

# Introduction

*The Talk Test Treat Trace, Western Australian Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and Blood-borne Virus (BBV) Manual for Aboriginal Communities* (the Manual) is a comprehensive tool to guide the prevention, early detection and treatment of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses (BBVs). It has been developed to support health professionals to plan, deliver, monitor and evaluate STI and BBV programs.

Topics cover the continuum of care from prevention and treatment through to workforce development. In addition, it provides practical guides to establish programs such as outreach initiatives, and needle and syringe programs (NSPs).

The Manual is aimed at regional and remote professionals and those working with Aboriginal populations. People providing services in the metropolitan area and for other priority populations are also likely to benefit from the guidance it provides. The content has been developed with a number of different workforces in mind, including:

- ▶ Aboriginal health workers (AHWs)
- ▶ nurses
- ▶ doctors
- ▶ health promotion officers
- ▶ program coordinators
- ▶ service managers.

Dr Janet Knox was employed by the Western Australian Department of Health (Department) as a consultant to write the Manual. A reference group was established to guide the development of the content and structure. Three workshops were held in Perth to provide a forum for staff to discuss content, identify gaps, and provide suggestions. The workshops were attended by non-government organisations, WA Country Health Service (WACHS) staff and staff from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS). Drafts were developed and reviewed in depth by the reference group, the Sexual Health and BBV Program (SHBBVP) and staff who attended the workshops in Perth.

The Department would like to acknowledge the following people who were integral in developing the Manual:

- ▶ Dr Janet Knox
- ▶ SHBBVP staff
- ▶ Reference Group
- ▶ Workshop participants
- ▶ Contribution of images from stakeholders