

# THE ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C PARTNERSHIP



EC Partnership

## EC UPDATE - MARCH 2021

### EVALUATING EC VICTORIA

Most EC Victoria activities are scheduled to wrap up in mid-2021.

The team are currently planning a multi-faceted evaluation of projects conducted by, or in partnership with, EC Victoria from 2016 to 2021.

We will evaluate three main areas of the partnership:

1. The value of the partnership approach.
2. The provision of clinical support through the EC nursing model.
3. The overall impact of the partnership on testing and treatment numbers.

We are also developing 'The EC Story', a short animation that will depict the timeline and milestones of the project.

For more information, contact Judy, [judy.gold@burnet.edu.au](mailto:judy.gold@burnet.edu.au)



### EC EXPERIENCE

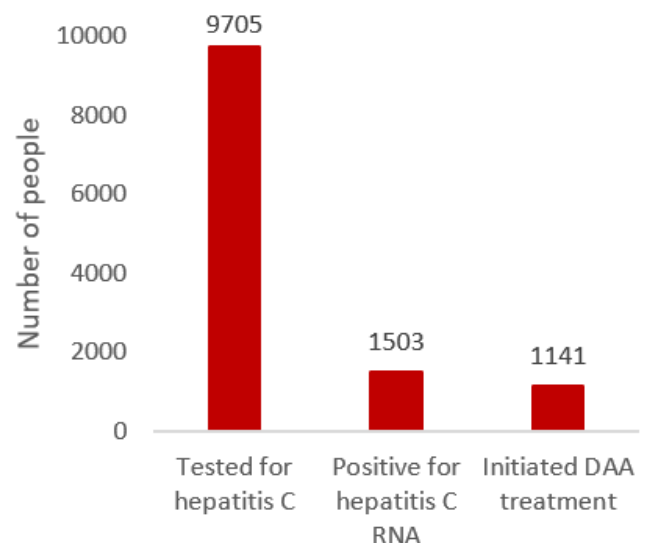
The EC Experience cohort study has continued to function in a remote capacity throughout 2021, however we have still managed to recruit 15 participants from our newest clinic, Genesis, in Bentleigh. This brings the total number of participants to 310. The second round of phone follow-ups commenced in March.

For more information contact Dan, [daniel.okeefe@burnet.edu.au](mailto:daniel.okeefe@burnet.edu.au)

### ACCESS REPORTING

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

At EC sites between January 2017 to December 2020, ACCESS captured:



For more information about ACCESS contact Michael, [michael.traeger@burnet.edu.au](mailto:michael.traeger@burnet.edu.au)

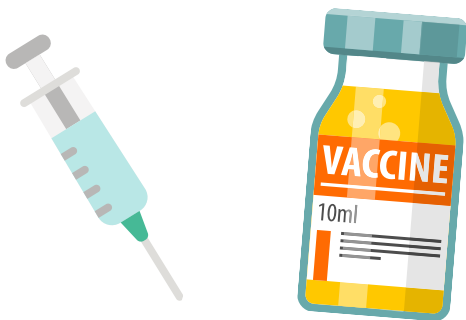
## UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

### HARM REDUCTION VICTORIA

#### Health promotion

The Health Promotion team has resumed limited face-to-face training at Salvation Army Flagstaff Accommodation and the planning for a nation-wide EC Australia treatment campaign has resumed.

We are also preparing a resource for Victoria's PWID communities on Covid-19 vaccines and the federal government's vaccine roll-out, with the assistance of Burnet Institute and St Vincent's Hospital.



#### PEER ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR HEPATITIS C (PATH)

After the initial pilot of the PATH program due to COVID-19, HRVic is excited to announce that we have recruited two new Peer Specialists for the second version of the program. Our Peer Specialists will soon be based at the CoHealth secondary NSP in Braybrook as well as Access Health in St Kilda, and we are very happy to have Sally Watkins coming onboard as a nurse practitioner for the program.

For more information, contact Hunter, [hunterm@hrvic.org.au](mailto:hunterm@hrvic.org.au)

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### Machinery of Government changes

Machinery of Government changes effective 1 February 2021 will see the Sexual Health and Viral Hepatitis team sit under the Department of Health (previously the Department of Health and Human Services).

#### Victoria's next HIV, Sexually Transmissible Infections and Viral Hepatitis response 2021-25

Thank you to everyone who had participated in the recent consultations to guide the renewal and development of the new priorities and actions for Victoria's HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections response for the 2021-2025 period, and the development of Victoria's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy.

