

## **CONTACT TRACING UPDATE May 2010**

*Penny Marshall - Contact Tracing Support Officer*

Notifications of HIV and some Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) have continued to rise in recent years.

- HIV notifications have risen by 85% since the year 2000.
- Chlamydia is still the most frequently reported notifiable infection in Queensland.
- In 2009, in Queensland, there were 16,401 chlamydia notifications. This is an increase of 9.3% compared to 2008 (15,009). Chlamydia notifications have continued to rise (72.7%) since 2005 (9,498). This is consistent with reported national trends.
- Whilst both infectious syphilis and gonorrhoea notifications in Queensland have decreased in 2009 compared with 2008 their incidence in the sexually active population remains a concern.

Contact tracing is an effective strategy used to prevent the transmission of STIs. In Queensland, it is not the Public Health Units role to undertake contact tracing for STIs, there is a team of dedicated contact tracing support officers and clinicians working in sexual health services available to assist you with this process.

The aims of contact tracing include:

- a) to interrupt the ongoing transmission of infection;
- b) to identify people with infection for treatment in order to minimise the likelihood of complications of infection;
- c) to provide individual counselling to effect sustained behaviour change among infected people or those at risk
- d) to identify and educate populations at risk of infection.

If you require more information, resources or support with contact tracing please contact Penny by phoning: 0429340210.

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This Queensland Health initiative is provided free of charge.