

JustHealth Consultants is the consultancy service of AHHA, launched to support Australian healthcare organisations at national, state, regional hospital and community levels across all sectors to meet complex governance and organisational requirements of today's healthcare system.

SERVICE EXAMPLE:

CONSENSUS STATEMENT – REDUCING UNINTENDED PREGNANCY THROUGH INCREASED ACCESS TO LARC

Client	Merck Sharpe & Dohme (MSD)
Services	Facilitating the development of a consensus statement to reduce unintended pregnancy through increased access to long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC methods)
Context	<p>Australians tend to experience good health. However, in terms of sexual and reproductive health, Australian women experience relatively poor health, with unplanned pregnancy being a key health issue.</p> <p>There has been increasing recognition, nationally and internationally, that a key way to reduce unintended pregnancy is to use more effective and less user-dependent methods of contraception such as the long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods. Clinical guidelines recommend their promotion and use is supported as a public health priority.</p> <p>Despite evidence for the effectiveness of, and satisfaction with, LARC methods, as well as support for their use by peak bodies and key opinion leaders in Australia and internationally, use of LARC methods in Australia continues to remain low.</p>
Approach	<p>The AHHA undertook to explore policy, regulatory, workforce and funding factors that enable or hinder the ability of health care providers to support women in their choice for contraception according to best practice.</p> <p>Contraceptive management is relevant in all levels of Australia's health system: primary, secondary and hospital care. Services may be provided in several different environments and by a range of health professionals. Health system factors were explored through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A desktop review and consultation with peak bodies and key opinion leaders across the sectors, and• Survey feedback from a broad range of health providers across a variety of practice environments. <p>AHHA then facilitated a forum to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including health consumers, health professionals, experts in the field and service providers, under the guidance of a Steering Committee.</p>

Result

A consensus statement was developed that identified:

- Goals for effective and equitable contraceptive management
- Current priorities for action
- Recommendations for action to progress these priorities.

The consensus statement was endorsed by peak bodies and service providers across the sectors. It can be accessed on the websites of a number of the endorsing bodies, and at: https://ahha.asn.au/sites/default/files/docs/policy-issue/larc_consensus_statement_2017.pdf

There was significant media coverage following release, both through profession-specific, health-specific and the general media.

Date completed July 2017
