

## PCP Integrated Health Promotion - Case study

### Details of PCP contact

<b>Name of PCP</b>	Bendigo Loddon
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<b>Position/Title</b>	Project Officer
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### Identified Partners

<b>Partner Organisation</b>	<b>Roles and responsibilities with regard to the project</b>	<b>Contact person details (name, position)</b>
Bendigo Community Health Services Ltd	<p>Chair Sexual Health Task Group (Governance of Project).</p> <p>Recruit Division 1 RN to undertake Pap Test Training via Scholarship provided by PapScreen Victoria.</p> <p>Present on benefits of Pap tests to Greater Bendigo Maternal and Child Health Nurses to encourage them to promote screening for their clients.</p> <p>Partner with Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative to deliver a presentation on the benefits of Pap screening to aboriginal women elders and aboriginal staff and students at TAFE.</p> <p>Conduct two after hours Pap screen clinics for hard to reach women in Bendigo.</p> <p>Recruit hard to reach women for the after hours clinics.</p>	Louise Holland – Sexual Health Nurse/Community Health Nurse.
Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative	<p>Partner with Bendigo Community Health Services to deliver a presentation on the benefits of Pap screening to aboriginal women elders and aboriginal staff and students at TAFE.</p>	Lisa Pearson – Practice Nurse.
Inglewood and Districts Health Service	<p>Provide two Division 1 RNs to complete Pap Test Training via Scholarship provided by Pap Screen Victoria.</p> <p>Present on benefits of Pap tests to Loddon Shire Council Maternal and Child Health</p>	Mary Evans – Director of Nursing and Community Services.

	<p>Nurses to encourage them to promote screening for their clients.</p> <p>Recruit hard to reach women to attend for Pap testing.</p> <p>Facilitate the delivery of Pap tests for hard to reach women in the Loddon Shire southern catchment.</p> <p>During the consultation for the Pap test, build capacity of women in dealing with life issues and self esteem.</p>	
Dingee Bush Nursing Centre	<p>Recruit hard to reach women for the Pap tests.</p> <p>Facilitate the delivery of Pap tests for hard to reach women in the Loddon Shire.</p> <p>During the consultation for the Pap test, build capacity of women in dealing with life issues and self esteem.</p>	Viv Fazulla – Nurse Manager.
Boort District Health	<p>Recruit hard to reach women for the Pap tests.</p> <p>Facilitate the delivery of Pap tests for hard to reach women in Boort and district.</p> <p>During the consultation for the Pap test, build capacity of women in dealing with life issues and self esteem.</p>	Judy Keath – Director of Nursing and Client Care.
Northern Districts Community Health Service	<p>Recruit hard to reach women for the Pap tests.</p> <p>Facilitate the delivery of Pap tests for hard to reach women in Pyramid Hill and district.</p> <p>During the consultation for the Pap test, build capacity of women in dealing with life issues and self esteem.</p>	Tricia Currie – Service and Program Manager.
Loddon Shire Council	<p>Facilitate the capacity building of Maternal and Child Health Nurses and partner with Inglewood and Districts Health Service in the provision of information on Pap screening for these nurses.</p>	Wendy Gladman – Manager Community Services.
Heathcote Health	<p>Provide one Division 1 RN to complete Pap Test Training via Scholarship provided by Pap Screen Victoria.</p> <p>Recruit hard to reach women to attend for Pap testing.</p>	Nancy Cutlack- Practice Nurse/Community Health Nurse.

	Facilitate the delivery of Pap tests for hard to reach women in Heathcote.  During the consultation for the Pap test, build capacity of women in dealing with life issues and self esteem.	
Central Victoria General Practice Network	Facilitate a PapScreen Victoria Presentation and Workshop for Practice Nurses from Greater Bendigo.	Cheryl Martin – Education Manager. Julie Sutherland – Program Officer.
Bendigo Loddon PCP Secretariat	Manage Grant from PapScreen Victoria.  Provision of funding to partners in the project.  Resourcing and advice.  Liaison with PapScreen Victoria.  Evaluation of the Initiative.	Brett Belot - Project Officer.

