

ACCESS Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Objectives of ACCESS

ACCESS is a national health surveillance network of blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections. The objectives of ACCESS are:

To measure and monitor national indicators for BBVs and STIs related to prevention (e.g., testing), care and management (e.g., treatment) and overall epidemiology (e.g., incidence, prevalence);

To measure and monitor the transmission of BBVs and STIs among priority populations including gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, young people, sex workers, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and

To develop and monitor national cascades of care for infections such as HIV and HCV using treatment and testing data from health services and laboratories.

Purpose

The purpose of ACCESS Advisory Committee is to provide guidance and advice on the design, implementation and conduct of ACCESS and on the engagement of services and output of service-useful information. The committee will also be responsible for supporting and promoting the project's aim of maintaining a national surveillance system to monitor the testing, diagnosis and treatment of BBVs and STIs.

Meetings

The Advisory Committee will meet biannually by teleconference and in-person. Secretarial support for the meetings will be provided by the ACCESS team.

Membership

Membership of this committee comprises representation from health, community, government, research and service-level organisations. Specifically, membership will seek to include representation from the following organisations:

- Australia Federation of AIDS Organisations,
- Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine,
- Australasian Sexual Health Alliance,
- National Association of People with HIV Australia,
- Australia Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League,
- Hepatitis Australia,
- Positive Life NSW,
- NSW Ministry of Health,
- NSW Family Planning,
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, and
- Scarlet Alliance.

The advisory committee will also seek to include representation from:

- All funding bodies,
- At least two participating pathology laboratories,
- At least two participating sexual health clinics,

- At least one hospital site,
- At least one community health service, and
- Other relevant research partners.

Governance structure

The ACCESS **Advisory Committee** supports the work of the **Executive Committee**, comprising the project's chief investigators and responsible for overseeing all aspects of the project. The project is also supported by the **Operational Committee**, whose members manage the daily operations of ACCESS. Coordination across these committees is facilitated by the ACCESS Project Coordinators at the Burnet and Kirby Institutes.