable, and aligned with the evolving demands of public health.

These efforts reflect a broader vision—one where digital tools and real time insights are not only supporting healthcare but actively transforming it. Together, they are helping MSHC build a model of care that can respond rapidly to public health needs, improve outcomes at scale, and contribute to global efforts to strengthen sexual health systems.

*Rashidur Rahman*



Rohit



Rash and Nihkil

	IT Achievements	Description
1	Whole Clinic Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Built a comprehensive dashboard covering patient volume, consultations, disease diagnosis trends, vaccinations, and blood room activity.</li> <li>Improved visibility into clinic performance and helped leadership track key healthcare metrics in real time.</li> </ul>
2	Research Data Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidated critical research variables into a single, accessible platform.</li> <li>Reduced data retrieval time from weeks to near real-time (0 seconds), significantly accelerating research workflows and decision-making.</li> </ul>
3	Outreach Clinic & MDU Lab Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed reports for outreach clinic performance and MDU lab statistics.</li> <li>Supports billing accuracy, operational monitoring, and performance tracking.</li> </ul>
4	SMS Portal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and migrated the SMS application from DirectSMS to Telstra TIMS on SharePoint, introducing multi-clinic options, multi-day scheduling, clinic-specific messaging, and automated reporting.</li> <li>Improved reliability and maintainability of SMS communications, delivering approximately \$60K in annual cost savings across Let Them Know, Appointment, research, and other SMS communications.</li> </ul>

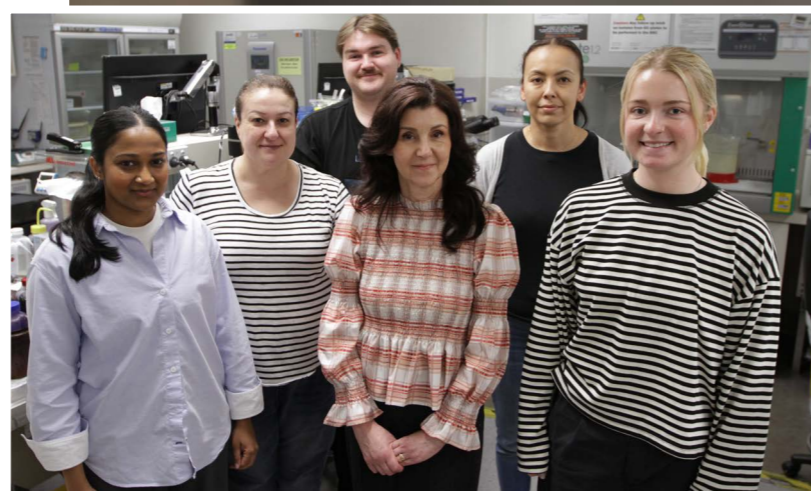
## Laboratory team

The onsite laboratory, operated by the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit (MDU), provides the laboratory focus for the primary testing and analysis of microbiological samples for sexual health infections, received from patients attending the MSHC. Being on site, the laboratory can provide on the spot diagnosis of some infections.

In 2025, the onsite MDU laboratory tested and reported on just over 100,000 samples. We validated a new method testing swab samples collected from vending machines in Victorian rural communities, set up by the Victorian STI-X program. Validation confirmed that positive samples remain stable under simulated transport conditions, maintaining 96% diagnostic accuracy at seven days. We also validated *M.genitalium* macrolide and fluoroquinolone resistance testing onsite at the MSHC laboratory.

The laboratory team is proud to work collaboratively with the other teams at the MSHC, to provide an efficient and accurate testing service. We maintain a positive lab culture built on mutual support. We are focused on ensuring our training program instils the highest standards of technical expertise to ensure staff feel confident and capable in their role.

**Vesna DePetra**  
-Laboratory Coordinator



# Victorian Sexual Health Network (VSHN) 2025 report

In 2025, the Victorian Sexual Health Network (VSHN) continued to demonstrate strong performance across all regions, supporting improved access to sexual health services closer to home for communities throughout Victoria.

Network testing data showed a substantial increase in STI testing across targeted regions, with many STI diagnoses safely and effectively managed within primary care settings. This decentralised approach has reduced pressure on Melbourne Sexual Health Centre while improving convenience and continuity of care for patients.

Where can I be tested?

Stay**STI**Free  
Victorian Sexual Health Network

## Key Highlights

### 1. Sexual Health in Practice (SHIP) Telehealth consultations

VSHN partner clinics continue to play a critical role in delivering high-quality sexual health services in areas of identified need and demand. In 2025, VSHN practices became an increasingly important referral pathway for people unable to access routine preventative care at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC), particularly following service changes in late 2025.

