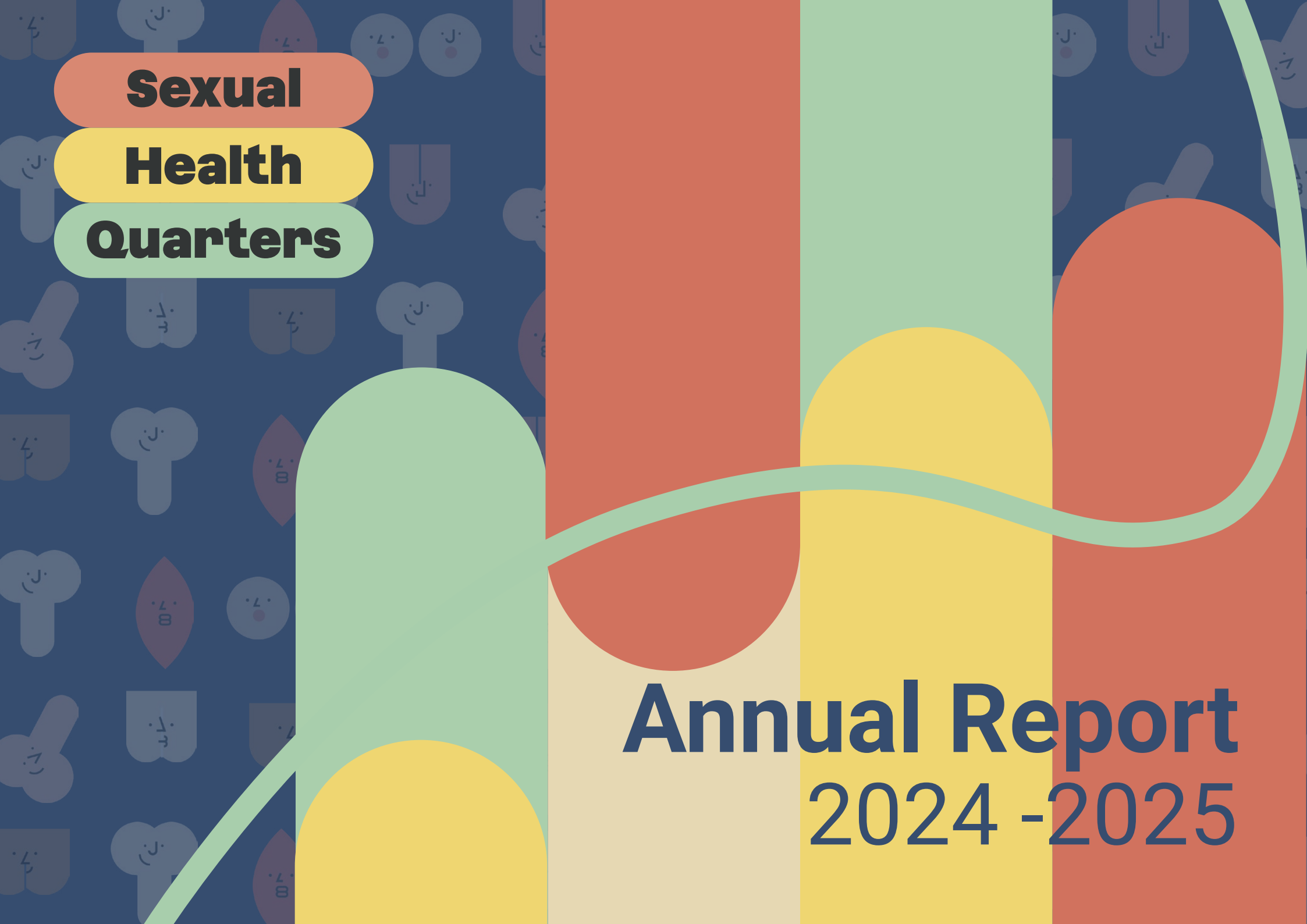




Sexual

Health

Quarters

Annual Report
2024 -2025

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Acknowledgement of Country

Sexual Health Quarters recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' resilience, strength and deep spiritual connection to land, waters, and community as Australia's First People and the Traditional Custodians.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures.
We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our head office is located. We recognise their positive contribution to the sexual health and relationship wellbeing of community and offer our respects to Elders past, to those guiding us today and to those shaping the leaders of the future.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

SHQ celebrates diversity and understands the unique and combined experiences of individuals and communities. SHQ is inclusive and rejoices in what makes each of us who we are. Be yourself, we like it that way.

