

Expression of Interest

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre / General Practice Partnership Mildura Rural City, Rural City of Swan Hill & Gannawarra Shire

Summary

An exciting opportunity exists for a General Practice to partner with the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) and join the Victorian Sexual Health Network (VSHN).

Through this partnership, participating general practices will receive education, mentorship, and ongoing specialist clinical support from MSHC to strengthen the delivery of sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and management within primary care.

This Expression of Interest (EOI) outlines the partnership model and provides an overview of the Victorian Sexual Health Network.

If your practice is interested in partnering with MSHC, please complete the EOI details below and return via email to lkennedy@mshc.org.au by **COB 18 September 2026**.

Shortlisted practices will be contacted to arrange an interview before final selection.

Background

In 2019, the Victorian Department of Health released a review of state-wide sexual health services, recommending a decentralised '**hub and spoke**' model of care delivery. Under this model:

- MSHC functions as the specialist hub
- Participating general practices act as community-based spokes

MSHC provides clinical education, mentoring, and ongoing support to enable GP practices to deliver high-quality, sustainable STI testing and treatment services within primary care settings.

Eligible practices are located in priority areas with higher rates of STIs, and the model supports embedding practice nurses alongside GPs to ensure continuity and sustainability of care.

MSHC currently partners with twelve GP practices across Victoria through this initiative, collectively known as the **Victorian Sexual Health Network (VSHN)**.

Evaluation of the program has demonstrated:

- Increased STI testing and treatment
- High levels of patient satisfaction

For further information, please visit [Stay STI Free](#).

What MSHC Will Provide

The successful practice will receive:

- Comprehensive education and onboarding, delivered by MSHC clinical educators
- Ongoing clinical mentorship and support
- Training covering all common STI syndromes and inclusive care, including:
 - HIV PEP and PrEP
 - Mpox
 - Sex Worker Affirmative Practice
 - Gender Diversity
- Education delivered via a combination of:
 - Virtual presentations (Microsoft Teams)
 - Face-to-face sessions
- Clinical placements at MSHC, open to medical, nursing, and administrative staff
 - **Financial support is provided to cover staff time away from the practice**
- Regular meetings with:
 - Practice Manager
(weekly during onboarding; monthly after launch)
 - Identified practice champions
- Access to real-time specialist clinical advice via the MSHC GP Support Phone Line
(Monday–Friday, 9:00–12:30 and 1:30–5:00)
- Co-branding on MSHC and Stay STI Free websites
- Marketing and promotion of your practice as a VSHN partner

The onboarding and development phase typically takes **6–8 weeks**.

Participation Requirements

Training, Meetings, and Milestones

Activity	Timeline	Duration
Weekly onboarding meetings with MSHC	Oct – Dec 2026	1–2 hrs/week
Medical education (virtual)	Oct – Dec 2026	8 hours
Nursing education (virtual & face-to-face)	Oct – Dec 2026	8 hours
Administrative education (virtual & face-to-face)	Oct – Dec 2026	2 hours
Optional MSHC clinical placement	During onboarding and available in the future	4–8 hours
Website co-branding and content development	Oct – Dec 2026	Approximately 4 hours
Monthly VSHN Community of Practice meetings	After launch	1 hour/month
Nursing Community of Practice meetings	After launch	1.5 hrs/quarter
Medical Community of Practice meetings	After launch	1 hrs/monthly

Financial Support

- **\$5,000 onboarding payment**
(upon completion of MSHC milestones)

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, the practice must:

- Be located in **Mildura Rural City, Rural City of Swan Hill OR Gannawarra Shire**
- Commit to a long-term partnership with MSHC
- Hold current RACGP accreditation
- Be available to commence onboarding from **October 2026**
- Agree to participate in ACCESS (Australian Collaboration for Coordinated Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance of STIs and BBVs) for de-identified data sharing
 - Data shared with MSHC and the Victorian Department of Health
- Allocate sufficient staff time for education, training, and ongoing participation
- Provide onsite injectable treatment for gonorrhoea and syphilis
- Nominate a partner pharmacy to supply antibiotics and HIV prevention medications (PEP and PrEP)
- Nominate:
 - A **GP Champion**
 - A **Nurse Champion**
 - An **Administration Champion** (with the Practice Manager as the key coordinating contact)
- Ensure the Principal GP actively supports and promotes the sexual health service
- Accept that the partnership may be discontinued if training or reporting requirements are not met

Key Contact at MSHC

Lisa Kennedy

Operations Lead

Mobile: 0457 455 383

Email: lkennedy@mshc.org.au

Please complete the Expression of Interest and return it via email to Lisa Kennedy

Date of Application:	
Practice Name:	
Practice address:	
Primary Contact (Name & Mobile):	
Number of General Practitioners: Total GP sessions per week:	
Number of Registered Nurses: Total Nurse sessions per week:	
Number of active registered patients:	
Days and hours of operation:	
Practice Manager details:	
Practice Principal details:	
Practice Champion - Nurse(s):	
Practice Champion - GP(s):	
Practice Champion - Administration:	

Check list

☐	Do you have a nominated Partner Pharmacy to supply injectable antibiotics and anti-retroviral treatment?	
☐	Does your practice hold a current accreditation against RACGP Standards?	
☐	Please list any clinical staff who have additional qualifications relevant to Sexual Health Training	
☐	Do you agree to collaborate with the Burnet Institute for data sharing? This involves enrolling in ACCESS. Please see the attached document. This includes sharing de-identified data with MSHC and the Victorian Department of Health.	
☐	Do you have a Practice Manager available to coordinate the partnership with MSHC? This will be a long-term arrangement.	
☐	Does your lead/Principal GP support and will actively participate in the partnership?	
☐	Do you agree to provide electronic patient experience surveys to ensure quality assurance?	
☐	Do you have existing patient feedback and quality assurance processes?	
☐	Does your practice have the capacity to meet education, training, and Community of Practice requirements?	
☐	Briefly outline why your clinic would be interested in joining the Victorian Sexual Health Network:	