A significant number of people seeking routine STI screening and HIV prevention (PrEP) were

successfully referred to VSHN GP partners offering bulk-billed telehealth services for Medicare-eligible patients. Patient feedback consistently highlights strong satisfaction with this model, with many accessing appointments via the Stay STI Free website.

In 2025, Kings Park Medical Centre (Hillside) and Grandview Family Clinic (Cowes) commenced offering bulk-billed telehealth consultations, further expanding access across the state. We sincerely acknowledge and thank the following practices for their continued commitment to providing accessible sexual health care via Telehealth consultations:

- Kings Park Medical Centre
- Grandview Family Clinic
- Kardinia Health
- Cranbourne West Medical Clinic
- Anglesea Medical
- Werribee Medical & Dental Centre

Together, these partnerships ensure the VSHN remains a vital referral network for MSHC, enabling equitable access to sexual health services regardless of geographical location.

### 2. Conference Scholarships

In 2025, the VSHN awarded five scholarships to support attendance at the ASHM Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference and the Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference, held in Adelaide in September 2025.

These scholarships supported network clinicians to:

- Engage with national and international sexual health expertise
- Contribute to sector-wide discussions
- Share learnings through Community of Practice (CoP) forums across the VSHN
- Scholarship recipients were:
  - Dr Michaela Cuschieri (APC)
  - Dr Daniel Djemal (WM&DC)
  - Dr Zhipeng Guan (KPMC)
  - Tammie Robertson (CWMC)
  - Nurse Practitioner Daniel Sanka (CWMC)

Looking ahead to 2026, further scholarships are planned for the ASHM Conference in Melbourne.

### 3. Ongoing GP and Nursing Education

Education and workforce development remained a core focus in 2025. GP and nursing education concentrated on HIV care and emerging treatment models, including strong uptake of training in long-acting injectable therapy (Cabenuva).

We are particularly proud to acknowledge Dr Joseph Folorunsho (Yarram District Health Service), who completed ASHM competency training and became an accredited HIV

s100 prescriber in 2025. This achievement significantly enhances local access to HIV care in the Gippsland region.

The VSHN also received an annual update on HIV PEP and PrEP, aligned with revised national guidelines. We extend our thanks to Jude Armishaw and Dr Anna Pierce for delivering this important education.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our key sector partners in strengthening workforce capacity across the VSHN, including:

- Sexual Health Victoria
- Victorian NPEP Service
- RhED
- Thorne Harbour Health

### 4. Improving Communication Across the VSHN

In 2025, the Victorian Sexual Health Network launched a dedicated online portal for VSHN clinicians, strengthening communication and connectivity across the network.

The portal was developed to support all VSHN clinicians by providing a centralised, easy-to-navigate platform containing practical clinical tools designed for use during time-pressured consultations. These resources support consistent, evidence-based care across all participating practices.

In addition to clinical tools, the portal delivers:

- Regular network and sector news updates
- Direct links to upcoming education and training sessions

This initiative has strengthened information sharing across the network and made it easier for GP and nursing partners to remain informed, engaged, and connected with VSHN activities. The portal represents an important step in supporting workforce efficiency, consistency of care, and ongoing professional development across the Victorian Sexual Health Network.



Social media posts showcasing our GP clinics

### Looking Ahead to 2026

We sincerely thank our GP partners and stakeholders for their continued collaboration and commitment to improving sexual health outcomes across Victoria.

In 2026, the VSHN will further expand through the recruitment of an additional GP partner in the Frankston LGA / Mornington Peninsula Shire. We aim to launch our new sexual health partner in mid-2026. This growth will further strengthen patient access and workforce capability across priority regions.

For more information, visit the Stay STI Free website:  
[www.staystifree.org.au](http://www.staystifree.org.au)

## Wellbeing

During 2025 the MSHC Wellbeing team has continued with collective efforts to help and support each other.

We have continued many lunch time information sessions and celebrations embracing the differences we have that bond including having 2 lunch celebrations where colleagues bring food from their country and culture to share and have begun a flourishing recycle scheme

The valuable contributions from Claire Randall, Linda Liu, Mark Thompson, Annie lang, Beth Costello, Kate Potapel, Megan Smith, Tina Schmidt, Shari Boyanton, Bec Wigan, Mark

Chung, Monica Owlad, Lauren Bryar, Nikhil Arram, David Nguyen, Stacey Suddabey, Marcus Massiano, Isabel Fabian and Jason Kenna have enabled us to reflect and celebrate each other collectively including initiating communication boards so all colleagues and join together with small quiz or information sessions.