Acknowledgements

- * Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing
- * Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- * Commonwealth Government Department of Home Affairs
- * Commonwealth Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- * La Trobe University
- * Lotterywest
- * National Disability Insurance Scheme
- * WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program
- * WA Department of Communities
- * WA Department of Health, Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program
- * WA Department of Health, Women's and Newborn Health Service
- * Walk Free - International Human Rights Group
- * WA Primary Health Alliance

Our Vision

Freedom of choice and access to sexual health, respectful relationships, and rights for everyone.

Our Purpose

At SHQ, we believe that sexual health and respectful relationships are the cornerstone of overall wellbeing, impacting individuals, couples, families, and communities. We are driven by the belief that everyone has the right to access high-quality sexual health services, counselling, and education, free from judgment and discrimination. We stand firm in our commitment to challenge the status quo, break down barriers, and foster inclusivity, striving each day to make a positive and enduring difference in the lives we touch, to challenge social injustice and passionately advocate for those who cannot speak freely.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide affordable and accessible sexual health and relationship clinical care and counselling, and through education, empower those we serve, regardless of age, culture, gender, sexuality, belief, or ability, with the understanding and confidence to make informed choices about their sexual health and relationships.

Our Values

Respect
for All

Courageous
and Genuine

Friendly and
Compassionate

Stronger
Together

CEO and Chairperson's Report



The past year has been one of strong growth, innovation, and impact for Sexual Health Quarters (SHQ), as demand for our sexual and reproductive health services continues to increase across Western Australia. We remain steadfast in our mission to ensure that every person has access to high-quality, evidence-based clinical care, counselling and education, and support in this vital area of health and wellbeing.

A major milestone during the year has been the successful progression of our merger with South Coastal Health & Community Services, bringing together the strengths of both organisations to enhance the services we deliver to the community in the Southern Corridor of WA. Together, we are better positioned to expand access, strengthen clinical expertise, and ensure sustainability in a rapidly changing environment.

Our service expansion has also included the delivery of the 1800 4 Choice state-wide Abortion Helpline, now supported by the introduction of an interactive provider map and webchat functions. This innovation has already improved accessibility, particularly for those in regional areas who may face barriers in seeking timely support.

Looking ahead, we welcome the State Government's election commitment funding for the establishment of SHQ's new dedicated reproductive healthcare Day Procedure Centre in Cockburn. This significant investment will help address unmet demand for reproductive health services in WA and marks an important step forward in improving choice, access, and equity of care.

Nationally, we are proud to continue our work with Family Planning Alliance Australia, including the successful rollout of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) scholarships to increase access to training for doctors and nurses across WA. Supporting more clinicians to provide long-acting reversible contraception is an essential part of reducing unintended pregnancies and increasing reproductive choice.

Beyond reproductive health, we continue to play a leading role in providing high quality, accessible and affordable clinical services and education. The challenges in this area remain pressing both nationally and globally, with rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis, underscoring the critical importance of our prevention, testing, treatment, and education programs.

We also remain vigilant in defending and advancing sexual and reproductive health rights, which are increasingly under strain in many parts of the world.

Our comprehensive sexuality education programs in schools, and our important work in the prevention of reproductive coercion and abuse and sexual violence, continue to grow, equipping young people with the knowledge and confidence they need to make informed decisions about their health and relationships. Expanding access to education remains one of the most important and effective ways we can create long-term change in community health outcomes.

