

Australian-first online module to provide 'gay friendly' training option for General Practitioners

'Gay Friendly GP' Online Training: Strengthening capacity of primary care in working with gay men and men who have sex with men patients

Mudie A¹, Baker D², Pell C³, Dabbhadatta J⁴, Crozier B⁵, Munro T⁶, Gray J⁶, Ubrihien A⁷, Chu J¹, Clifton B⁶
on behalf of the STIs in Gay Men Action Group's Clinicians Communication Project Working Group

¹ Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Australia; ² East Sydney Doctors, Australia; ³ Taylor Square Private Clinic, Australia;

⁴ HIV/AIDS and Related Programs Unit, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Australia; ⁵ Albion Centre, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Australia;

⁶ ACON, Australia; ⁷ Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Western Sydney Local Health District, Australia;

Introduction

Sexually transmissible infections (STIs) including HIV remain a significant public health issue for gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM).

General Practitioners (GPs) play an essential role in HIV and STI testing and management with over 50% of testing in NSW occurring within general practice settings.

The STIs in Gay Men Action (STIGMA) Group developed the Sydney Gay Friendly GP List in 2010. GPs were invited to self-nominate with their contact details and it was hosted online.

In 2013 the list was updated and through this process, it was identified that some GPs needed further training.

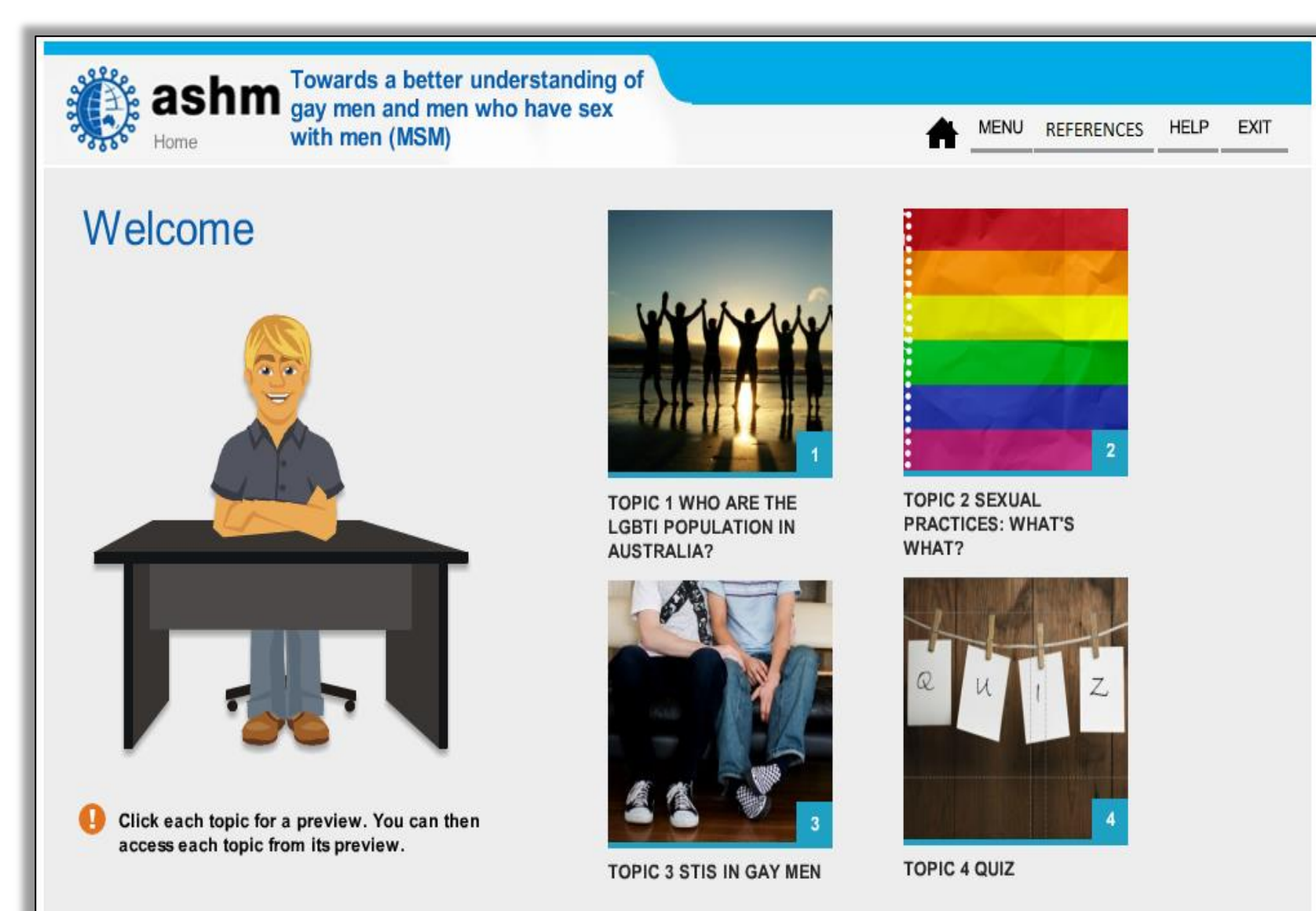
Method

A literature review was conducted mid-2014 which identified online learning as an effective modality for providing GPs with MSM relevant training.

An expert committee was established including GP and community representatives to provide input and guide the development of the online learning module.

Key issues around primary care experiences of MSM were identified and a 60 minute self-paced online learning module was developed.

The interactive online learning module aims to increase the competence and confidence of GPs and other health professionals in identifying and addressing issues related to sexual health and wellbeing relevant to MSM.

