

Supporting Healthier Pregnancies Initiative (SHPI)

Putting Queensland Kids First

SHP Initiative Inception Governance (SIIG)

Expression of Interest General Practitioner with Shared Care Experience



Background

The Supporting Healthier Pregnancies Initiative (SHPI) is a core Initiative of the Queensland Government's [Putting Queensland Kids First \(PQKF\)](#) Plan which is increasing investment in prevention and early supports for families and children across the first 2000 days of life, from conception to age five.

Queensland Health, through the Prevention Strategy Branch (PSB), is receiving \$18.44M funding over four years for the Initiative. The Initiative aims to improve the current and future health of pregnant women* and their children through strengthening and sustaining guideline-recommended preventive health practices during routine public antenatal care, with earlier identification of those needing greater support and engagement with services.

*this document uses 'woman and women', recognising that individuals have diverse gender identities, and therefore includes people who are pregnant and give birth and who do not identify as female

Purpose and functions

The purpose of the SHP Initiative Inception Governance (SIIG) is to provide strategic leadership and direction, and to guide the establishing and initiation of the Initiative. Members will provide expert advice, system intelligence, and insight to support the initial planning and operationalisation of the Initiative:

- Ensure that the Initiative aligns with strategic priorities and opportunities as relevant to the member's area of expertise or role in the system, to better deliver identified outcomes
- Actively foster engagement and a shared understanding of the Initiative with colleagues, key stakeholders, and other interested parties
- Resolve how the sustainability of preventive health care and screening practices related to the SHP Initiative can be fostered in routine antenatal care from the outset, including to assist with identifying important strategic and practical mechanisms that strengthen workforce capability, models of care, systems, and culture at the local HHS and statewide levels

Members

Members of the SIIG will:

- Commit to, attend, and actively participate ethically and responsibly in SIIG meetings. If absence at a meeting is unavoidable a proxy (with delegated authority to represent the agency/area and act on the member's behalf) to attend in their absence with advance notice provided to the Secretariat.
- Declare any real or potential conflicts of interest. These must be managed in consultation with the Chair, providing the name of the member declaring the conflict, the nature of the conflict, and how it was dealt with, and recorded in the meeting minutes.
- Be prepared for meeting discussions related to agenda items. Meeting minutes and supporting documentation must be read prior to the meeting to ensure the achievement of best outcome.
- Undertake out-of-session tasks when required.



- Maintain confidentiality. Any information acquired by members while undertaking this work will be treated confidentially. The Chair will determine which, if any, meeting documents or items of business are to be disseminated outside the Inception Governance.
- Apply a systems approach and a flexible mindset during discussions. Working within the scope and focus of the SHP Initiative and in consideration of clinician and consumer needs, resource implications, requirements for system and culture change and reform, and the potential impact across the system, consider what could be possible.
- Provide insight and advice, relevant to their work area or expertise, that contributes to the outcome of the Initiative and build a shared understanding and sense of Initiative ownership.
- Advocate for guideline-recommended preventive healthcare as a key component of quality care in antenatal care services
- Where appropriate, lead the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of their particular focus area in the SHP Initiative, in partnership with co-leads and in alignment with the overarching evaluation of the Initiative.

Meeting schedule

Meetings will be held via MS Teams every month (and go for up to 2 hours), with every effort to make dates and times suitable for the majority of members, with meetings confirmed in advance for a 12-month period.

Additional adhoc consultation, workshops, or other meetings may be held as part of this Initiative, representatives from the inception governance if they would like to attend.

Authority

The SIIG has an advisory function and does not have formal decision-making authority.

Recommendations of the SIIG will be regarded as its collective recommendation or advice, unless there is material dissention.

For further information

To express your interest in the role by **COB Friday February 21st**, please email HealthierPregnancies@health.qld.gov.au

For further information or discuss the role please contact Susan de Jersey, Manager Prevention Strategy Branch susan.dejersey@health.qld.gov.au or 07 35426073



Attachment A

Supporting Healthier Pregnancies Initiative

Putting Queensland Kids First

Background

The Supporting Healthier Pregnancies Initiative (SHPI) is part of the Queensland Government's Putting Queensland Kids First (PQKF) Plan which is increasing investment in prevention and early supports for families and children across the first 2000 days of life, from conception to age five.