We also remain committed to investing in our people and in technology. Our staff are the heart of this organisation, and we are dedicated to ensuring they have the skills, resources, and systems needed to deliver world-class care. Our continued investment in digital solutions will further improve client engagement and accessibility into the future.

On behalf of the Board and Executive, we thank our funders and partners for their ongoing support and extend our deepest gratitude to our staff, volunteers, and Board Directors for their unwavering commitment and passion. It is their dedication that enables us to deliver on our mission and translates into the exceptional feedback we receive from our clients each and every day. Together, we are shaping a future where sexual and reproductive health and rights are recognised, respected, and realised for everyone.


Rick Brooks
Chair of the Board


Debra Barnes
Chief Executive Officer

Meet Our Board



Rick Brooks
Chairperson



Maria Quaggan
Vice Chairperson
Member of the Finance,
Audit and Risk Committee



Natalia Gemmell
Vice Chairperson



Dr David Owen
Board Member



**Henrietta
Podgorska**
Board Member



Hayden Thomas
Board Member
Chair of the Finance,
Audit and Risk Committee



Luke Austin
Board Member



**Stacie Măi
Laccohee-Duffield**
Board Member
Member of the Finance,
Audit and Risk Committee

Our Year in Review

This is a merger founded on partnership, a shared vision, and a deep commitment to the staff and the people we serve. By uniting our efforts, we are positioning ourselves to advocate more effectively, innovate in service provision, and expand our reach to create even greater opportunities and positive impact across Perth. It has brought together our organisations' shared expertise, resources, and values to drive innovation, improve service delivery, and ensure long-term sustainability.

SHQ has worked with young people at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre and Casuarina Prison, including Unit 18, for over four years, delivering best-practice, culturally centred, trauma-informed, and strengths-based education on relationships, consent, and sexuality education (RSE). Through this work, it has become evident that there is an urgent need for a dedicated educational program focused on the prevention of sexual violence.



Many of the young people we have worked with have experienced a high prevalence of sexual violence and come from backgrounds where violence, including sexual violence, has been normalised. A significant number of these young people have expressed a lack of understanding about consent, healthy and respectful relationships, and how to communicate boundaries. They may have never had discussions about consent or received any comprehensive RSE. Moreover, many individuals are unsure where to turn for guidance, information, or support.

We are grateful for the opportunity to co-design, implement and evaluate this culturally centred, trauma-informed, strengths-based educational program that focuses on the four gendered drivers of violence, the factors that reinforce violence against women and the social conditions that may interact and influence them.

Image: Health Promotion Officer, Luisa Goodie, sets up our 2025 IDAHOBIT display in the SHQ clinic waiting room.

Gender Affirming Health Services

Recognising the pressing need to provide accessible and inclusive healthcare services for transgender and gender-diverse people, we have established a Gender Affirmation Service, providing individualised, person-centred care for trans, gender-diverse, and non-binary individuals.

The comprehensive service includes medical and hormonal assessments, as well as gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT). We also offer mental health support and referrals within the scope of SHQ's counselling services, along with referrals for allied health, surgical affirmation, and cosmetic procedures.

Additionally, we provide information on gender diversity and expression, cervical screening, STI testing and treatment, support and management for unintended pregnancy and a range of contraception options.

Trans and gender diverse clients face significant challenges accessing healthcare to support and affirm their gender identities. Barriers can include stigma and misunderstanding, along with long waiting times at publicly funded gender clinics, significant financial costs for people opting to access private health systems and limited access for people living in rural and remote areas.

We conducted extensive consultations and solicited recommendations from both internal and external reference groups to ensure the accessibility and inclusivity of the service. This collaborative effort involved engaging with advocacy groups and organisations, as well as convening a planning workshop with key stakeholders in the transgender health sector.

SHQ's Gender Affirming Service has been a success, and we look forward to expanding in response to growing community need.

100% of Gender Affirming Service clients surveyed were happy with their experience.

Cultural Safety and Quality Improvement

SHQ successfully attained re-accreditation under the National Safety and Quality Health Services (NSQHS) Standards, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to delivering safe, accessible, and high-quality sexual health and wellbeing services.

