



**Burnet Institute**  
Medical Research. Practical Action.

# Burnet + LGBTI

To facilitate reductions in new HIV infections and improve the lives of people living with HIV in Australia and internationally through discovery and translational research that targets HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

[burnet.edu.au/lgbti](http://burnet.edu.au/lgbti)

## THIS VISION WILL BE ACHIEVED BY:

- 1** Maintaining and building upon Burnet's collaborations with key populations and people living with HIV in Australia and in resource-constrained settings that help guide our work.
- 2** Developing, implementing and expanding innovative bio-behavioural surveillance systems and research projects that enhance our understanding of HIV risk and protective behaviours among vulnerable populations.
- 3** Work with government and civil society to help strengthen health systems and reduce social and legislative marginalisation of HIV risk populations.
- 4** Undertaking implementation and demonstration projects that support the most effective ways to expand HIV testing, treatment and primary prevention.

## OUR PROJECTS



### Suck It & See...

- > In an Australian-first, this 2008 study estimated HIV prevalence among gay and other same sex attracted men, and explored the reasons that some people have HIV and some people have HIV but do not realise they are infected.
- > Study found 9.6 per cent of gay and other same sex attracted men were living with HIV, but close to one third were undiagnosed.

### COUNT

- > In 2014, COUNT built on the experience of Suck It & See, recruiting more than 3000 men from most Australian capital cities to provide a national estimate of undiagnosed HIV among gay and other same sex attracted men.
- > National COUNT results found that 6.9 per cent of participants were living with HIV, and 8.9 per cent of those were undiagnosed.

**25,000+  
PEOPLE**

are living with diagnosed HIV infection in Australia

**1,025**

PEOPLE WERE  
DIAGNOSED WITH HIV  
IN AUSTRALIA IN 2015

Continued overleaf...



## Addressing HIV in Myanmar

- Men who have sex with men in Myanmar are largely hidden and remain highly stigmatised.
- Burnet is working with local implementation partners to deliver community-based and peer-involved HIV prevention projects focused on peer education/outreach, confidential HIV counselling, and testing and STI services.
- The program operates in three locations across Myanmar providing services in a safe and supportive environment that promotes safer sex behaviours, correct and consistent condom and lubricant use, healthcare seeking behaviours, and referral to HIV treatment services.



## Rapid HIV Testing – PRONTO!:

- In 2011, Burnet conducted a systematic review of community models for rapid HIV testing in the US, Europe and New Zealand, which showed high levels of acceptability and effectiveness of this model of HIV testing for gay men.
- Early in 2013, the Victorian Department of Health commissioned an Australian-first trial of a shopfront community based rapid HIV testing service, to be rolled out as a collaboration between Burnet Institute and the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre.
- With ongoing funding secured, PRONTO! is now an important part of Victoria's HIV prevention and care response. New PRONTO! services, such as comprehensive STI testing, and PrEP and transgender clinics, has evolved PRONTO! into a world's best-practice peer and community-based service model for the LGBTI community.
- Burnet will continue to play a vital role through the evaluation of the service model.



## Tracking trends in HIV and STIs:

- Burnet leads an array of HIV and other STI surveillance activities in Victoria.
- ACCESS, an innovative surveillance system developed at Burnet, enables informed public health policy and action to help prevent HIV infection and facilitate early diagnosis and treatment of HIV.
- Burnet's pioneering development of ACCESS in Victoria was expanded to NSW in collaboration with the Kirby Institute and, with support from the Commonwealth Government, Burnet now leads a national expansion of ACCESS to all states and territories. ACCESS will underpin the monitoring and refinement of Australia's strategic response to STIs and BBVs.

## PrEPX:

- Burnet is a research partner in the PrEPX study, a ground-breaking study providing people at risk of HIV with access to the life changing medication, commonly called pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Approximately 2500 Victorians are now accessing PrEP through the PrEPX study at sites across metropolitan Melbourne, including the Alfred Hospital and Melbourne Sexual Health Centre pharmacies.
- PrEPX is expanding into rural and regional sites in Victoria.
- Burnet leads the data collection, monitoring and evaluation of PrEPX. The information collected by Burnet will provide world's-first population-level estimates of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of PrEP for HIV prevention.

**UP TO  
37 MILLION  
PEOPLE**  
*are living with  
HIV globally.*

