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## SESLHD encouraging Chinese-speaking community to take a test this HIV Testing Week

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) is encouraging people who haven't had a test for more than a year – along with members of the Chinese-speaking community – to get tested as part of [HIV Testing Week](#) from 1 to 7 June.

NSW is continuing to progress towards the virtual elimination of HIV transmission, with the latest report finding 22 per cent fewer notifications in the first three months of 2019, than the average for the same period over the previous five years.

SESLHD's Sydney Sexual Health Centre, in partnership with ACON, began offering its popular rapid HIV testing service a[TEST] in Mandarin earlier this year, to provide Chinese-speaking gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM) easier access to sexual health screenings and information.

The a[TEST] Chinese Clinic operates at [a\[TEST\] Surry Hills](#) every Thursday from 3pm to 6.30pm. Mandarin-speaking community peers and sexual health nurses are available to see clients and the computer-assisted self-interviews are translated in simplified Chinese language. As with all a[TEST] clinics, the service is free and confidential. No Medicare card is required.

The NSW Health HIV Strategy Data Report shows in 2018, NSW had the lowest annual number of notifications on record. At the same time, HIV testing in NSW has continued to increase.

Associate Professor Anna McNulty, Director, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, said the results are encouraging but reminded individuals to get tested regularly.

"Men who have sex with men should get tested at least once a year and men with multiple partners, up to four times per year," A/Prof McNulty said.

"While new HIV notifications continue to fall, particularly among Australian-born gay men and MSM, we are not seeing this decline across all populations with the majority of those newly diagnosed born overseas, including people born in Asia.

"As well as the a[TEST] Chinese Clinic, tests are available at your local GP or sexual health service. There's also a new [Dried Blood Spot](#) testing kit which is private and discreet and there's no need to visit a doctor. The test is delivered in the mail and results are then sent by text, email or over the phone."

In the first three months of 2019, 52 men who had sex with men were diagnosed with HIV in NSW. Fifty-two per cent had not had a test in the past 12 months and 17 per cent had never had an HIV test.

The NSW Government has committed \$21.9 million in 2018-19 to strengthen testing, treatment and prevention with 47 state-funded sexual health clinics also making testing easily accessible. To find out where to get tested call the [NSW Sexual Health Infolink](#) on 1800 451 624.