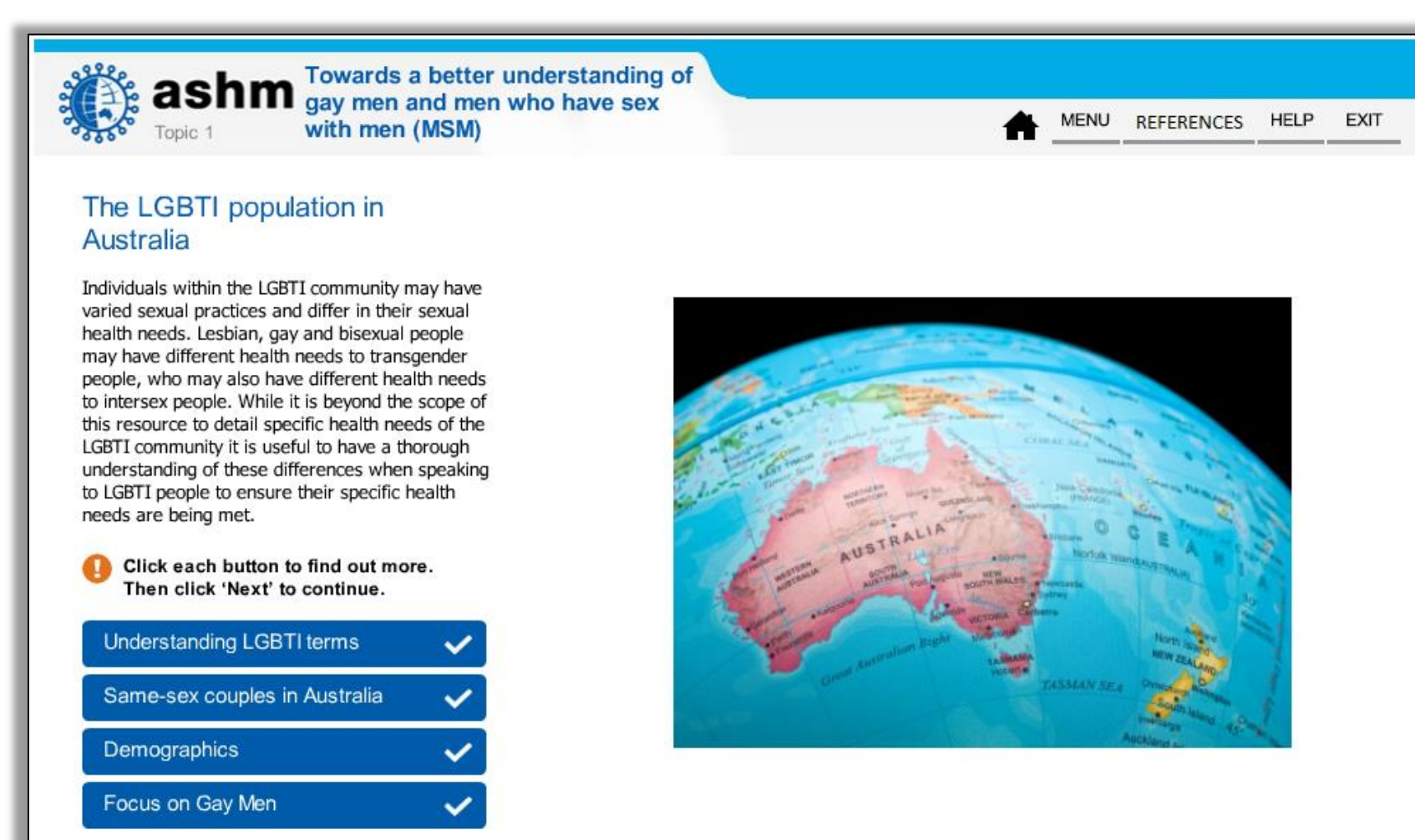


Results

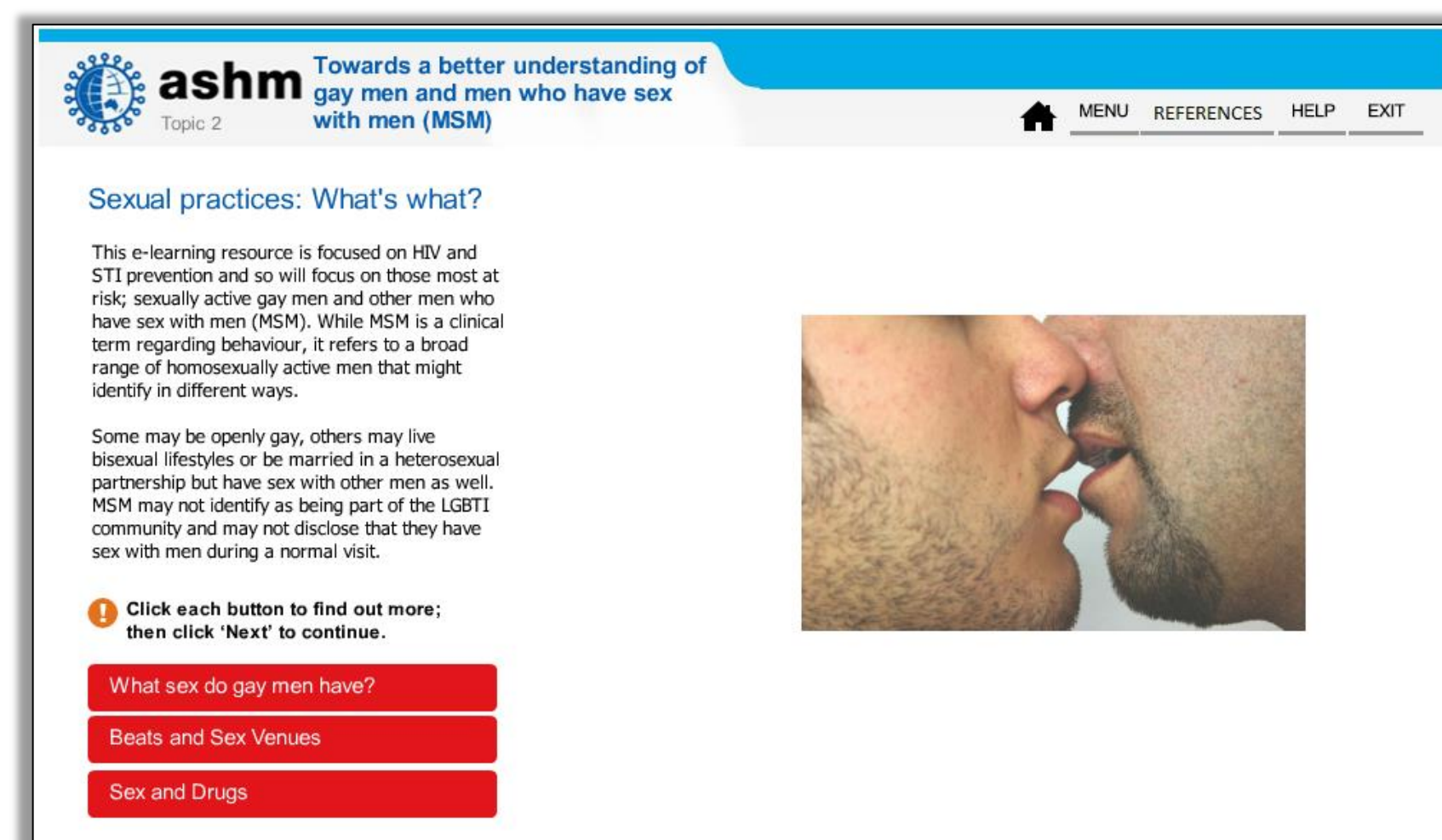
Becoming more Gay Friendly in your Practice - an Online Learning Module

