

Date: 12/06/2015

QUEENSLAND CONTINUES RAPID HIV TESTING SUCCESS

Queensland's rapid HIV testing program saw a record 1,114 rapid HIV tests done state wide in the period January to March 2015, an increase of 68% over the previous 3 months.

HIV Foundation Chair, Dr Darren Russell said that the result provided clear evidence that strategies to increase testing were working.

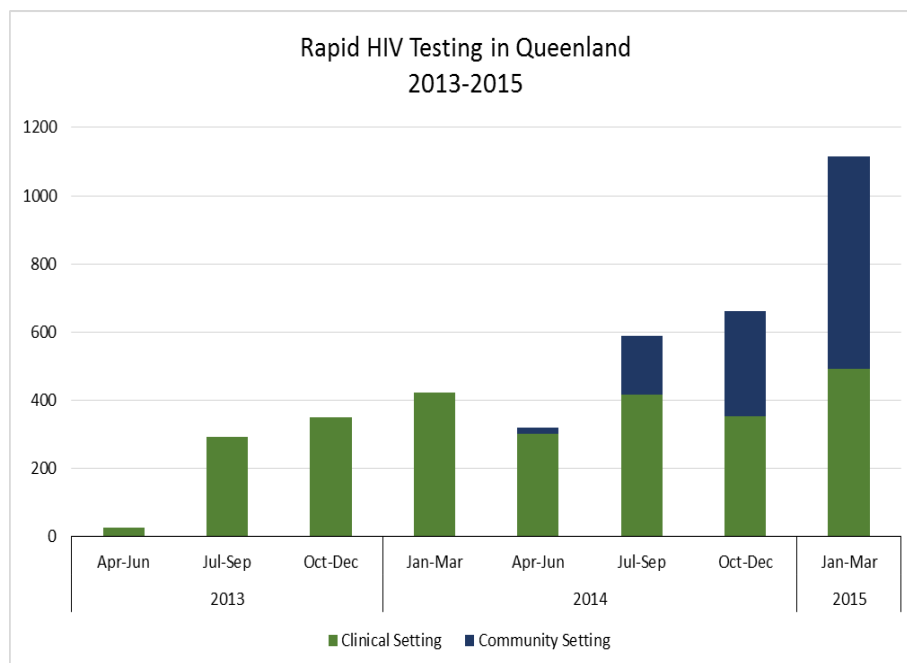
"Increasing voluntary testing has been a key pillar of the Foundation's strategy to end HIV and a substantial investment in resources and energy has been directed by the Foundation and Queensland Health since June 2013 into the rapid HIV testing program. Results like this demonstrate that this hard work has been worthwhile." Dr Russell said.

Community based testing continued to rise increasing by 100% over the previous 3 months. Testing in Queensland Health facilities also saw a substantial increase of 47%.

More than half of all rapid HIV tests in Queensland were conducted in a community based setting.

"The Foundation has been a strong advocate for increasing options for people to access testing and Queenslanders are really embracing being able to receive a rapid HIV test in a community based setting."

"Work done by services like RAPID & Testing Point to offer testing in targeted outreach settings has shown real results with hundreds of men testing at all four of Brisbane's sex on premises venues" Dr Russell said.



Queensland's rapid HIV testing program commenced in June 2013 and uses kits provided by Queensland Health.

Further Background:

RAPID is a collaboration between Queensland Positive People and the HIV Foundation Queensland and is located in the Foundation's Winn St premises. The service offers free HIV and syphilis rapid testing with results in only 20 minutes and is open Tuesday to Saturday, with a Gold Coast site scheduled to open in June 2015.

Testing Point is a service of the Queensland AIDS Council (QuAC) and offers free HIV & STI testing every Tuesday from 6-8pm. Clinic 30, also situated at QuAC offers HIV & STI testing Monday-Friday.

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For further information please contact: 3054 6100 or visit: <http://hivfoundation.org.au/>