Case Study Title	Cervical Screening Initiative in Bendigo Loddon.
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### Summary/Abstract (200 words)

<p>The Cervical Screening Initiative Project was developed by the Bendigo Loddon PCP Sexual Health Task Group to address the lower than average rates of cervical screening and increase the early detection of cervical cancer in the PCP catchment. Lower than average cervical screening rates in Bendigo Loddon appeared to have been linked to the closure of several Pap screen/women’s health clinics and the lack of credentialed Nurse Pap Test providers in the area.</p> <p>The project aimed to target women between 18 and 69 years who had not had cervical screening during the previous three years, or at all, particularly working women, aboriginal women and rural women. In partnership with PapScreen Victoria, the Central Victoria General Practice Network, the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, two Community Health Services, one Bush Nursing Centre and three small rural health services, a range of strategies were planned and implemented. These strategies included the training of four Division 1 Nurses as Nurse Pap Test Providers, provision of 170 Pap tests to hard to reach women and presentations to aboriginal women, and Maternal and Child Health Nurses, on the latest evidence of the benefits of Pap tests.</p> <p>The Project was managed by the PCP Project Officer and governance was provided by the Sexual Health Task Group. Local government and the Bendigo TAFE participated in this project with the partnering agencies. This project demonstrated the leading practice work that can be achieved when organisations work together to reach goals that are agreed and shared.</p>
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### Background

<b>Name of Project</b>	Cervical Screening Initiative in Bendigo Loddon.
<b>Priority goal</b>	The priority goal of this project was to increase the cervical screening rates of women the Bendigo Loddon catchment.
<b>Priority issue(s)</b>	The priority issue was the lower than average cervical screening rates in Bendigo Loddon which may have been linked to the closure of several Pap screen/women’s health clinics. The other related issues were to increase the number

	<p>of Division 1 Nurses in the area that were credentialed to undertake Pap tests and to assist hard to reach women in accessing Pap tests and discussing life changes and self esteem issues.</p>
<p><b>Target group</b></p>	<p>The target population group were all women who have ever been sexually active and had not had a Pap test during the last three years or who had not ever had a Pap test.</p> <p>Five registered nurses would be trained in Pap testing as part of this project.</p> <p>Aboriginal women elders and aboriginal women students would receive presentations and discuss issues on Pap testing to address the health and wellbeing issues of significance around this matter.</p> <p>Maternal and Child Health Nurses in both LGAs would be provided with information and knowledge to enable them to encourage mothers of young children to attend for Pap testing.</p> <p>Lastly, the Bendigo General Practice Network would be engaged to facilitate a Practice Nurse session where PapScreen Victoria could present.</p>
<p><b>DHS IHP expectations 2009-12</b></p>	<p><b>Which IHP Program Logic expectation(s) 2009-12 does this piece of work relate to?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement integrated health promotion programs that address the health and wellbeing issues of significance to consumers and the broader catchment population.</li> <li>• Ensure integrated health promotion practice engages with hard to reach populations and vulnerable communities.</li> <li>• Embed social equity principles, particularly equity of access, into all levels of engagement.</li> <li>• Embed capacity building into integrated health promotion at all levels.</li> <li>• Engage with Divisions of GPs.</li> <li>• Focus the greatest effort on the chosen statewide health promotion priorities.</li> <li>• Demonstrate use of evidence based interventions.</li> <li>• Embed evaluation practice with the planning and implementation of health promotion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background</b></p>	<p><b>Selection of project.</b></p> <p>Sexual and Reproductive Health is one of the four Health Promotion Priorities selected by the agencies of the Bendigo Loddon PCP. It is also one of the seven statewide health promotion priorities. For some time, the PCPs Sexual Health Task Group has been concerned at the lower than average rates of Pap screening in the catchment and had identified that this was an area that needed attention. In addition, several Women's Health Clinics that employed Nurse Pap Test Providers (NPTs) had closed in 2009 which meant access for some women would be reduced.</p> <p>As the Bendigo Loddon PCP was one of the few PCPs which had sexual and reproductive health as one of its priorities, PapScreen Victoria was keen to assist the PCP to address this issue and offered a grant to assist in increasing the rates of screening in the catchment. PapScreen Victoria offered scholarships to train additional nurses and requested that</p>

the PCP provide a Plan to identify how the rates of screening could be increased in Bendigo Loddon.

A Plan for the Pap Screening Initiative was developed and costed, with the PCP contributing additional funding to enable the Plan to be implemented. PapScreen Victoria agreed with the proposal and provided scholarships for 5 nurses and funds to the PCP to assist in implementing the Plan.

#### **Project management and governance arrangements.**

The Cervical Screening Initiative Project is managed by the PCP Project Officer. The governance for the project is provided by the PCPs Sexual Health Task Group which is chaired by the Women's Health Nurse/Community Health Nurse from Bendigo Community Health Services Ltd.

