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RESEARCH, REFORM AND REINVIGORATION: NSW POLICY TARGETS & SECTOR MOBILISATION

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REFORM & RESEARCH




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- Setting targets is one way jurisdictions prioritise what matters within health systems National Health Reform Agreement/COAG as notable example
- The community championed the targets of the NSW HIV Strategy





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NSW HIV Strategy Development

- The NSW Government launched a bold new strategy to embody the new evidence and reinvigorate the response to HIV in NSW
- It set the goal to virtually eliminate HIV transmission by 2020
- Increased focus on data collection and reporting
- High-level of political and bureaucratic engagement
- Political commitment and public accountability has raised the profile and given priority to HIV





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NSW HIV Strategy Targets

- Reduce the transmission of HIV among gay and other homosexually active men by 60% by 2015, and by 80% by 2020
- Reduce the average time between HIV infection and diagnosis from 4.5 years to 1.5 years by 2020
- Increase to 90% the proportion of people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment, by 2020





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NSW HIV Strategy Implementation Committee

- Establishment of NSW HIV Strategy Implementation Committee (SIC)
- Implementation plans and monitoring systems are overseen by SIC
- Regular meetings involving high level departmental staff and representatives from across the HIV partnership (affected communities, clinicians, researchers and government)
- Highly focused meetings, focused on available data and emerging issues





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REINVIORATION & RENEWAL




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New Ways of Working

To achieve targets, recognition of the need for innovation and scale...

- Community based testing
- Home based testing trial
- Dried Blood Spot testing trial
- PrEP demonstration project - Prelude
- Increased investment in GP programs and early treatment initiatives
- Removal of co-payment for treatment





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New Ways of Working

- Development of an umbrella education platform - *Ending HIV* – used to mobilise and engage community ... and the sector more broadly





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Recognising the Critical Role of Community




- Engagement of gay men and other at risks communities critical
- Community organisations have adapted to meet the challenges
- Reinvigoration of social marketing approaches and other education models
- Community based testing, through a[TEST] model




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RESTRICTIONS, ROAD BLOCKS & RISK




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Regulatory Challenges

- Setting targets and mobilising existing resources can only go so far...
- Widespread access to the full armamentarium, including PrEP, self-testing kits and widespread rapid testing, is essential
- Workarounds, such as the trials undertaken with research partners, are useful short term interventions
- Long term solutions, like regulatory reform, require advocacy from within and outside - government and community working together




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Risks

- The promise of research evidence is backed by Government strategy, yet we do not have all the tools
- Delays in TGA approvals = delays in achievement of targets
- Community has demonstrated its value as a voice for change
- Collaboration to address some regulatory barriers, in particular those related to rapid HIV testing
- Three rapid HIV tests have now been approved by the TGA, but none have MBS listing
- PrEP is well and truly on the policy agenda

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Results – Where are we at?

- Results achieved since the release of the Strategy in late 2012 are encouraging. 2014 NSW HIV notification data shows:
 - 346 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in NSW, a two per cent (%) decrease compared with 2013 (353), and a 15% fewer than in 2012 (408)
 - In 2014, there were 465,584 HIV serology tests performed, compared with 447,186 (4% increase) in 2013 and 419,968 (11% increase) in 2012
 - In 2014, 9,910 HIV rapid tests were performed in NSW, of which 28% (2,766) were at community sites

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Results – Where are we at?

- Data from public sexual health and HIV clinics indicate 89% of people living with HIV who attended these services were on antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- Drawing on experience in NSW following the release of the NSW HIV Strategy, it is reasonable to attribute some of the encouraging results to the setting of these targets and a re-invigorated response to HIV across the sector
- Five years out, those targets are looming larger in the consciousness of HIV policy makers, advocates, community educators and health workers

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Conclusion

- Political and policy bravery, embracing opportunity
- Optimism and innovation versus fear of failure
- Setting targets has been helpful in NSW
- Embedding them into reporting arrangements has been critical
- Data collection and public accountability are key
- Community mobilisation is required, no matter how bold the targets are
- Targets in the absence of a supportive regulatory environment hinder progress
- The need for advocacy continues

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