We have encouraged each other across the team to be physically active with the Alfred Health September and Ride to Work events and celebrations of international success during the Paris Olympics.



Wear it Purple Day 2025: Rohit, Claire, Stacey, Luke, Kate, Ryan, Amy & Sacha

## Awards/Prizes

- 2025 Health Services & Policy Research Distinguished Investigator Award (Mid-Career Award), The Health Services Research Association of Australia & New Zealand: Eric Chow
- 2025 IUSTI Silver Medal, International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infection: Eric Chow
- 2025 Gottschalk Medal, The Australian Academy of Science: Eric Chow
- 2025 Victorian Young Tall Poppy Award: Jason Ong
- 2025 AMR Hub Early-Mid Career Emerging Leader Award: Erica Plummer
- 2025 ASHM Early Career Award: Stephanie Bond for her presentation on the implementation of universal syphilis screening in later pregnancy
- 2025 Levinia Crooks Emerging Leader Award: Tiffany Phillips
- 2024 British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) conference: Rebecca Wigan was awarded best presentation by a nurse for the presentation, "Risk-based syphilis screening in later pregnancy- is it happening?"



Eric Chow & Simone Alexander

## World Health Collaborating Centre

In 2025, MSHC was honoured with designation as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Sexual Health. This is a significant milestone recognising our global leadership in sexual health research, clinical care, education and policy impact.

This prestigious designation acknowledges MSHC's longstanding contribution to advancing evidence-based sexual health practice both in Australia and internationally, and positions our service among a select network of world-leading institutions supporting the WHO's global health agenda. As a WHO Collaborating Centre, MSHC will contribute expertise to strengthen sexual health systems, support workforce development, inform international guidelines, and drive innovation in prevention, testing and treatment.

The recognition reflects the dedication and excellence of our staff, researchers and partners, and reinforces MSHC's role as a trusted global authority committed to improving sexual health outcomes worldwide.



**Melbourne Sexual Health Centre**  
has been designated  
a WHO Collaborating  
Centre for sexual health

# Services and Consultations

The numbers of consultations by type of service provided onsite are shown in Table 1. A further 80 outreach consultations were carried out offsite at Access Health services for marginalized people and test kits sent to clients if requested (TestMe and vending machines).

**Table 1**

Clinic Type	Total	Male	Female	Other gender
General Clinic	44,641	30,000	13,606	1,035
HIV Clinic	8,528	7,443	958	127
Counselling	599	372	215	12
Total	53,768	37,815	14,779	1,174
Individuals	25,287	2,221	246	25

## Diagnoses

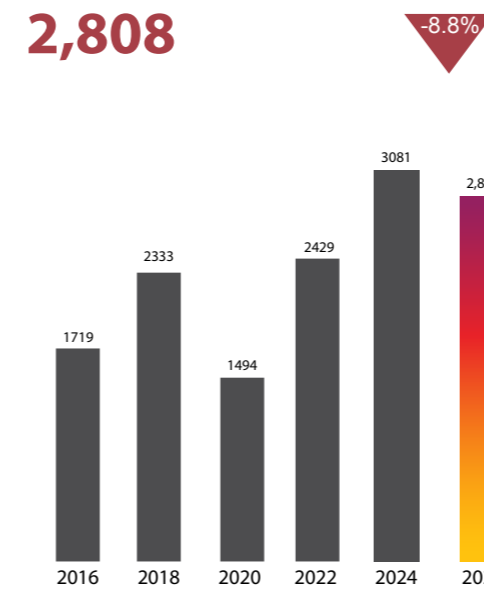
The numbers of the most frequently made diagnoses in consultations are shown in Table 2. Gonococcal and chlamydial infections included are individuals with a newly diagnosed infection and may have more than one site of infection. Those returning with a new infection following successful treatment are included as a new diagnosis.