Consists of 3 modules, 20 minutes each module:

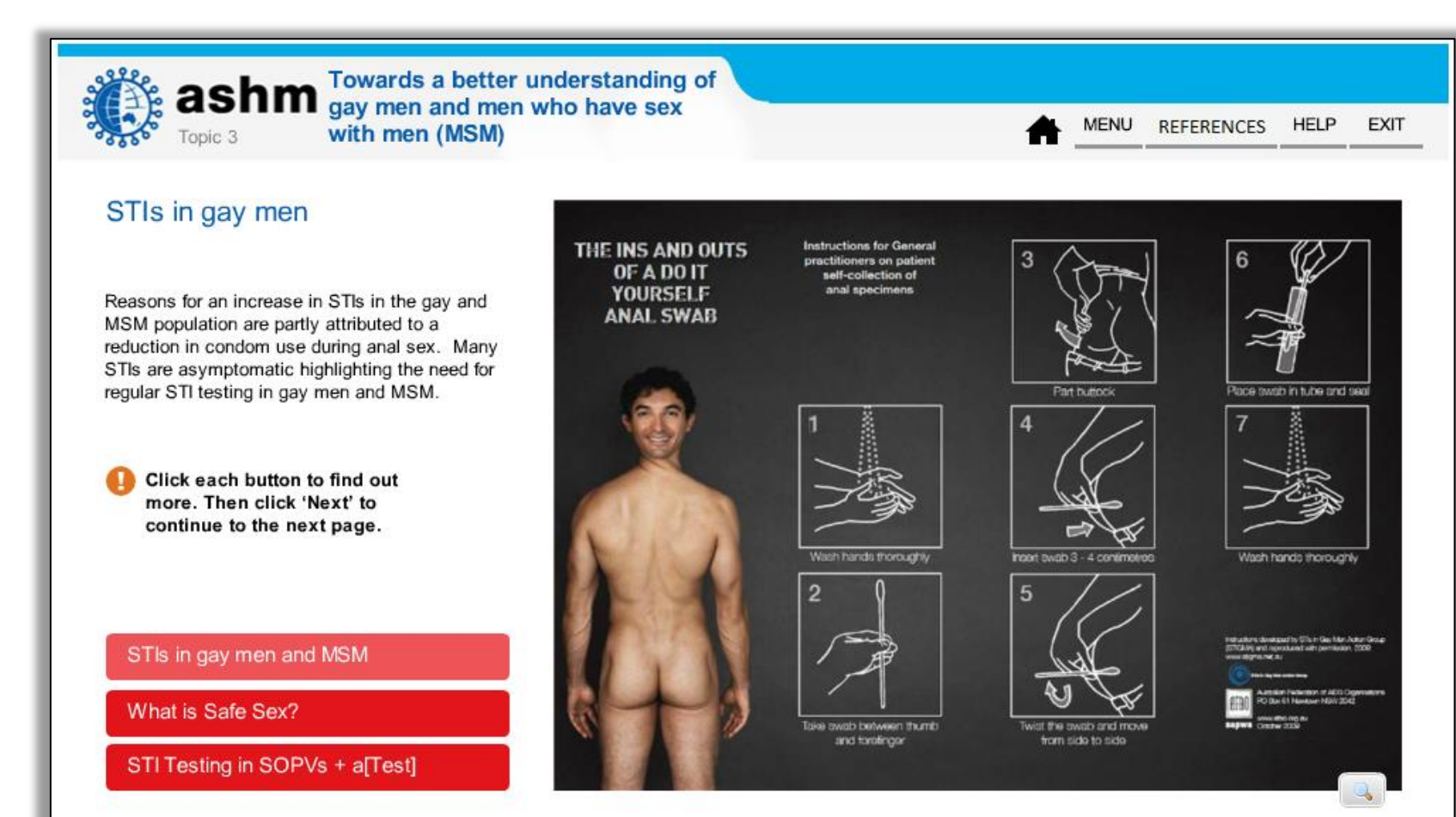
Module 1: Towards a better understanding of gay men and MSM



Module 2: Discussing sexual history and testing for STIs



Module 3: Common health issues facing gay men and MSM



Accreditation and endorsement

- An accredited Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) activity
- GPs who complete the online learning module in full can accrue RACGP 2 Category 2 QI& Continuing Professional Development Points
- Endorsed by the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA)

