Data collection method will help monitor outbreaks

Researchers studying swabs have been able to confirm the correlation of sexually transmitted disease data and the prevalence of the disease in an area.

Ministerial School of Health trail author, Associate Professor Phil Gifford, and the paper compared data obtained four years ago from toilet facilities in health clinics across the Northern Territory with the NT Centre for Disease Control's STI reports.

"Some of the data was confirmed to us by people who used the toilets. None of the information you get can be linked to a person and info can be obtained from people who may not be getting diagnosed tested for STIs so it's a potential indicator for changes or new developments in diseases that are circulating," he said.

Comparing the two sets of data backed up and proved the Centre for Disease Control's data were accurate. The research also proved that specific STIs are more common in certain areas. It shows that even if we didn't have notifications data, it shows that government is more prevalent in Central Australia," he said.

Researchers monitored the toilet seat, floor, flush buttons, taps and door handles of toilet facilities over a two- and a half-year period.

He said the research indicated that the testing method could be applied in other jurisdictions without a reporting system to monitor STIs and keep on top of outbreaks.

"It shows that there is an extensive method which is in touch with the public interests," he said.

The research method was a result of a trend within the industry - to collect data in an everyday environment.

"Associate Professor Gifford assured people could not catch STIs from toilets.

He also said the toilets need in the study were used every day and regular cleaning of the led to STI lower prevalence.

"This study does not affect us on the management of these facilities," he said.

Gay marriage vote shame

Andrew Giles

functioned the issue of same-sex marriage could be resolved sooner than everyone thought. But Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull says the government must maintain its position and hold a plebiscite on the law change.

Celebrate seniors month this August!

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Smarter Devices

Hens Night (20 August)

City Library

Laura Brooks

Wednesday 17 August

Dartford Wharf Social Club

Water Colour Workshop with Jasmine Jan

Felling Workshop

Tuesday 22 August

10:00am to 12:00pm

Community Centre

Deckchair Cinema

Wednesday 29 August

10:00am to 12:00pm

Community Centre

Graphite Workshop with Jasmine Jan

Friday 25 August

10:00am to 12:00pm

Community Centre