

THE ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C PARTNERSHIP



EC Partnership

EC UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2020

Congratulations
Dr Alisa Pedrana!

Winner Hepatitis Victoria
LiverWELL Individual
Contribution Award



EC Partnership Coordinator, Alisa Pedrana, was recently awarded the **Individual Contribution Award** at Hepatitis Victoria's annual general meeting for her work leading efforts to eliminate hepatitis C across Victoria and Australia

[Read more here.](#)

EC EXPERIENCE

The EC Experience cohort study aims to better understand people's experiences of treatment and identify barriers and enablers to taking up DAAs.

After a hiatus of several months, we have now recommenced following up participants from our four existing sites and are recruiting 70 new participants through Genesis Medical Centre in Brighton, Melbourne. To date, we have recruited into the study a total of nearly 300 people who inject drugs who aren't engaged in testing, aren't engaged in treatment, or have completed treatment.

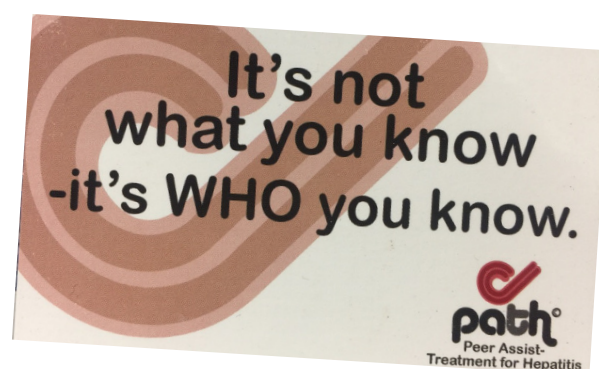
For more information contact Dan,
dan.okeefe@burnet.edu.au

PEER ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR HEPATITIS C (PATH)

Following the successful completion of the pilot, a number of recommendations were made to inform an expanded PATH project - being a model of peer supported HCV testing and treatment for people who inject drugs, to be rolled out in early 2021.

The Burnet Institute is working together with Access Health in St Kilda and Harm Reduction Victoria on this exciting project, with other partners currently in consultation.

For more information contact Dan,
dan.okeefe@burnet.edu.au



EC NURSING

Planning is underway for how EC nursing services will return in 2021.

For more information contact Chloe,
chloe.layton@burnet.edu.au

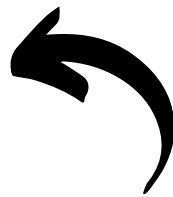
UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

HEPATITIS VICTORIA/LIVERWELL®

Liver Talk Podcast

Throughout lockdown we have been working to bring new information and topical issues to light via the Liver Talk podcast. Covering a range of topics with many interesting guests including telehealth, alcohol in quarantine, World Hepatitis Day and the new Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project report.

[Our new episodes are available to listen to here.](#)



Congratulations to the 2020 Hepatitis Victoria / LiverWELL Recognition Award recipients:

- **Mark Farmer Award** - Kamarra Bell-Wykes, descendent of the Jagara & Butchulla people of South East Queensland, Artist & Playwright of Chopped Liver & Viral
- **Organisational Collaboration Award** - Anne Craigie, Lucy McDonald & Amy Edwards, St Vincent's Nurses Statewide Hepatitis Program
- **Individual Contribution Award** - Alisa Pedrana, Senior Research Fellow & Eliminate Hepatitis C Australia, Burnet Institute.



[If you missed our AGM you can watch the awards here.](#)

Want to get Fit for Cure?

We have recently recommenced work on the exciting **Fit for Cure** project based in Brimbank, which includes developing a local service directory of hepatitis C prevention, testing and treatment services to include in an online resource.

If you work in Brimbank and provide AOD friendly, hepatitis C or harm reduction services and would like to be included or are after more information on the project please contact Isabelle, isabelle@hepvic.org.au

Speaker training set for November 30

We are also recruiting people with personal experience of viral hepatitis or any liver conditions to become speakers. Register to attend our training course and share your story. Once trained you will be paid for your lived experience speaking events.