Additionally, we received Rainbow Tick re-accreditation, recognising our leadership in LGBTIQ+ inclusive practice. This distinction affirms that SHQ's systems, policies, and organisational culture fully meet national standards for inclusive governance, culturally safe service delivery, workforce capability, and meaningful engagement with LGBTIQ+ communities.

SHQ was also recommended for re-verification with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, demonstrating our ability to comply with the rigorous standards of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, ensuring accessible and supportive service provision tailored to the needs of people with disability. This important recognition enhances SHQ's ability to deliver respectful and effective services to all clients.



Breakfast panelists L - R
Amanda O'Donovan, Felicity
Black, Dr Roanna Lobo, Michelle
Rhyder, Elizabeth Tekanyo

Thank You for Asking: Early Intervention in Practice

In October 2024, we hosted a breakfast seminar at the Western Australian State Library to celebrate the success of our first-of-its-kind Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Reproductive Coercion and Abuse (RCA) program screening clients and patients in clinical and counselling settings, and our project to upskill other organisations and individual clinicians in recognising, responding, and referring patients and clients with experiences of IPV/RCA.

We presented research demonstrating the need for IPV/RCA intervention practices in primary health. Data collected during the pilot project revealed a high prevalence of IPV/RCA among patients who attended community health services. The study also demonstrated that any woman, regardless of age, postcode, Indigenous status, country of birth or sexuality, could be at risk of exposure to partner violence, demonstrating the need for a whole-of-organisation approach to IPV/RCA screening to ensure no one falls through the cracks.

“

Community health organisations, like Sexual Health Quarters, are invaluable, they are often the first point of contact for victim-survivors seeking help. These organisations not only offer safe, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate services but also play a critical role in preventing violence through education and early intervention.

Coercive control is complex, and we really need to improve community education around what it looks like, we need to train workforces to better recognise and respond so that when victim-survivors seek help, they get appropriate responses.

- Minister Sabine Winton

”

We were joined by special guest Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services Sabine Winton who addressed attendees on SHQ's work in IPV/RCA prevention and early intervention.

The event closed with a panel discussion. Amanda O'Donovan, SHQ Clinical Psychologist, Dr Roanna Lobo, School of Population Health at Curtin University, Felicity Black, CEO, LUMA, and Michelle Rhyder, Acting CEO, South Coastal Health & Community Services, discussed their roles in the Safe to Tell Project and the importance of early intervention programs in primary health settings.



Forced Marriage

Building on our earlier collaboration with the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Walk Free International Human Rights Group, exploring the needs of women from migrant and refugee backgrounds in accessing information and resources on women's rights and forced marriage in Australia, SHQ has again received funding from Walk Free International Human Rights Group to expand this work.

This new 12-month project will co-design, develop, deliver, and evaluate ten community education sessions tailored to diverse cohorts and communities across Western Australia. The program will incorporate co-design, resource development, education delivery, and program review with UWA continuing as our evaluation partner.

Call: 1800 4 Choice

Over the past year, an interactive provider map and webchat were added to the 1800 4 Choice service, complementing the existing Sexual Health Helpline and breaking down additional barriers to abortion care.

Visitors to the 4choice.org.au website can find information about pro-choice service providers in their area, including medical and surgical abortion services, unplanned pregnancy counselling, pharmacists dispensing abortion medication, as well as pathology and imaging services. They can also chat with one of our experienced nurses.



100%

Of users say the information they received was helpful and felt supported to make their decisions.



