



Hep B PAST Plus

Bulletin Issue #3, December 2025



Buzz, Business & Behind-the-Scenes

Welcome to our final Hep B PAST Plus bulletin for 2025! As always, we want to start by thanking all the incredible people who make this project possible—our ACCHO partners, NT Health teams, community members, Elders, researchers, clinical champions, operational staff, and everyone who has contributed their time, experience, and energy this year.

It's been a busy and transformative few months, full of growth, learning, and connection. As we head into the festive season, we're excited to share what the team has been up to, highlight some important milestones, and give a sneak peek of what's coming in 2026.



Making Headlines: Hep B PAST Plus in the Media



ABC News ran a great story featuring Jane Davies, Anngie Everitt, and George Gurriwiwi, highlighting how our innovative model-of-care is helping more people get tested and treated - and how we've successfully **closed the gap in hepatitis B care in the NT!**

"the Northern Territory is leading the nation in terms of care for the viral infection"
[News article](#) | [News Story](#)

We also got a shout-out in a NACCHO and Hepatitis Australia media release for World Hepatitis Day, which spotlighted Hep B PAST Plus as a strong example of how community-led, culturally grounded programs can make a real difference. **They also recommended programs like Hep B PAST be expanded in the ACCHO sector as a priority action!**

"... the Hep B PAST partnership in the Northern Territory has achieved more than double the care and treatment uptake among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities compared to the national average"

[Media Release](#)



Staffing updates:

We'll be sending off Peter Coombs at the end of the year, and welcoming back Jen Maurier in 2026. Peter has been our sonographer leading the LUSH project at the end this year and we'd like to thank him for his contributions to the program!



Congratulations to Jane for receiving the Charles Darwin University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Community Connection Excellence **Supervisor of the year Award 2025!**



Program Progress: Hot off the Press



MID IRG and Investigator Meetings Wrap-Up

In October, we brought everyone together for our annual MID IRG and Hep B PAST Plus Investigator meetings—two big moments in our annual calendar.



Menzies Infectious Diseases Indigenous Reference Group (MID IRG)

The IRG continues to be at the heart of our work, providing cultural guidance and ensuring our research stays grounded in community needs. Now in its 11th year, the group is highly respected across Menzies and beyond for its thoughtful leadership and strong governance.

This year, the IRG received updates on previously reviewed projects and considered four new proposals, reflecting both the growing demand for their advice and endorsement. We also said thank you and farewell to Heather D’Antoine as our chair of the IGR, and welcomed Kumalie Riley as the new chair!

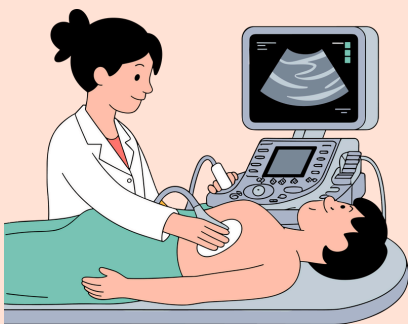
Hep B PAST Plus Investigator Meeting

The following day, we held our Investigator meeting with a great mix of in-person and online attendees. These sessions are a valuable chance to share progress, reflect on challenges, and explore new collaborations. Highlights included a presentation from Barbara de Graaff on the economic evaluation of Hep B PAST Plus, and a panel discussion with Hepatitis Australia, NACCHO and Cancer Council Australia, offering national perspectives on the future of Hep B care and the importance of sustained investment in community-led models.

Project Updates

Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD)

The MASLD project is officially underway, with our first six-month follow-ups occurring at the Kalkarindji clinic in October, through our partners at Katherine West Health Board. Early community engagement has been strong, and sites for expansion in 2026 are already being explored—stay tuned for updates as this important work grows.

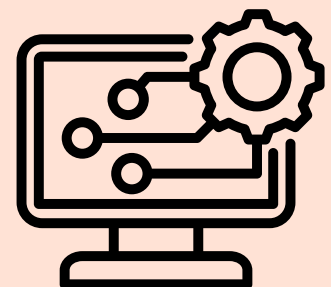


Liver Ultrasound Surveillance in Hepatitis (LUSH)

LUSH aims to build local capacity for early detection of liver abnormalities and liver cancer by training health professionals to use handheld ultrasound devices. The first ultrasound machines have now been delivered to two remote communities, accompanied by training from our sonographer, Peter Coombs. We’re excited to roll out the remaining units in 2026 and continue building a skilled local workforce for liver health surveillance.

Territory Kidney Care (TKC)

Integration of Hep B PAST Plus within TKC continues to expand, now spanning 98 sites across ACCHOs, NT Health primary services, and hospitals. The Hep B dashboard will soon be live, offering improved visualisation tools to support clinical care and CQI activities. A new Communicare script is also under development to streamline data transfer and reduce manual workloads across services.