For more information contact Neylan, neylan@hepvic.org.au

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

HARM REDUCTION VICTORIA

Peer Assisted Treatment for Hepatitis C (PATH)

The outreach peer workers who have been establishing connections with the clients at Access Health in St Kilda have had to cease face-to-face contact due to COVID-19 restrictions until further notice.

On a sad note we said goodbye to Robert Leitermann. Rob had been with the Path Project since the beginning and will be hard to replace. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours.

Our very own Caro Weidener has been awarded Yarra Drug and Health Forum's Worker of the Year Award! Caro has been working in various front line roles for nearly 20 years now, including her most recent role as a peer specialist outreach worker. She's great at what she does and the award is well deserved.



BBV and safer using training

We are now delivering our BBV and safer using staff training sessions via Zoom. Although it's not our preferred method of delivery the upside is that we are able to reach a lot more people from regional areas.

World Hepatitis Day video

We produced a short 30 second video in recognition of World Hepatitis Day. It's a take on an old toothbrush commercial, but instead of not being able to see the dentist's face, we are hiding the face of an injecting drug user to highlight the stigma still faced by the community in 2020.

[Watch the video here.](#)



#drugusershelpingdrugusers #peerassistance #harmreductionvictoria
Clear PATH to Hep C Freedom - Get tested. Get treated.

Co-designing and consultations

HRVic has recently been engaged in the consultation process to develop Victoria's new BBV & STI strategies. We providing written submissions and took part in several stakeholder workshops where we got to brainstorm with some really motivated participants.

We have also been working with peers from all over the country in a co-design workshop for EC Australia's hepatitis C health promotion campaign.

For more information about projects and services at Harm Reduction Victoria contact Jane, janed@hrvic.org.au

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

ST VINCENT'S PRISON PROGRAM

Like most health programs, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated adaptation of normal service delivery for the Statewide Hepatitis Program (SHP). Operating in all prisons across the state of Victoria, the program already delivered a tailored approach to each site pre-COVID-19, based on prison capacity, volume of demand, existing infrastructure, and other operational and site-specific characteristics.

Restrictions on human movement in the community, coupled with a strong commitment of SHP staff to continue to provide best-practice care to people in prison, has driven flexibility and innovation in service delivery.

The primary change in SHP operation has been the pausing of face to face clinics. SHP specialist nurses have forged relationships with onsite health care staff to support the logistical operation of remote patient consultation and Hep C treatment initiation. Remote operation has highlighted the importance of the close collaboration with staff from prison-based health services (GEO Group, Correctcare) to continue to deliver an integrated approach to care.

For more information, contact Lucy
lucy.mcdonald@svha.org.au

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Victoria's next HIV, Sexually Transmissible Infections and Viral Hepatitis response.

The suite of HIV, Sexually Transmissible Infections and Viral Hepatitis strategies and action plan that guide Victoria's response to blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections expire at the end of 2020.

These policies have played a vital role in reducing rates of transmission in the community, increasing testing access and treatment uptake, ensuring people have the care they require and reducing stigma and discrimination associated with different viruses and risk behaviours.

The Department of Health and Human Services is developing the next Victorian BBV/STI response for 2021-2025.

Consultations have taken place in September/October 2020 and submissions closed on 21 October 2020, thank you to all that participated and contributed. Summaries of the consultations will be available in November 2020 on the Engage Victoria site, [which can be found here](#).

For more information contact Elizabeth,
Elizabeth.Birbilis@dhhs.vic.gov.au

NEW RESEARCH & OTHER UPDATES

EVENTS

EC Australia Webinar Series

Throughout November EC Australia will be hosting a series of four webinars on various topics to eliminate hepatitis C in Australia.

