



Armajun Aboriginal Health Service

INCREASING SEXUAL HEALTH AND BLOOD BORNE VIRUS CHECKS

“It’s just letting the community know that they do have a place to come to if they ever need to seek any help or want to know anything” Beryl Hepi, Chronic Disease Nurse

Armajun Aboriginal Health Service has established a local CQI project to enhance its work to address sexually transmitted infections (STI) and blood borne viruses (BBV) in the local community. In doing this, Armajun is one of four NSW ACCHSs that are working in partnership with the Kirby Institute on a CQI project called SHIMMER (Sexual Health Quality IMproveMEnt pRogram) .

Data to inform this project are from two sources: Information about STIs and BBIs are extracted electronically from the Armajun patient information management system using an electronic data extraction tool; and a specialist sexual health physician visits the service every six months and conducts a clinical audit to evaluate client files on early detection, diagnosis, treatment and follow up.

Feedback and results are presented to the practice regularly. Armajun staff discuss gaps in STI/BBV testing and management with the researchers and the visiting specialist, and develop a STI/BBV action plan to implement at the clinic.

Setting goals helps measure progress

Informing and involving staff and community makes change easier

Partnerships with researchers can be useful





Setting targets and using data to monitor progress has allowed staff to see the results of their STI and BBV work and identify what is working or not working. Over time the data has shown an increase in STI and BBV detection and treatment rates.

A key strategy to increasing STI and BBV early detection and treatment rates has been to build trust with the community. Confidentiality is essential as privacy concerns were identified by Armajun as a barrier to testing for some clients. Raising community awareness about STIs and BBVs as well as reducing the stigma surrounding testing has contributed to the positive changes at Armajun.

“What we learned ... was the improvements that the service has made - like the increase of detection and treatment...has been a good thing for our community”
James Sheather, Aboriginal Health Team Leader