**Table 2**

Diagnoses	Total
Chlamydia trachomatis	3,131
Neisseria gonorrhoeae	2,808
Non gonococcal urethritis (NGU)	3,128
Herpes	1,259
Infectious syphilis	459
Bacterial vaginosis	2,115
Warts	1,222
HIV new cases	74
Pelvic inflammatory disease	515
Monkeypox virus	64
Mycoplasma genitalium	1,137
Lymphogranuloma venereum	37

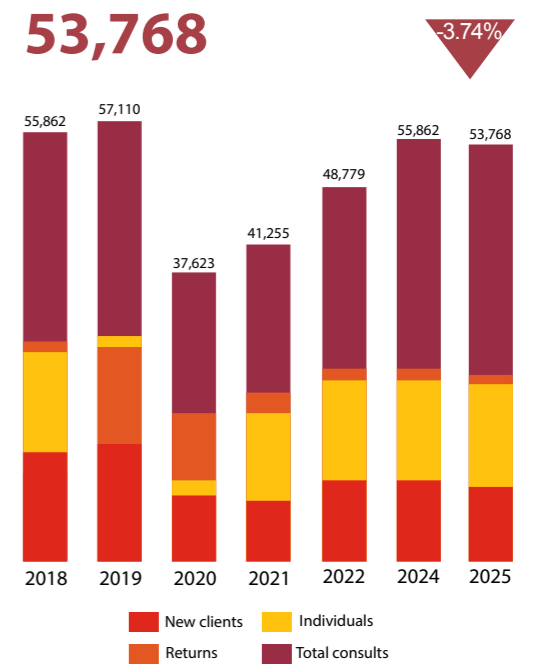
**Figure 1**

Number of positive gonorrhoea tests by year



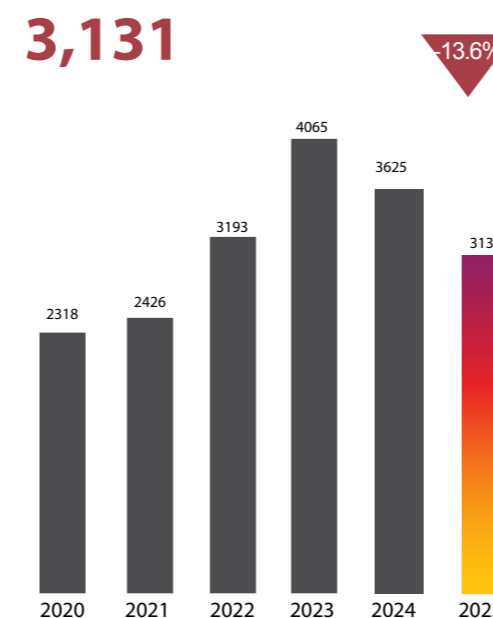
**Figure 2**

Number of consultations Jan 2018 - Dec 2025



**Figure 3**

Number of chlamydia positives by year



**Figure 4**

Infectious syphilis quarter and year 2021-2025

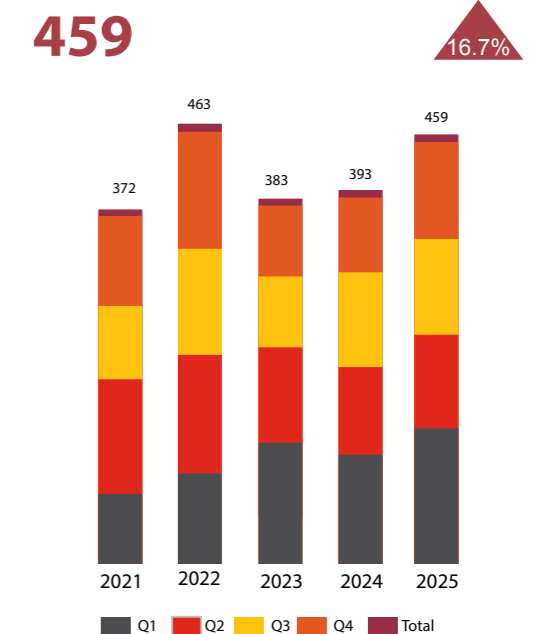


Figure 5

Client survey overall satisfaction

97.4%

1.4%

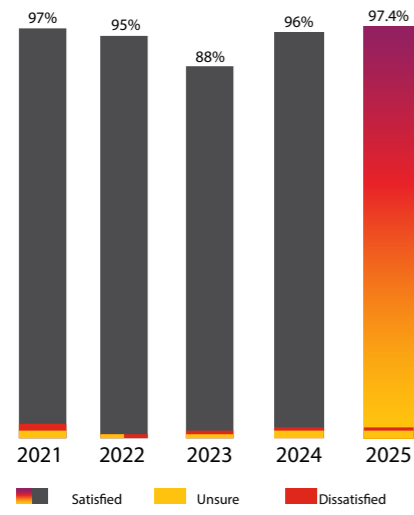


Figure 6

Number of Publications

140

34.6%