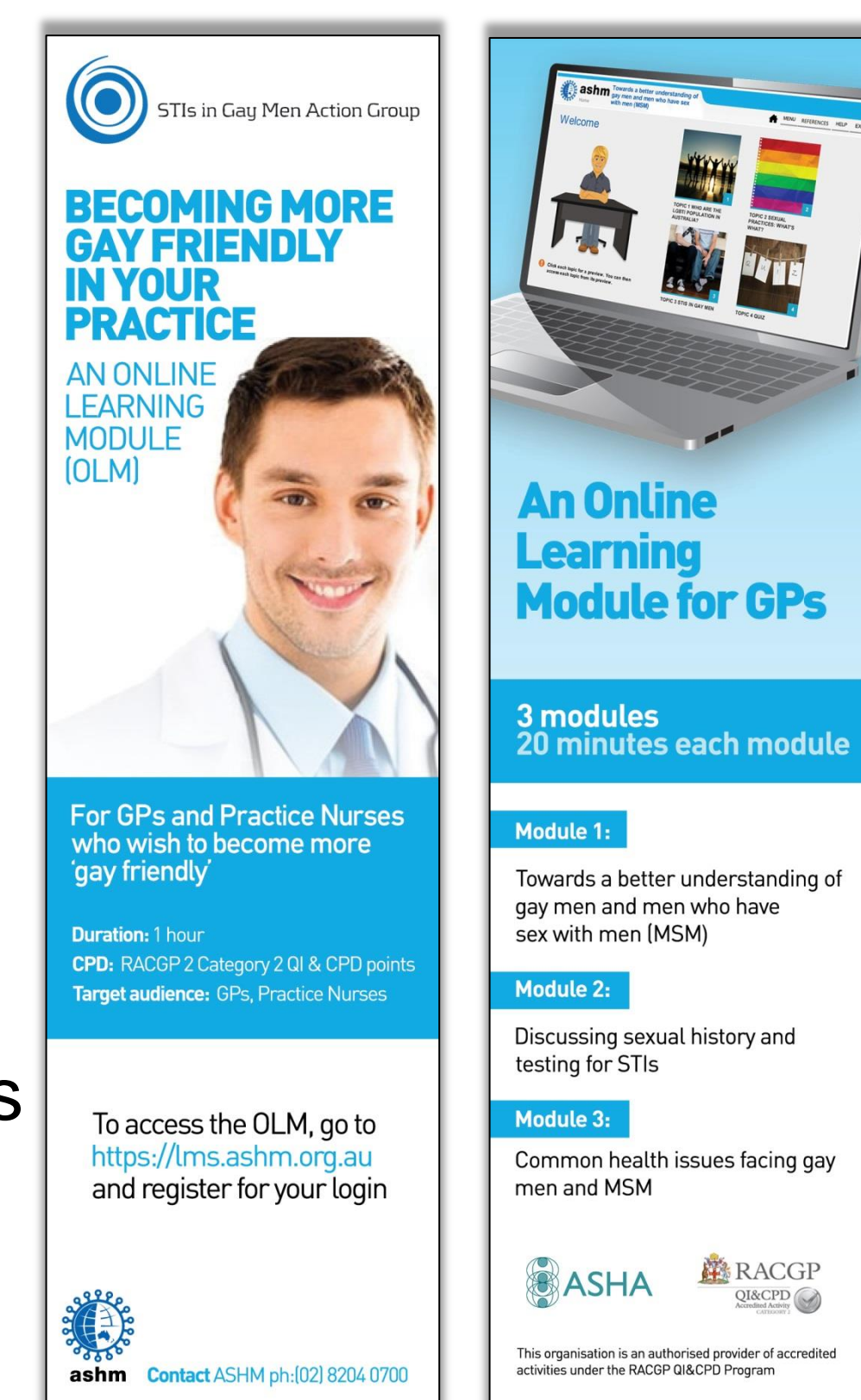


This organisation is an authorised provider of accredited activities under the RACGP QI&CPD Program

Results (cont)

Dissemination

- Launched on 18 June 2015
- Media releases implemented
- Promotional bookmarks were distributed to GPs and Practice Nurses



Conclusion

The Becoming more Gay Friendly in your Practice – an Online Learning Module is Australia's first online training that promotes optimal care for MSM in general practice settings.

This training package will assist GPs to improve consumer engagement, understand sexual diversity and promote effective screening and treatment of STIs in gay men and MSM.

Access to the online module

To access the online learning module, go to <http://stipu.nsw.gov.au/stigma/becoming-more-gay-friendly>

Acknowledgements

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STIGMA Group:
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STIs in Gay Men Action Group