

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR ACTION ON HIV AND MOBILITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Terms of Reference
(Draft)

Updated: 21st February, 2020

PURPOSE

This document is intended to set the scope for the Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility Western Australia (CoPAHM WA).

BACKGROUND

The HIV and Mobility in Australia: Road Map for Action (Road Map for Action) report, released in 2014, explores the links between HIV risk and mobility in Australia, outlining an agenda for research and action for priority populations. The report was the first attempt to capture what we know about HIV and mobility in migrant and mobile populations in Australia. It offers an implementation plan to operationalise the recommendations of jurisdictional and national HIV policies in relation to migrant and mobile populations. The paper is a result of the *Western Australia HIV and Mobility Project*, a collaboration between the Collaboration for Evidence, Research and Impact in Public Health (CERIPH) and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), with support from the Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SiREN).

A national *Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (CoPAHM)* was established in March 2015 with funding from the WA Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program. The national CoPAHM is a partnership of 160 members from non-government, clinical, community, research and government organisations. Local CoPAHMs were independently set up in some jurisdictions to progress on state-specific issues and actions, feeding back to the national group.

A HIV and Mobility Forum organised by the WA AIDS Council was held in May 2018, bringing organisations and individuals interested in making a difference in Western Australian mobile populations. Participants discussed the priority issues specific to Western Australia and the areas in need of action and focus in HIV and mobility in the near future. The HIV and Mobility Forum Report was released, collating the discussion into the key priorities a state CoPAHM could push for action.

FUNCTION

A community of practice is defined as “a group of practitioners with a common sense of purpose who agree to work together to solve problems, share knowledge, cultivate best practice and foster innovation. Communities of practice are characterised by the willing participation of members, and their ongoing interaction in developing a chosen area of practice”¹.

The CoPAHM WA is the partnerships of organisations, practitioners and clinicians, community groups and leaders, researchers, policymakers and members of affected populations interested in the issues pertaining to HIV and mobility. CoPAHM WA will:

- Monitor and respond to changes in WA HIV epidemiology.
- Identify key areas for action in WA and work together to progress initiatives to address these.
- Disseminate relevant health research, policy and practice information.
- Support the CoPAHM and have input into national activities.

¹ Griffith University (2006). Guidelines for establishing Communities of Practice.
[http://policies.griffith.edu.au/pdf/Establishing Communities of Practice.pdf](http://policies.griffith.edu.au/pdf/Establishing%20Communities%20of%20Practice.pdf)

- Stimulate engagement and discussion about HIV prevention, diagnosis and care in relation to mobility (including stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and migrant/mobile groups associated with HIV in the public consciousness).
- Any other relevant activities arising.

MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES

Membership in CoPAHM WA will be comprised of interested individuals, organisations, policy makers, clinicians, service providers, researchers and community members with an interest on forwarding action on HIV and mobility issues in Western Australia. Members will assist in setting direction, participate in decision-making and provide leadership. A minimum tenure of 12 months is encouraged for membership. The position of chairperson will be rotating, and determined by CoPAHM WA members.

In the interim, the national CoPAHM Coordinator will manage the technical and administrative aspects of the community, e.g. facilitate discussions, conduct evaluations, call meetings, provide secretariat support, update website, and monitor and report on progress.

COMMUNICATION

Communication will be via a face-to-face/video conference meeting. These meetings will be held every 6 weeks. Between meetings, communication will be via email.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members will have an obligation to declare any actual or potential conflict of interest.

Endorsement date:

Annual review date