The Task Group provides knowledge, advice and overall governance for the project.

#### **Sources of evidence used to inform the decision**

In 2006 there were 160 cases of cervical cancer in Victoria (Cancer Council Victoria 2009) and, if detected early, it can be treated successfully.

The PapScreen Victoria Report for 2006-2007 identified that the Bendigo Loddon catchment had rates of cervical screening below the State average. The rates identified were 60.9% for Bendigo and Loddon respectively compared to 63% for the state average.

The Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry 2008 identified that screening rates had fallen below 60% for Greater Bendigo and Loddon Local Government Areas.

Recent information contained in the Victorian Population Health Survey Report 2008, has identified that 69% of women in Greater Bendigo, and 67.7% of women in Loddon, aged between 20-69 years, reported that they had had a Pap smear within the last two years compared to the State average of 71.1%.

#### **Brief description of project.**

The Cervical Screening Initiative Project in Bendigo Loddon aims to address the lower than average rates of cervical screening and increase the early detection of cervical cancer in the Bendigo Loddon catchment. In partnership with the Cancer Council, through PapScreen Victoria, the Central Victoria General Practice Network, the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, two Community Health Services, one Bush Nursing Centre and three small rural health services, a range of strategies were agreed and implemented. These strategies included the training of 5 Division 1 Nurses from three of these organisations as Nurse Pap Test Providers, provision of 170 Pap tests to hard to reach women who had not been screened in the last three years or ever, and presentations to aboriginal women, and Maternal and Child Health Nurses on the latest evidence of the benefits of Pap tests.

#### **Alignment with the PCP's strategic plan and any catchment-wide strategic priorities**

Sexual and Reproductive Health is one of the Health Promotion Priorities for the Bendigo Loddon PCP and is contained in its Integrated Health Promotion Plan.

These strategies include

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pap screening is promoted specifically to aboriginal women. (Strategy 2.8.2 p33)</li> <li>• To increase cervical screening for women aged between 19 and 69 years. (p66)</li> <li>• Maintain the Sexual Health Task Group and facilitate the development of an annual implementation plan for sexual and reproductive health promotion. (Strategy 1.3.4 p26)</li> </ul> <p>This project aligns with the project conducted by Women's Health Loddon Mallee, in partnership with the Loddon Mallee Region of the Department of Health, and Divisions of General Practice which aimed to develop a regional family and reproductive health services training model for Practice Nurses, aimed at improving women's access to affordable and appropriate sexual and reproductive health services in the Loddon Mallee Region.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The objectives of this project are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the number of nurse Pap Test providers in the Bendigo Loddon Catchment.</li> <li>2. Develop partnerships with Maternal and Child Health Nurses to deliver cervical screening information to women.</li> <li>3. Promote cervical screening at community events targeting women.</li> <li>4. Investigate opportunities to provide regional training and professional development on cervical screening.</li> </ol>

### **Project participants**

Participants included 170 women who had never had a Pap test or who had not had a Pap test during the past three years. Four RNs were trained by taking up Scholarships from PapScreen Victoria. The Maternal and Child Health workforces from both Greater Bendigo and Loddon Local Government Areas and a number of aboriginal elders and younger women students also participated in the project as well as a number of women's health nurses employed by public health services in the Bendigo Loddon catchment.

### **Methodology and approach**

#### **Key project activities.**

1. Development of project plan.
2. Service Agreement signed with PapScreen Victoria.
3. Health Promotion Agreement signed with each participating agency and the PCP Executive Officer.
4. Four Nurses recruited for the Scholarships (unable to achieve the 5 which were allocated).
5. Preparation of presentations for Maternal and Child Health Nurses.
6. Preparation of presentations for aboriginal women.
7. Arrangement made with Local Government and TAFE for times and places for presentations.
8. Social marketing for Pap tests.
9. Engagement with hard to reach women by each agency.
10. Implementation.
11. Reports back to Sexual Health Task Group at each monthly meeting.
12. Evaluation plan development and commencement.

## Resources

- Power Point Presentations.
- PapScreen Victoria Resources.
- PCP Sexual Health Task Group Resources pocket guide. (see attachment)

## Monitoring or continuous quality improvement strategies employed.

- The PCP Project Officer who is managing the project, reports back to Sexual Health Task Group at each monthly meeting.
- The agencies participating in the project, seek advice and feedback from the Sexual Health Task Group at its monthly meetings if the implementation timelines are varied.
- The Sexual Health Task Group serves as a quality improvement framework and any issues, needs, achievements or barriers are identified and reflected on so that they can be responded to in a constructive manner.
- Surveys of women attending presentations are collected for feedback.

