

# THE ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C PARTNERSHIP



EC Partnership

## EC UPDATE - JULY 2021

### WORLD HEPATITIS DAY EVENT - HEP CAN'T WAIT!

To mark World Hepatitis Day, The Burnet Institute is hosting an online forum.

Join community leaders, experts and policymakers for a seminar to explore new arenas in eliminating viral hepatitis and celebrate the final year of the EC Victoria Partnership.

Guest speakers will include Burnet Institute's leading researchers and clinicians, collaborating partners, members of the community and affected populations.

The event will be held at 2:30pm on Monday 26 July 2021 online via Zoom.

[Registrations here.](#)



For more information contact Jack, [jack.gunn@burnet.edu.au](mailto:jack.gunn@burnet.edu.au)

### EVALUATING EC VICTORIA

The evaluation of EC Victoria is now underway! Currently we are conducting interviews with our key partners and stakeholders about the value, successes and challenges in delivering the five year-long partnership. It is anticipated that the final report will be ready in early 2022.

We have also developed a summary sheet of some of the key activities and achievements of EC Victoria from 2016-2021, [which can be found here.](#)

For more information contact Imogen, [imogen.elsum@burnet.edu.au](mailto:imogen.elsum@burnet.edu.au)

### INHSU CONFERENCE

A number of presentations related to EC Victoria have been accepted for the 2021 International Network of Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU) conference, to be held in Sydney and virtually on 13-15 October 2021, including:

- EC nurse-led model of care.
- PATH peer-led model of care.
- A systematic review of barriers and enablers to hepatitis C care among people who inject drugs.

[Early bird registrations close on 25 July 2021.](#)



## UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

### HARM REDUCTION VICTORIA

#### PATH-EX

The PATH-EX program – Peer Assisted Treatment for Hepatitis – is returning to fieldwork and will be rolling out rapid point-of-care oral antibody tests for participants. The Peer Specialists recently received training from Burnet Institute on how to use Orasure’s testing kits.



#### BBV Training

HRVic’s BBV program resumed in-person training for both the community and workforce for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Workforce training started at WIRE – Women’s Information and Referral Exchange – and community education is planned for the Launch Southbank housing service.

#### World Hepatitis Day

We are also planning for World Hepatitis Day later in the month, with special events to be attended by the PATH team and the Health Promotion Team working on an HRVic position paper on hepatitis C elimination.

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

## ST VINCENT'S PRISON PROGRAM

As of the 1st of July the statewide hepatitis program in Victorian prisons has been operational for 6 years. We’ve now treated over 3000 people in custody for hepatitis C. Like most health programs, the COVID 19 pandemic has necessitated adaption of normal service delivery.

The team have continued to work closely with all primary health care teams in prisons to ensure viral hepatitis services are ongoing. The CovidSafe plan is adhered to and SHP staff continue to monitor closely advice from DJCS, DHS and St Vincent’s Hospital.

For more information contact Lucy, [lucy.mcdonald@svha.org.au](mailto:lucy.mcdonald@svha.org.au)

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The department is pleased to provide additional funding to support the following hepatitis C elimination projects in 2021-22:

#### Medically Supervised Injecting Room Rapid Point of Care testing and treatment

- A novel streamlined model of care using point of care testing to rapidly screen and link marginalised individuals living with hepatitis C to care in the Medically Supervised Injecting Room.

#### The PATH-EX peer navigation project (led by Harm Reduction Victoria)

#### Hepatitis care linkage among prisoners released to community (led by St Vincent's)

For more information, contact [bbvsti.information@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:bbvsti.information@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

## UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

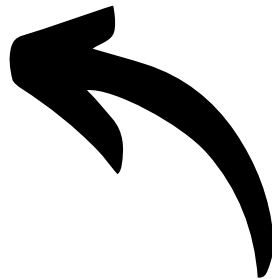
### LIVERWELL

#### New LiverWELL App Launched

The new LiverWELL App is now available to download.

Designed with input from both users and health professionals, this free app is of assistance for people living with viral hepatitis and other liver conditions. This self-management tool helps people improve their liver health, navigate the steps involved in ongoing care, and stay engaged with healthcare professionals.

