

A Regional Model for Clinical Trial Excellence: Lessons from the CQHHS Chlamydia translational study

Central Queensland Public Health Unit, Rockhampton.

Perrins G, Walker J, Kirk M, Khandaker G

Introduction

- Regional Queensland is significantly disadvantaged in accessing clinical trials.
- In Central Queensland, these limitations have historically left communities underserved.
- Chlamydia is the most notified condition in the region, particularly affecting young people aged 15–29 years.

Aim

To build sustainable clinical trial capacity and improve equitable access to research participation in regional Queensland.



Methods

- **Workforce Mapping:** Assessed internal capabilities and repurposed existing staff.
- **Upskilling:** Delivered GCP training, internships, and inter-site placements.
- **Infrastructure Adaptation:** Adapted existing clinical equipment and space (e.g. -80°C freezer).



- **Decentralised Model:** Used a hub-and-spoke Tele-trial model with two novice satellite sites.
- **Community Recruitment:** Partnered with CALD associations to engage with priority population.
- **Implementation Science:** Applied iterative, adaptive methods with ongoing evaluation.

Outcomes

- ✓ **The number 1 recruitment site nationally**, identifying the highest number of Chlamydia-positive cases.
- ✓ **\$2M+ AUD in research revenue generated**, reinvested into local trial capacity.
- ✓ The establishment of dedicated **Clinical Trials Team & Research Development Unit**.
- ✓ The creation of a **model adoptable for embedding clinical trials in public health practice** in resource-limited settings.



Conclusions

- **Adaptive leadership** enables regional trial success.
- **Community partnerships** drive inclusive recruitment.
- **Embeds research** into routine public health care.
- CQPHU clinical trial model is **scalable and sustainable**.

Next Steps

- Strengthen internal **monitoring systems**.
- Support **expansion of trials across regional Queensland**.
- **Advance public health research capacity** through ongoing community partnerships.

Acknowledgements

- **Sanofi**
- **Queensland Regional Clinical Trial Coordinating Centre**