A consultation summary has been developed based on your feedback and can be found on the Engage Victoria platform [here](#).

We will continue to work through the comprehensive feedback and look forward to the strategic response being released this year.

If you have any questions, email [bbvsti.information@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:bbvsti.information@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

## UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

### HEPATITIS VICTORIA/LIVERWELL®

#### Healthy Living Guide for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

Following discussion with health services and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in 2020 LiverWELL incorporating Hepatitis Victoria developed a tailored healthy living guide resource for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.

The online and printable resource complements other resources on the LiverWELL website, with focus domains of Eating Well, Feeling Well, Getting Active and Drink Aware.



The resource is enhanced with images from Indigenous artists supported by the Torch Program and was professionally designed by an Indigenous graphic designer, with the process guided by cultural and artistic advice from a respected Aboriginal health worker and artist.

[You can view the full resource here.](http://www.liverwell.org.au/livingwell/)

For more information, contact Isabelle, [isabelle@hepvic.org.au](mailto:isabelle@hepvic.org.au).

#### StreetShot Youth Program

We are looking forward to delivering face to face StreetShot sessions in 2021, whilst also retaining remote options. Entries for the 2021 Arts Competition are now open.

As in previous years of the StreetShot Youth Program, young people are invited to develop entries for the StreetShot Arts Competition to pass on messages to other young people about viral hepatitis and liver health.

Registrations for education sessions and art entries can be made from the [StreetShot page](#) of the LiverWELL website.

For more information, contact Kay, [kay@hepvic.org.au](mailto:kay@hepvic.org.au)

#### ST VINCENT'S PRISON PROGRAM

Hepatitis C treatment in the prison clinics has resumed again, but is still subject to COVID-19 restrictions that can change at anytime, as happened during the recent 5-day lockdown in February.

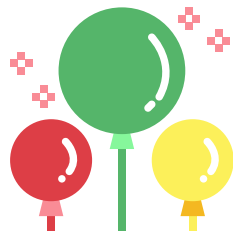
For more information, contact Anne, [anne.cragie@svha.org.au](mailto:anne.cragie@svha.org.au)

## NEW RESEARCH & OTHER UPDATES

### SECTOR NEWS

#### 5 year anniversary of DAAs

March 1st 2021 marked five years since the DAAs became available on the PBS in Australia, making it far easier for people to access a cure. To date some 90,000 people have been treated.



### EVENTS

#### 12th Australian Viral Hepatitis Conference



**12<sup>th</sup> Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference**  
 30 May – 1 June 2021  
 30 May: Brisbane • 31 May: Sydney • 1 June: Auckland  
[Hepatitis2021.org.au](http://Hepatitis2021.org.au)

Continuing with the theme of innovation, the VH2021 committee has decided to move away from the traditional face-to-face conference planned for Brisbane and adopt a hub model for the conference in 2021.

The first two days of the three-day conference will take place in 'hubs' in Brisbane (30 May) and Sydney (31 May), allowing our community to come together to learn, connect, network, and collaborate.

All three days will be live streamed, allowing delegates who are not able to attend one of the two hubs to join via a virtual platform.

[Registrations can be found here.](#)

### LATEST PUBLICATIONS

[Increasing hepatitis C testing and linkage to care: results of a testing campaign with incentives at primary care clinics in Melbourne, Australia.](#)

[Hepatitis C treatment in a co-located mental health and alcohol and drug service using a nurse-led model of care.](#)

[In support of community-based hepatitis C treatment with triage of people at risk of cirrhosis to specialist care.](#)

[The phases of hepatitis C elimination: achieving WHO elimination targets](#)

### JOB VACANCIES

The Royal Melbourne Hospital (@ The Doherty Institute) and Victorian Department of Health have partnered to design and deliver CHECCS - Coordinated Hepatitis responses to Enhance the Cascade of Care. Funded by the Eliminate Hepatitis C Australia Partnership (EC Australia), the project will optimise existing surveillance systems. CHECCS aims to improve the delivery of care to Victorians living with chronic viral hepatitis by identifying people who have been diagnosed with viral hepatitis but have no evidence of follow-up testing or treatment.

**We are looking for two dynamic people to fill two fixed term roles for the project:**

[Project Coordinator \(0.4 EFT\)](#)

[Public Health and Project Officer \(0.6 EFT\)](#)