## Communication strategies employed.

A variety of strategies have been used by the participating agencies to engage with hard to reach women and communicate with the wider community and each other.

- Liaison with individual Medical Practices, Maternal and Child Health Nurses, Youth Groups, Mental Health Services and Homeless Services to encourage monitoring of screening needs and referrals.
- Speaking at local women's groups, schools and kindergartens, Country Womens Association Meeting, and at women's sporting clubs.
- Rural media and local newsletters have been used.
- Leaflets have been dropped in letter boxes in some rural areas.
- Word of mouth and the agency reputation with the local community has been a very powerful communication strategy.
- The initiative has been promoted to agencies through the monthly PCP Newsflash Newsletter.

## Results

### Impacts and outcomes

There has been broad impacts from this project. Capacity Building for nurses, social marketing and promotion of the benefits of early detection of cervical cancer, screening of hard to reach women, educating agency staff and the wider community are some of these.

The implementation of these strategies has resulted in an increased workforce capacity to promote and encourage Pap screening in Bendigo Loddon as well as sustain ongoing service delivery in Pap testing.

Nurses who are credentialed and experienced and newly qualified Pap test nurses will form a network to support each other and maintain evidence based service delivery. Increased knowledge and improved skills in Pap test delivery will have a positive impact on the nurses and an enhanced capacity of agencies to provide a sustainable screening service.

Partnership and relationship development through this project has been a key to success and this is especially evident between the Koori Unit at the TAFE in Bendigo, Bendigo Community Health Services and the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative.

The Pap tests have provided opportunity for nurses to discuss issues of self esteem and life changes with these hard to reach women and this has resulted in some referrals to address

	<p>underlying issues.</p> <p>The outcome of the project has resulted in hard to reach women gaining access to Pap testing and early detection of cervical cancer and an increased awareness of other health professionals and aboriginal women of the benefits of early detection.</p>
<p><b>Status and sustainability</b></p>	<p>This project commenced in late 2009, and some aspects have been carried over into the current year. Scholarships for four nurses were taken up by Heathcote health (2 RNs), Inglewood and Districts Health Service (1 RN), and Bendigo Community Health Services (1 RN).</p> <p>Nine Maternal and Child Health Nurses were involved in a presentation and discussion on Pap testing and early detection of cervical cancer in July 2010 and a presentation for the Loddon Maternal and Child Health Nurses is planned for later this year.</p> <p>One presentation has been provided to staff and students of the Bendigo TAFE Koori Unit and to aboriginal women elders.</p> <p>The Pap tests for hard to reach women have been promoted and have recently commenced.</p> <p>The need for health services to identify hard to reach women has resulted in reorientation and ongoing work with these women. This will enable a range of other health issues to be addressed.</p> <p>Due to the additional four nurses who have/will be trained to do Pap tests in Bendigo Loddon, the sustainability of the project is assured.</p> <p>Further presentation on Pap tests in conjunction with the Bendigo TAFE College Koori Unit, Bendigo Community Health Services and Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, is planned for the next year and this may result in an annual event.</p> <p>The findings of the project will be disseminated on the Bendigo Loddon PCP website <a href="http://www.blpcp.com.au">www.blpcp.com.au</a>.</p>

## Conclusions

### Key success factors.

- Scholarships provided to Nurses to undertake the Pap Test Training.
- Funds to pilot the project in areas previously not delivering Pap tests.
- The need to be creative in identifying how to engage with hard to reach women.
- Good marketing materials from the Cancer Council.

### Key challenges.

- Recruiting existing RNs to take up the scholarships.
- Changes of staff at the participating agencies.
- Coordinating the training at suitable times for the nurses from a range of agencies.
- Reorientation of health services to enable them to focus on hard to reach women.
- Engaging with hard to reach women.

### Limitations of the project.

- Very small amount of funds for the project - \$15000 from PapScreen Victoria and \$5000 from PCP. (Total \$20,000).

- Lack of preceptors for the newly trained nurses in the Bendigo Loddon catchment.

**How activities and improvements will be sustained.**

- The Sexual Health Task Group will ensure that all NPTPs receive the latest cervical screening information.
- It is anticipated that the need for Pap testing will be incorporated into all discussions that health staff from these participating agencies, have with their consumers, regardless of the presenting issue. This will increase screening rates in the catchment.
- The newly trained NPTPs will now be able to implement screening in their own agency catchments and this will hopefully result in increased numbers of women being screened.