98%

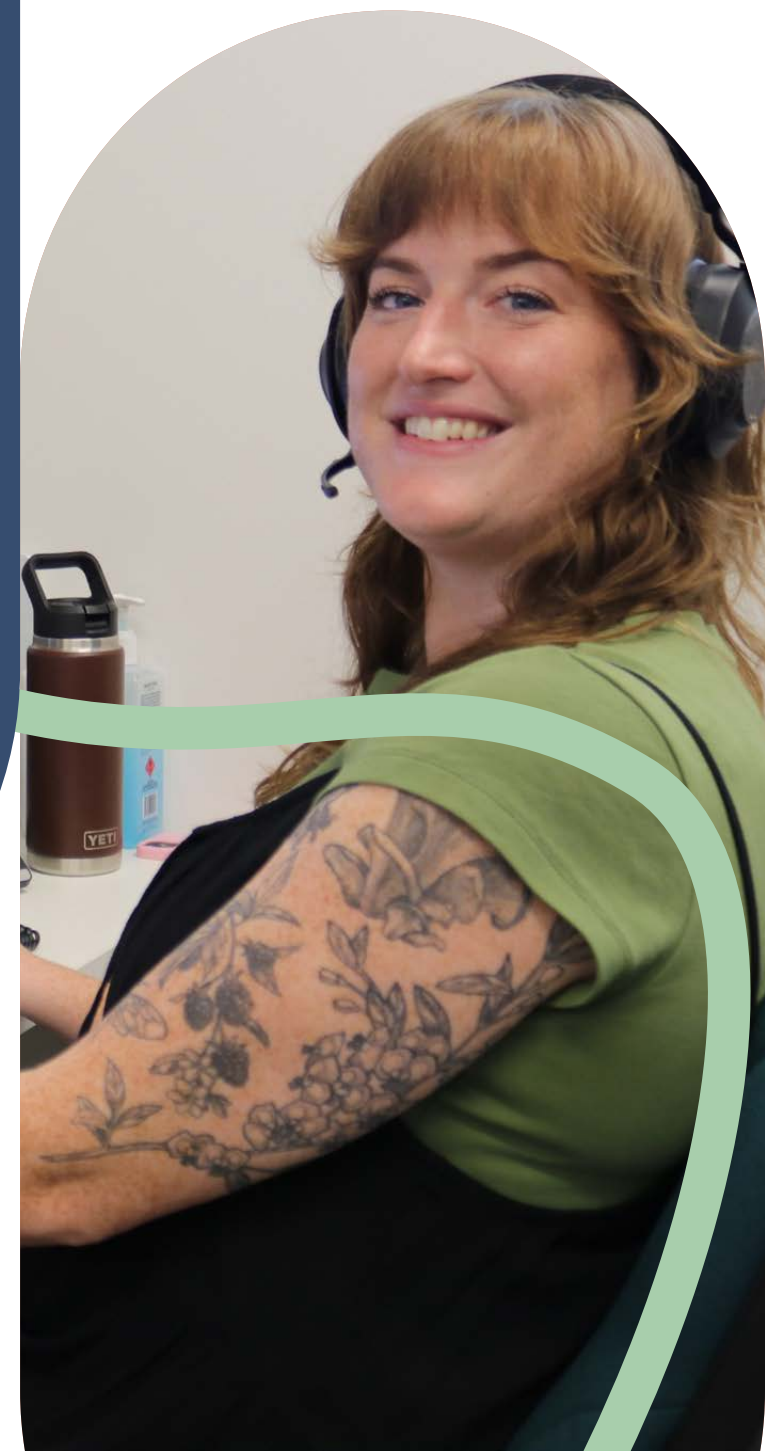
Believe this project increased their knowledge of local providers.



70%

Of clients approximately are making an appointment within 48 hours of contacting the service.

To date, the 1800 4 Choice helpline, website and map have received thousands of interactions and queries from various regions, genders, and socio-economic, cultural, and professional backgrounds. As of June 30, 2025, over 300 providers of abortion care from across Western Australia have registered to be included on the map.





Mobile STI Testing

Over the past year, SHQ clinicians and educators have attended O-Days and campus events at Curtin University and Edith Cowan University, providing free STI testing to students.

Stigma surrounding sexually transmitted infections and access to testing have long been barriers to people getting tested. By freely offering STI testing at community events, we are removing some of these barriers and improving access to testing and STI prevention.

