



HIV AND MOBILITY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: SIREN SYMPOSIUM 18 MAY 2018

As part of the 2018 SiREN Symposium, a round-table discussion around HIV and mobility was conducted. The purpose of the workshop was to identify issues for discussion at the half-day forum to be held on 30th May 2018 and explore how to build upon the current level of momentum around this topic. Participants identified a number of factors for consideration.

- The need to differentiate between what we know, and what assumptions we are making (particularly in regards to different groups, and what the epidemiology tells us).
- The need for ongoing consultation with communities, and using their input to identify the best way to engage specific sub-groups.
- The shift in epidemiology that has occurred since the Road Map (for Western Australia, the reduction in HIV notifications among people born in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia).
- The inclusion of UK and NZ migrants when looking at “overseas-born” populations.
- The effect of recent changes to immigration – particularly, restrictions around obtaining 457 visas and the impact of this upon overseas acquired and overseas born individuals acquiring HIV.
- The increase in the number of international students, student accommodation and the perception of Australia as a “mecca for sexual health and identity”.
- The role of peer education in improving knowledge and encouraging access to health services. It’s important to consider what the term “peer” mean across different communities, as peer extends beyond country of birth (e.g. age differences, religion, different cultures and communities within countries).
- The accessibility and outreach of programs across different sub-populations (i.e. those with disabilities, those who speak a different language) and the need to understand issues relating to access that are specific to these sub-groups.
- The role of people living with HIV in this work, and ensuring their voices are heard.
- The influence of cultural perceptions i.e. overseas-born migrants might perceive Australia as “safe” from HIV, STIs etc., however they may have greater exposure to risk factors in Australia, such as normalisation of alcohol use, live-in relationships etc.
- Racism in Australia differs to that of other countries and can impact upon access to health services.

We would like to thank all who attended this session. We look forward to continuing this conversation with you at the [HIV and Mobility Forum](#) on the 30th May.

