

**Sexual
Health
Victoria**

Care
Education
Advocacy

Accessing Health Services For People Under 18



**Looking after your
health includes
looking after your
sexual health.**

Questions to ask

What are the out-of-pocket costs for this appointment?

Do I have privacy and confidentiality in this appointment?

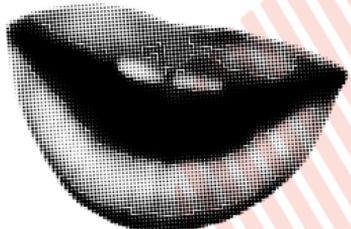
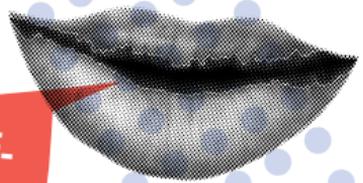
What happens if you need to tell someone else?

Where is my medical information stored, and what do you do with it?

If I need medication, what will it cost?

Can I access an abortion at my age?

Can I access STI testing and contraception at my age?



How to book an appointment

Finding a Health Service

Most health clinics will take bookings online through a service like HotDoc, or over the phone.

Not all clinics provide all sexual health services. For example, not all health professionals will prescribe abortion medication or be able to help with Implanon or IUD insertion. Some clinics are more welcoming for queer and trans youth than others. It's important to do some research before booking.

If a health service conscientiously objects (refuses) to providing an abortion, they are required to refer the patient to a practice that will provide that service. 1800myoptions (1800 696 784) has more information about Abortion Laws in Victoria, and how to make a complaint if a healthcare professional does not provide a referral.

When looking at a clinic's website, they might not list sexual health services. However, they might list contraception or women's health services. Women's health services often service more than just people with ovaries and a uterus.

When making an appointment, patients can request the gender of the doctor/nurse that they prefer to see. Where possible, clinics will cater for these requests.



What is a Mature Minor?

18 is the age of majority, which means that someone is considered an adult, and they can consent to medical treatment.

Depending on a young person's ability to understand the advice or treatment, they may be considered a Mature Minor. This means they can consent to medical treatment under the age of 18.

Your confidentiality

The law requires doctors and nurses to keep client information private and confidential.

The only exemptions to confidentiality are:

1. If a doctor or nurse believes a person under the age of 17 needs protection from significant harm, including physical injury and/or sexual abuse
2. If they are having sex outside of the age of consent laws. They might be required to inform Child Protection or other protective services.

Find out more about the law at Youth Law Australia (yla.org.au).



Medicare card & healthcare records

Medicare is a government scheme that helps cover the cost of healthcare. A medical clinic will ask for a Medicare number on arrival. All Australian citizens have a number. Most young people will be listed on a family card.

From 14 years old

If a young person is on their family Medicare card, parents/guardians cannot access their medical history/information (including their MyHealth Record) without their permission.

From 15 years old

People can apply for their own Medicare card. A young person can be listed on two cards at the same time, so they can be on their family card, and get their own.

Apply for your own Medicare card

Visit the Medicare website to apply.

If someone doesn't have their card with them, clinics can obtain their Medicare number through a confidential Medicare Hotline. The clinic will need the name, date of birth, and address of the patient.

Cost

Many medical clinics will charge for private billing and there might be out of pocket fees. At Sexual Health Victoria people aged 21 and under with a valid Medicare Card and anyone who holds a valid concession card will be bulk billed for most general consultations. Procedures and prescriptions may incur additional out of pocket costs.

The clinic will be able to provide of costs prior to your appointment.

Services available at SHV

Contraception

- Choices
- Effectiveness
- Suitability

STI information, testing and treatment

- Urine test
- Blood test
- Swab

Pregnancy testing

- Urine test
- Blood test

Pregnancy choice information

- Counselling referral
- Medication abortion
- Surgical abortion referral

Medical information

- General sexual health advice

Vaccinations

- MPOX
- HPV
- Hepatitis B



To make an appointment call 03 9257 0100 or book online.
To visit the website scan the QR code

shvic.org.au

 @sexualhealthvictoria

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