Suitcases, Scans & Sunburn: Our Latest Adventures

Presentations and Conferences

Our team has proudly showcased Hep B PAST Plus at several national events this quarter:

- Megan Hughes presented at the National Prison Hepatitis Network's Annual Workshop on Hep B and Hep C in NT prisons.
- Jane Davies was an invited speaker at the AMSANT CQI Collaborative Forum (Alice Springs), presenting *Closing the Gap for Hep B in the Northern Territory Using CQI*.
- Jane Davies, Tammy-Allyn Fernandes and Teresa De Santis ran a workshop with Justin Roby and Natasha Jansz at the 2025 NAATSIHWP Professional Development Symposium in Darwin: *Introduction to virology including the "outbreak game"*



Health Workforce Training

2025 has been a great year for our Aboriginal Health Workforce Training! In 2025, we trained 39 participants across four courses, plus additional training with some of our partner health services.

This year also marks the expansion of our Managing Hep B training course interstate, with our first course being run in Far North Queensland! A huge thanks to everyone who's partnered with us, investing their time in delivering this vital training!

*"excellent and culturally appropriate training"
"everything was great, all facilitators spoke well easy to understand, learnt so much more about Hep B"*

Liver One-Stop-Shop Delivery in 2025

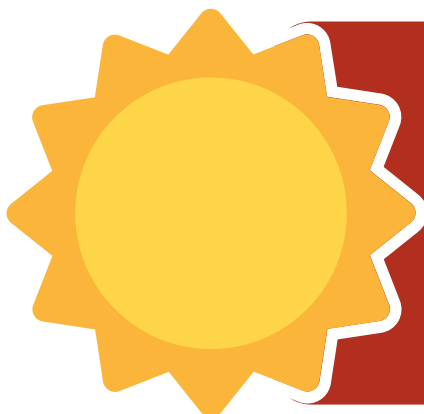
This year, our liver clinic model continued to grow across the NT and beyond, improving access, coordination, and culturally safe with care on country. In 2025 we delivered:

- Danila Dilba Health Service – 4 visits in Darwin
- Miwatj Health Services – 20 visits across 5 different communities
- Katherine West Health Board (KWHB) – 3 visits in Kalkarindji Community
- Sunrise Health Service – 7 visits across 6 different communities
- Malala Health service - 4 visits in Maningrida
- CAAC - 2 visits in Mutitjulu, Ntaria and Alice Springs
- NT Health Top End - 22 visits across 7 different communities
- NT Health Central Australia - 2 visits at Yuendumu, Papunya & Alice Springs Correctional Centre
- Wurli Wurlinjang - 3 visits in Katherine

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many people and organisations who walk alongside us in this work—ACCHOs, NT Health services, hospitals, community members, partner organisations, investigators, and our dedicated clinical and research teams. Every milestone we reach is shared, and every step forward reflects the collective commitment to improving liver health in our communities.

We know that these outreach trips couldn't happen without you!





Fasten Your Seatbelts: 2026 Loading



Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We'll see you all in 2026!

As we wrap up a huge year, we're already gearing up for an even bigger 2026. The coming year will bring new partnerships, expanded services, fresh research opportunities, and plenty of exciting work across communities. Here's a snapshot of what we're looking forward to as we continue building momentum and strengthening liver health across the NT and beyond.

Workforce Training Courses

We'll be announcing dates for our 2026 training program early next year. We're especially excited to confirm a new course in Far North Queensland, supporting capacity building and strengthening relationships with our growing network of FNQ partners.

Other 2026 Priorities

- Expanding MASLD recruitment to new communities
- Broadening the liver one-stop-shop delivery model into additional sites
- Completing LUSH device rollout and ongoing credentialling
- Continued integration of dashboards and data tools across TKC
- Strengthening partnerships across the NT and Qld

Hep B Story App – New Translations & Upgrades

- Warumungu and Luritja translations are underway and expected to launch in 2026.
- We're also working with FNQ partners to identify a local language for translation.
- Major behind-the-scenes software upgrades will be rolled out in partnership with Dream Media, helping the app run more smoothly, updating Menzies branding and remain sustainable long-term.



Menzies End-of-Year closure

Menzies will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period. The last day at work will be Tuesday, 23 December 2025, and the first day back will be Monday, 5 January 2026.



From all of us at the Hep B PAST Plus team, we want to wish you a safe, joyful, and relaxing Christmas period. We hope you have the chance to rest, recharge, spend time with loved ones, and enjoy the break.

Thank you again for everything you've contributed throughout 2025—we deeply appreciate your partnership, your expertise, and the trust you place in us. We're really looking forward to seeing you all again in 2026 and continuing this important work together.