The Initiative aims to improve the current and future health of pregnant women¹ and their children through strengthening and sustaining guideline-recommended preventive health practices^Δ during routine public antenatal care, with earlier identification of those needing greater support and engagement with services (see Table 1)

Why?

Pregnancy is a critical time in the life course that can influence the future health trajectory of both pregnant women and their growing baby in-utero, in childhood and as an adult. The trusting bonds between women and their maternity care providers are important in empowering women across their pregnancy journey.

The SHPI builds on international and national evidence, that highlight addressing modifiable health risks during pregnancy, such as smoking and alcohol, nutrition and physical activity as one of the most important actions to optimise current and future health outcomes of pregnant women, their babies and future generations

The initiative aims to build systems and capability for earlier access to women-centred public antenatal care, identification of women that may need greater support, and sustainably enhance and embed preventive health practices in antenatal care, with referral pathways to support.

*this document uses 'woman and women', recognising that individuals have diverse gender identities, and therefore includes people who are pregnant and give birth and who do not identify as female

Goal

The goal of the SHPI is to improve the current and future health of Queensland women and their children through strengthening and sustaining guideline-recommended preventive health practices during routine public antenatal care, with earlier identification of those needing greater support and engagement with services.

Objectives

The SHPI overarching objectives:

1. Develop and implement systems and processes to build and sustainably embed preventive health practices^Δ and earlier modifiable risk identification of women within the antenatal period.
2. Embed guideline-recommended preventive health practices^Δ as part of routine public antenatal care services in Queensland.

3. Improve knowledge and confidence of antenatal care providers to deliver guideline-recommended preventive health practices^Δ within routine antenatal care including early identification of women with increased modifiable risk factors.
4. Enhance localised models of care with established pathways to ongoing support for women with identified modifiable chronic disease risks.
5. Understand enablers and barriers for preventive health practices^Δ and earlier risk identification of women within the antenatal period.

^ΔPreventive health practices in antenatal care support women to have a healthier pregnancy and build stronger foundations for their own and their baby's future health, with potential for intergenerational impacts. These practices encompass risk screening, initial advice and referral to ongoing appropriate support for a range of modifiable factors impacting the growth of the baby and long-term chronic disease risk for the mother and child such as tobacco/vaping, alcohol consumption and nutrition and physical activity behaviours, as well as psycho-social risks, and preventing and managing infections.

Priorities

The initial statewide **priorities** of the SPHI are to:

- Promote and enable preventive health practices^Δ as an opportunity for clinicians to significantly impact the life course of Queensland families
- Empower clinicians to embed smoking, and vaping assessment and support that will reduce smoking, and vaping during pregnancy
- Empower clinicians to embed alcohol consumption assessment and support that will reduce alcohol consumption during pregnancy
- Empower clinicians to increase early intervention and nutritional and physical activity support for women at risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM)
- Support clinicians to improve uptake by women of pregnancy-related immunisations in public antenatal care

Progress in achieving the objectives will be monitored and evaluated across the initial PQKF funding period (FY24/25 to FY27/28), feeding into broader health portfolio and cross-government PQKF evaluation approaches. HHS funding for the CMC Supporting Healthier Pregnancies positions is recurrent beyond the four-year PQKF period. This is in recognition that the initial four-year funding will be the beginning of an evolving process to embed preventive health practices within HHSs and local priorities will change over time requiring ongoing support.


Scope

The estimated 46,000 women per year who access public maternity services in Queensland.

Implementation Actions

A phased approach to implementation of the initiative will be progressed. The actions to achieve the objectives and address the statewide priorities include:

- An antenatal workforce uplift providing additional capacity to embed chronic disease prevention clinical practice improvements and build associated systems and processes for the future
- Establish systems for building chronic disease prevention and future health risk assessment, advice and intervention for pregnant women across the state, with clear pathways to wrap around support

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- Provide intensive smoking/vaping cessation support across the state for pregnant women wanting to quit
 - Identify and establish systems and process to enable administration of recommended immunisations in pregnancy through public antenatal care services
 - A preconception health promotion trial to support future parents to overcome barriers to chronic disease prevention and improve their health and wellbeing prior to conception

For further information

Email the Statewide SHPI Coordination Team: HealthierPregnancies@health.qld.gov.au