Further information and resources (including specifically for clinics and healthcare professionals) [available here](#).



#### World Hepatitis Day grants

For World Hepatitis Day 2021 LiverWELL is supporting 12 community and not-for-profit organisations across the state with awareness raising activities and events for their communities. Further information can be [found here](#).

#### StreetShot Youth Program

LiverWELL has recently commenced a social media project, "StreetShot Word from the Street", using platforms including Tik Tok and Instagram. Young people are encouraged to post their own messages, pictures and short videos.

We are also running a social media competition around Eating Well with prizes available for a post of the month. A Health Living Guide designed specifically for young people is also near completion.

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



LiverWELL have two upcoming regional forums that aim to build workers' understanding of liver health and viral hepatitis, along with local perspectives and referral pathways to better support the community.

These free training workshops will feature expert presenters, lived-experience speakers, and community-based health experts, which will develop understanding on how to support people in the community with viral hepatitis and the care and referral pathways local to your area.

- [Shepparton Regional Forum - July 23](#)
- [Gippsland Regional Forum - July 28 \(Bairnsdale\)](#)

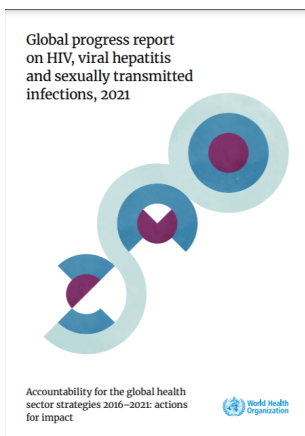
## NEW RESEARCH & OTHER UPDATES

### SECTOR NEWS

#### Global progress report

On May 20 2021, The World Health Organization released its latest global progress report on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, 2021. The report highlights achievements and gaps in the global hepatitis C response and steps needed to reach elimination by 2030.

[The report can be accessed here.](#)



#### New BBV/STI research strategies

The Federal Department of Health recently released The First National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Research Strategy 2021-2025.

The Strategy aims to support nationally relevant research and innovation, and capacity building in reducing the incidence and impact of BBVs and STIs in Australia, in line with the goals and targets of the five National BBV and STI Strategies.

[The strategy can be accessed here.](#)

### LATEST PUBLICATIONS

[A costing analysis of a state-wide, nurse-led hepatitis C treatment model in prison.](#)

[Affordable treatment and political commitment are crucial to eliminate hepatitis C globally](#)

[Estimating the number of new hepatitis C infections in Australia in 2015, prior to the scale-up of direct-acting antiviral treatment](#)

["It's time!": A qualitative exploration of the acceptability of hepatitis C notification systems to help eliminate hepatitis C.](#)

[Outcomes of the CT2 study: A 'one-stop-shop' for community-based hepatitis C testing and treatment in Yangon, Myanmar.](#)

[Patient-reported outcomes of the Treatment and Prevention Study: A real-world community-based trial of direct-acting antivirals for hepatitis C among people who inject drugs.](#)

### OTHER EVENTS

#### 13th Spotlight on hepatitis B

In 2021 the Victorian Hepatitis B Alliance (VHBA) will be delivering a series of four webinars on the following dates: 21 July, 28 July, 5 August, 10 August

[Registrations and more information on the webinar topics can be found here.](#)

## OTHER UPDATES

### NEW RESEARCH PROJECT RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS

The Commonwealth Department of Health has funded researchers at La Trobe University to conduct a study on telehealth for hepatitis C treatment during COVID-19.

The research aims to explore people's experiences of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, to document the support needs of people living with hepatitis C and those providing care and treatment, and to develop recommendations for ongoing access to telehealth where it is useful.

We want to interview people who have used phone and/or video conferencing for hepatitis C treatment or follow up care. Consumer participants are reimbursed \$50 for their time. Please pass this information on to anyone who may be eligible to participate.

Participation involves a confidential audio-recorded 45 minute interview.

To participate, or for more details contact:

Dr Frances Shaw

Phone: 0431 483 918

Email: [f.shaw@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:f.shaw@latrobe.edu.au)

[More details can be found here](#)