**Relevance of your findings to other areas of PCPs activity.**

- The way in which this project has been managed and the way the governance has been provided will guide the implementation of other projects in Bendigo Loddon.
- The Sexual Health Task Group provides a sustainable social model of health approach to planning, implementing and evaluating leading practice initiatives, as well as being creative and innovative in the approach taken with few resources.
- Other scholarships are provided by the Bendigo Loddon PCP such as for Mental Health First Aid Facilitators, and other training and this will be continued due to the success of these scholarships.

**Future directions.**

- Further sexual and reproductive health projects will be implemented using the initiatives and governance of the PCP Sexual Health Task Group.
- Continue to work with PapScreen Victoria to increase the rates of screening in the Bendigo Loddon Catchment.
- Build on the relationships developed between Maternal and Child Health Nurses, Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative and the Bendigo TAFE Koori Unit to implement other projects.

# Sexual Health Services *Guide*

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## Service Providers included in this guide:

BCHS	Bendigo Community Health Services
BDH	Boort District Hospital
Bendigo Health	Bendigo Health (Hospital) <a href="http://www.bendigohealth.org.au">www.bendigohealth.org.au</a>
CAN	Country Awareness Network (Vic) Inc. <a href="http://www.can.org.au">www.can.org.au</a>
CASA	Centre Against Sexual Assault <a href="http://www.casa.org.au">www.casa.org.au</a>
FAB-CV	Friends Alike of Bendigo, Central Vic- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (GLBTI) Support Group <a href="http://www.myspace.com/fabcv">www.myspace.com/fabcv</a>
IDHS	Inglewood & Districts Health Service
La Trobe University	La Trobe University Bendigo - Health Service <a href="http://www.latrobe.edu.au/bendigo/students/services/health">www.latrobe.edu.au/bendigo/students/services/health</a>
Mclvor	Mclvor Health & Community Services
NDCHS	Northern District Community Health Service (services at Boort, Pyramid Hill & Kerang) <a href="http://www.ndchs.org.au">www.ndchs.org.au</a>
PFLAG	Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays <a href="http://www.pflagvictoria.org.au">www.pflagvictoria.org.au</a>
Way2Be	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Straight Friendly (GLBTIQS) Youth Support Group (16-25 years) <a href="http://www.myspace.com/way2be_bendigo">www.myspace.com/way2be_bendigo</a>
WHLM	Women's Health Loddon Mallee <a href="http://www.whlm.org.au">www.whlm.org.au</a>

## Birth Information & Support

BCHS - Young Pregnant & Parenting Program (YPPP)	5448 1600
Bendigo Health - Midwives Clinic	5454 7288
Bendigo Health - Obstetric Clinic	5454 7288
NDCHS - Well Women's Clinic	5451 0200
WHLM - Bendigo	5443 0233
WHLM (Toll Free)	1800 350 233
For your nearest Maternal & Child Health Service	5434 6466
M & CHS Central State number (24 hour service)	132229

## Counselling

Bendigo Health - Maternity Support Program (if baby born at Bendigo Health)	5454 7282
CAN - (HIV, Hepatitis C, sexual health)	5443 8355
Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) - recent & past	5441 0430
Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) - recent & within 72 hours	1800 806 292
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard	1800 184 527
IDHS	5431 7000
La Trobe University	5444 7390
Mclvor	5431 0900
NDCHS	5451 0200
WHLM - Bendigo	5443 0233

## Emergency Contraception

Available over the counter from selected pharmacists (must be aged 16 or over & costs incurred may vary)

BCHS - Family planning/Sexual Health Service	5434 4330
BCHS - Options Youth Clinic	5448 1600
BDH	5455 2100
IDHS (advice available)	5431 7000
La Trobe University	5444 7390
NDCHS (advice available)	5451 0200
Primary Care Clinic	5441 8622

Emergency contraception:

If you can't get to any of the above services within 72 hours of unprotected sex, try the emergency department of the hospital. You may have to wait for a long period of time & others may be given priority over your case.

