

# Women's Health Symposium

UNIVERSITY HOUSE, ANU, CANBERRA | 22-23 OCTOBER 2019

## Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health Priority

### What is happening that can be built on?

- Model off the Victorian abortion law reform approach to improve equity and access in other jurisdictions
- The **One Key Question** initiative
  - *Would you like to become pregnant in the next year?*
  - Helping health professionals start preconception conversations
- **Multicultural Your Fertility Education Pilot Project**
  - Training bi-lingual health educators to deliver multi-lingual community education on fertility (VARTA and MCWH)
- The **Ryan Program** and **Communities of Practice** in the US
  - Integrate and enhance family planning training

### What can't be done without collaboration?

- Taking a strategic approach to support the health care workforce to deliver the **National Women's Health Strategy**
- Developing, accessing and linking data sets
  - Where does government focus investment in women's health?
  - What data is needed?
- Ensuring equitable access to termination services nationally
- Building multi-modal and multi-lingual mechanisms and resources to improve health literacy for priority populations

## What actions can we take now?

- Re-ignite [Parliamentary Friends of Women's Health](#)
- Lobby for specialist training places for sexual and reproductive health
- Assess the feasibility of developing a locum scheme that supports training for GPs
  - modelled off the principles of the Rural Locum Scheme
- Improve health literacy and education by leveraging off CALD health workers who are also leaders in their community
- Build a united coalition to drive change
  - access to and support for abortion services
  - (International Menopause Society approach?)
  - improving access and linking of key data sources
  - driving a health workforce strategy

## Who else needs to be involved?

- Primary health networks
- Aboriginal Medical Services and ACCHOs
- Multicultural Centre for Women's Health
- Relevant Centres for Research Excellence
- Consumers

## Maternal, sexual and reproductive health – strong messages from the Symposium Session

- We need to take big picture system concerns through to practice arrangements at community level and into clinical/quality guidelines
  - We need early and ongoing education about sexual and reproductive health, and recognition of all women as peer partners with clinical teams in decision-making and management of their reproductive and sexual health
  - The need to link up the range of sectors relevant to reproductive health and healthy ageing to take a life course approach
  - Recognising the opportunities to work with underutilised skills and capabilities within the health workforce
- 