Webinar 1:

Sustaining hepatitis C elimination

Wednesday, 4 November, 2020

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM AEDT

[More information and registrations here.](#)

Webinar 2:

Using hepatitis C notification data to increase access to the hepatitis C treatment and cure

Wednesday, 11 November, 2020

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM AEDT

[More information and registrations here.](#)

Webinar 3:

EC Australia Aboriginal health strategy

Wednesday, 18 November, 2020

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM AEDT

[More information and registrations here.](#)

Webinar 4:

Australia's Progress towards Hepatitis C Elimination 2020

Wednesday, 25 November, 2020

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM AEDT

[More information and registrations here.](#)



EC Australia

Partnering to eliminate hepatitis C

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Micro-elimination of hepatitis C among people with HIV coinfection: declining incidence and prevalence accompanying a multi-center treatment scale-up trial.

Efficacy and safety of

sofosbuvir/velpatasvir/voxilaprevir for HCV NS5A-inhibitor experienced patients with difficult to cure characteristics.

Creating an environment for equitable access to direct-acting antiviral therapy for people who inject drugs with hepatitis C.

Outcomes of community-based hepatitis C treatment by general practitioners and nurses in Australia via remote specialist consultation.

SECTOR UPDATES

The Federal Government budget announcement includes \$230 million to expand PBS listings of liver cancer treatments. [Read more here.](#)

Consensus statement to recognise updates to Australasian recommendations for the management of hepatitis C virus infection [Read more here.](#)

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Harvey Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles Rice for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus.

[Read more here.](#)

ASHM has updated their decision making in hepatitis C tool. [Download the resource here.](#)

SECTOR UPDATES

QUICKSTART

The QuickStart Study is a randomised controlled trial that is assessing the impact of rapid HCV point-of-care (POC) testing and a same-day test-and-treat model in primary care settings. It will explore whether rapid HCV POC testing facilitates getting people tested and diagnosed faster and whether a same-day test-and-treat model will increase uptake of HCV treatment.

The research team is now looking for primary care and community health services across Australia who have a DAA prescriber and a high HCV caseload at their service. Financial and research support is available to participating sites.

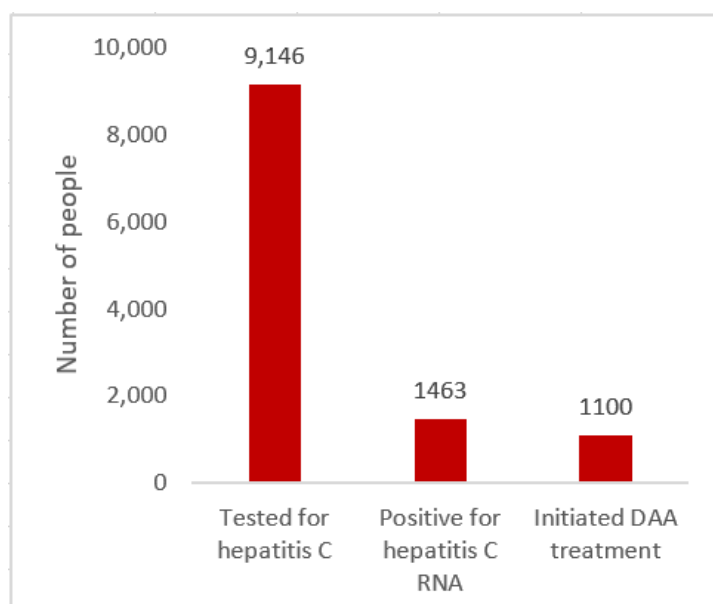
For more information contact Imogen, imogen.elsum@burnet.edu.au



ACCESS REPORTING

The anonymous patient data extracted via ACCESS provides an assessment of hep C management at EC sites and other participating clinics across the state.

ACCESS is now in place at 10 EC sites, and site-specific reports are generated for each EC clinic. At EC sites between January 2017 to June 2020, ACCESS captured:



For more information about Access contact Michael, michael.traeger@burnet.edu.au

EC PARTNERSHIP CONTACT

For more information and resources

Website: <https://ecpartnership.org.au/>

Email: ecpartnership@burnet.edu.au

Twitter: @ECPartnershipAU