## Family Planning Services

BCHS - Family Planning/Sexual Health Service.....	5434 4330
BCHS - Well Women's Clinic .....	5448 1600
Bendigo Health - Gynaecology Clinic (on referral from local doctor) .....	5454 7288
IDHS (individual counselling by appointment) .....	5431 7000
NDCHS .....	5451 0200
WHLM - Women's Health Nurse .....	5443 0233

## Information & Referral Services

BCHS - Family Planning/Sexual Health Service.....	5434 4330
BCHS - Options Youth Clinic .....	5448 1600
BCHS - Well Women's Clinic .....	5448 1600
CAN - (HIV, Hepatitis C, sexual health) .....	5443 8355
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard .....	1800 184 527
Hep C Infoline.....	1800 703 003
HIV Sexual Health Connect .....	1800 038 125
IDHS (by appointment) .....	5431 7000
La Trobe University.....	5444 7390
NDCHS .....	5451 0200
WHLM - Bendigo .....	5443 0233
WHLM (Toll Free).....	1800 350 233

## Pregnancy Testing & Options Counselling

BCHS - Family Planning/Sexual Health Service.....	5434 4330
BCHS - Options Youth Clinic .....	5448 1600
BCHS - Well Women's Clinic .....	5448 1600
BDH .....	5455 2100
Bendigo Health - Gynaecology Clinic (on referral from local doctor) ...	5454 7288
IDHS (by appointment only) .....	5431 7000
La Trobe University.....	5444 7390
Mclvor (pregnancy testing only).....	5431 0900
NDCHS .....	5451 0200
WHLM - Bendigo .....	5443 0233

## Screening for Sexually Transmissible Infections & Blood Borne Viruses

BCHS - (sexually transmissible infections/blood borne viruses) ....	5434 4330
BCHS - Options Youth Clinic .....	5448 1600
BCHS - Well Women's Clinic .....	5448 1600
BDH .....	5455 2100
Bendigo Health - Gynaecology Clinic (on referral from local doctor) ...	5454 7288
La Trobe University.....	5444 7390

## Sexual Assault Services

Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) - recent & past.....	5441 0430
Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) - recent & within 72 hours.	1800 806 292

## Support Groups & Services

BCHS - Young Pregnant & Parenting Program (YPPP) .....	5448 1600
Bendigo Health - Community Parenting Program (if baby born at BH) .....	5454 7285
CAN .....	5443 8355
FAB-CV - GLBTI support group .....	5439 6505 or 0418 836 006
PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays .....	0418 710 061
Way2Be - GLBTIQS Youth Support Group (16-25) .....	5434 6090

## Well Women's Clinics

BCHS - (Central Site) .....	5448 1600
BCHS - (Eaglehawk Site).....	5434 4330
IDHS - (Inglewood).....	5431 7000
IDHS - (Wedderburn).....	5431 7080
NDCHS - (Pyramid Hill, Kerang, Boort).....	5451 0200
WHLM - (Bendigo).....	5443 0233
WHLM (Toll Free).....	1800 350 233

## Other HIV/Hep C Services

<u>Needle/syringe programs:</u>	
BCHS - (Central Site) .....	5448 1600
BCHS - (Eaglehawk Site).....	5434 4300
BCHS - (Kangaroo Flat Site) .....	5430 0500 or Tues - Sat 7.30pm - 11pm A/H Freecall 1800 636 514
IDHS .....	5431 7000
La Trobe University.....	5444 7390
<u>Infectious Disease Clinic:</u>	
Bendigo Health (on referral from local doctor) .....	5454 8422
<u>Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP Services)</u> - For people who think they may have been exposed to HIV through unprotected anal or vaginal sex or through sharing injecting equipment with someone who is HIV positive or at high risk. PEP is most effective within 72 hours of exposure, & will be most beneficial if treatment is started earlier.	
Bendigo Health - (Emergency Department) .....	5454 6000
Victorian PEP Service at the Alfred .....	1800 889 887

Your local Doctor is a great source of information & can refer you to a number of other services.

*Disclaimer: Information collected for this resource was accurate at the time of publication (Oct 07). This publication is an initiative of the Bendigo/Loddon Primary Care Partnership's Sexual Health Task Group. The Sexual Health Task Group would like to thank the following agencies for their support & assistance in developing this resource: Bendigo Community Health Services, Bendigo Health, the Country Awareness Network, Women's Health Loddon Mallee (Bendigo), Inglewood & Districts Health Service, Mclvor Health & Community Services, La Trobe University, Northern District Community Health Service & Boort District Hospital. If you would like to obtain more copies of this resource, or need further information about sexual health services in the Bendigo/Loddon region, contact Country Awareness Network on 5443 8355.*