SHQ has attended events and run sessions at Western Australian universities for years, and there is always a lot of interest from students wanting to discuss sexual and reproductive health with members of our team in a more casual setting. This led us to expand our mobile STI testing to on-campus events.

Rates of chlamydia and gonorrhoea have risen in Western Australia over the past five years, with chlamydia peaking at 12,885 cases in 2023 and gonorrhoea reaching 5207 cases reported in 2024. These are both common STIs but often have no noticeable symptoms. However, both are easy to test for and can be treated with a course of antibiotics.

Our Year in Review



Clinical Services

SHQ has continued our mission to provide accessible, high-quality sexual and reproductive health clinical services for the general community and priority groups.

The SHQ Education team received in-house STI testing training from the SHQ Clinical Team to expand our outreach efforts at Health Promotion Events and during education sessions, where appropriate. This new initiative has been well-received by the community, particularly among young people.

In May 2025, we piloted a new 'Click-and-Collect' STI self-testing service. 18 clients accessed the service during the three-day pilot period, highlighting strong demand for more flexible testing options. Click-and-Collect is now a regular service offering that enables clients to access low-cost STI testing at a time convenient to them, without needing to book a dedicated clinician appointment.



Mooditj Leader Training, March 2025

Clinical Education

In line with WA's abortion legislation reforms, our Clinical Education team developed and delivered updated training for clinicians to develop skills in providing medical termination of pregnancy. The education includes workshops, online learning, and clinical attachment.

We also developed a workshop for pharmacists interested in introducing or improving the provision of medical abortion medications in their practice.

Community Education and Health Promotion

Working with Ngatti House, a residential program based in Fremantle providing community-based homeless youth services to young people between 17 and 22 years of age, we designed, delivered, and evaluated a culturally centred, trauma-informed, and strengths-based comprehensive Relationship and Sexuality Education program. Delivered over eight weeks, the program included a visit to the SHQ clinic and a Q&A session with an SHQ nurse. The evaluation showed the sessions were successful in increasing young people's knowledge of sexual health, respectful relationships, reproductive health, consent, communication, and contraception.

The Community Education team also delivered The Mothers' Workshop with the Multicultural Services Centre, providing sexual and reproductive health information and education and support for the culturally and linguistically diverse community on how to talk with their children about sexual health.



SHQ Staff participate in Children's Book Week, August 2024.

Magenta Sex Worker Outreach Project

Magenta continues to provide comprehensive support and education services to sex workers across Western Australia. Services include access to three sexual health clinics per week, safe sex supplies, and safe injecting equipment.

In response to community feedback, Magenta launched a counselling service in July 2024, available to sex workers face-to-face or via video and teleconference. Feedback from workers who accessed the service has been extremely positive.

Throughout the year, Magenta Educators travelled to Kalgoorlie, Albany, Bunbury, and Busselton to connect with sex workers in the area, providing education on sexual health, safe sex supplies and support.

