

In Victoria, the state CoPAHM has been incorporated into the HIV Intersections Community of Practice. This group formed in 2017 and focuses on issues relating to HIV and mobility and migration, but its remit also includes other key populations that have been underserved in the HIV response (including First Nations populations, women, people who inject, heterosexual and bisexual people, trans and gender diverse people and sex workers).

The 2019 HIV and Intersectionality Symposium was held on Wednesday 27th November in Melbourne. This event was an initiative of the HIV Intersections Community of Practice, and was coordinated by the BBV Sector Development Program at Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University.

The day was framed by the following questions:

1. How can we consider intersectionality in the planning and practice of research, health promotion, service provision, clinical care and social support of people and populations affected by HIV?
2. What processes determine the reach (and limitations) the Australian HIV response?
3. What is evidence? What do we see when we view 'evidence-based policy and practice' through an intersectional lens?
4. How can our systems/ programs and ways of working adapt to ensure all key populations - especially underserved communities- benefit from new HIV prevention and treatment options?

We succeeded in ensuring that the vast majority of the panellists and presenters sharing their expertise were people living with HIV and people who were themselves members of underserved populations. Eighty people attended the event.

The program for the day consisted of an introduction to intersectionality, panel discussions and yarning circles.

The panel themes were:

- Intersections of colonisation, racism and HIV – challenging structural racism in the HIV response
- Intersectionality and evidence – rethinking 'hard-to-reach' and 'hard-to-research' in the making of evidence
- Intersections of HIV and the law – criminalisation, discrimination and legal barriers to HIV prevention and care
- Intersections of HIV, sexuality and gender - Greater inclusion of heterosexual people, bisexual people, women, transgender & gender diverse folks in the HIV response

The yarning circle themes were:

- Identifying bias and advantage to improve quality of life for all PLHIV
- Intersections of race, sexuality, culture and nationality – responding to rising HIV notifications in Asian gay men
- Equitable Meaningful Involvement of PLHIV

The full program and list of panellists can be viewed [here](#)

Notes from the yarning circles will be available soon, as will select recordings of the discussions and presentations. The first of four recordings will go to air as part of 3CR's show Women on the Line on Monday 9th December, and be available to listen to as a podcast from 9am [here](#).

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