



**ashm**  
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Inc



**NATIONAL RURAL  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE INC.**

## **Media Release**

17 March 2009

### **Cairns to host course in Blood Borne Viruses and STIs**

A one-day course in Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections (BBV/STIs) will be held in Cairns ahead of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference from 17-20 May.

This pre-Conference event is presented by the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) and aimed at healthcare workers who provide clinical services in the primary care setting and are in contact with patients who have, or are at risk of, BBVs and STIs.

The course on 17 May will provide an overview of the epidemiology, testing principles, pathogenesis, natural history and treatment of HIV, hepatitis B and C infections and common STIs. Taking sexual history and performing a sexual risk assessment will also be covered. The course has a regional and local focus, providing an overview of local service provision and referral pathways within the area. Information will be presented in a variety of formats, including interactive question and answer sessions, case discussions, facilitated small group work and short presentations.

ASHM is a key partner in the Australian response to HIV, hepatitis and related diseases. The Society works closely with government, advisory bodies, community agencies and other professional organisations to foster education for health professionals and the public through the provision of continuing education courses. The BBV/STI course has an important role to play in up-skilling all members of the primary care multidisciplinary team.

Application has been made for points for RACGP QA & CPD (Category 1), ACRRM and College of Nursing. For more information, please contact ASHM on (02) 8204 0700 or [ashm@ashm.org.au](mailto:ashm@ashm.org.au)

The course will be held between 8.30am and 5 pm at The Sebel Cairns, 17 Abbott Street, at a cost of \$80 for ASHM members (\$100 for non-members). ASHM is pleased to be working with the NRHA on presentation of this special event.

Registration for the BBV/STI course and for the 10<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference is available on-line at [www.ruralhealth.org.au](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au)

#### **Further Contact**

Emily Wheeler (02) 8204 0716 ([emily.wheeler@ashm.org.au](mailto:emily.wheeler@ashm.org.au))

Marshall Wilson – NRHA Media: 0419 664 155