Our Impact 2025



Magenta



626

Total number of appointments



319

Total number of clients

Sex Worker Information and Education



11,766

Total number of interactions



Clinical Services



7,701

Total number of clients



27,238

STI/BBV tests undertaken



12,397

Total number of appointments



Clinical Education



191

Total doctors attended

145

Theory

7

IPV online module

39

CST Self-collection online module



260

Total nurses attended

225

Theory

1

IPV online module

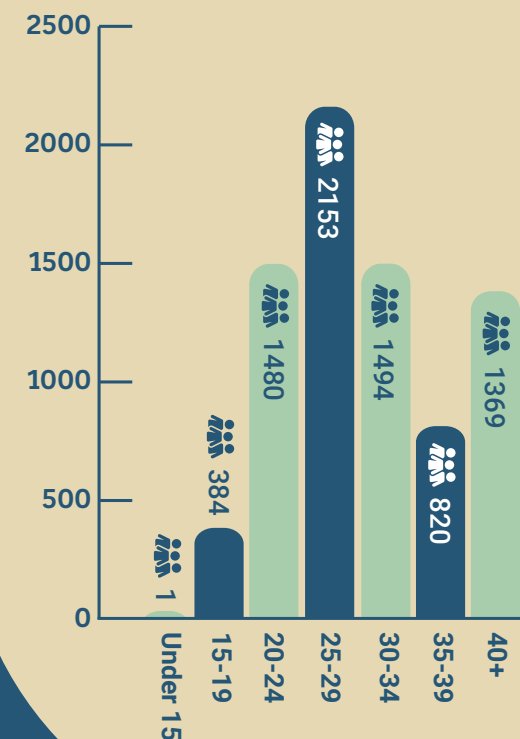
34

CST Self-collection online module



Clinical Services

Age Breakdown



Training



396

Registrar clinics

344

Teaching clinics



Sexual Health Helpline



7,127

Total number of contacts



Counselling



356

Total number of clients



832

Total number of appointments



Disability Counselling



305

Total number of clients



3,106

Total number of appointments

Education and Events



4,891

Youth Education participants



760

Total professionals trained

Expos/Events



30

Events Attended



4,719

Community Interactions



Financials

Income

Donations

\$3,601

Fees and Charges

\$2,013,559

Sale of Goods

\$166,368

Other Income

\$253,310

Funding

\$6,037,703

Total Income \$8,474,541

Expenses

Employee Costs \$6,867,643

Depreciation \$157,122

Other Expenses \$787,930

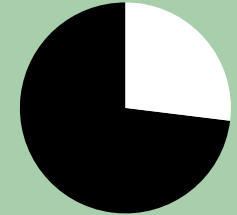
Cost of Goods Sold \$65,435

Occupancy Expenses \$389,307

Total Expenses \$8,267,437



Assets



Current Assets

\$2,292,543

Non-Current Assets

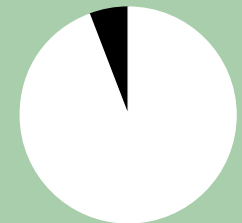
\$6,191,328

Total Assets

\$8,483,871



Liabilities



Current Liabilities

\$1,844,579

Non-Current Liabilities

\$109,822

Total Liabilities

\$1,954,401

Equity \$6,529,470

Our People

At SHQ, we are passionate about championing and celebrating diversity and inclusion across our organisation and ensuring our staff feel safe, respected and supported to provide high quality, comprehensive, inclusive, equitable health and wellbeing services to those who need them most. Our organisation has continued to grow over the past year and so has our commitment to our renewed people strategy, through supporting the professional growth of our staff and attracting talent, we continue to work towards meeting and exceeding our strategic goals together.

Gwen Leavesley Award

Veronica Walshe

Veronica has made an outstanding contribution to sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing for Western Australians throughout her career. Her leadership, kindness and guidance have been recognised in her previous role as SHQ Board Member, and as the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program Officer at the Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA). A very deserving recipient.

2025 Organisational Difference in Diversity Award

SHQ has been named the 2025 Organisational Difference in Diversity Award Winner.

The awards celebrate individuals and organisations that have made an exceptional impact in championing diversity, and recognise leaders who embrace different perspectives, drive inclusion, and implement innovative governance strategies to create more diverse and equitable decision-making spaces.

“

When it comes to embedding inclusion into every level of an organisation, SHQ leads by example. As a not-for-profit providing essential sexual and reproductive health services, SHQ has built a powerful legacy of education, advocacy, and collaboration. But their work doesn't stop at service delivery; they are driving inclusive governance across the entire community sector.”

- Emerging Leaders in Governance Program

Staff Service Awards

Name	Anniversary
David Isaacs	5 Years
Jo McKee	5 Years
Jye Walker	5 Years
Nicholas Gilbert	5 Years
Chris Mai	10 Years
Katrina Duncan	10 Years
Paula Rae	10 Years
Vini McDonnell	10 Years



SHQ Chairperson Rick Brooks Accepting the 2025 Organisational Difference in Diversity Award



Sexual Health Quarters

70 Roe Street, Northbridge WA 6003 | 9227 6177 | info@shq.org.au

shq.org.au

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