

# From Night Clinics to the Internet

A History of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in South Australia, 1916-1996

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URL: <http://www.stdservices.on.net>

From night clinics to the internet traces the history of STD services in South Australia from the earliest clinics at the Royal Adelaide Hospital to the present integrated public health/specialist clinical service. The inadequacy of early treatment was reflected in patients averaging 10-20 visits per illness and huge attendances, peaking at 200 on one evening in 1930. Clinics conducted in squalid conditions after normal working hours persisted into the 1960s. This environment has been transformed in recent times with highly professional STD services on a par with other medical specialities. In 1995 the STD Control Branch was one of the first agencies in South Australia to establish an internet web site which currently has over 200,000 visitors annually.

Additional features of this publication include:

- Compilation of all STD statistics in South Australia since 1916
- detailed analysis of STDs in Aboriginal populations, including regular epidemics of gonococcal conjunctivitis which persist to the present day
- an account of the repeated attempts to decriminalise prostitution since the 1970s
- detailed account of the evolution and current functioning of the public health aspects of STD Control

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