

Hep B PAST Plus

Bulletin Issue #4, April 2026

Welcome to 2026!

It's been a strong start to 2026 for the Hep B PAST Plus team, with continued momentum across our outreach work, research projects, partnerships, and national recognition.

Over the past few months, we've seen our work highlighted across multiple national platforms, alongside exciting progress on the ground in communities across the NT and beyond. It's been a great reminder of what's possible when research, service delivery, and community leadership come together.

Hep B PAST Plus in the Spotlight

The **2026 MRFF Report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research and researchers**

highlighted the Hep B PAST program and our Indigenous Reference Group as a standout example of strong research translation, noting the NT is now the only jurisdiction to have closed the gap in engagement in care for people living with chronic hepatitis B.

"MRFF funding enabled Professor Davies to build on and enhance elements of the research and establish wide-ranging collaborations across the Northern Territory, Australia and internationally, including with the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis."

[Report](#)

The program was also recognised by an **AMSANT media release**, highlighting the significant impact of the Hep B PAST program and praised the partnership between AMSANT services and Menzies School of Health Research in improving hepatitis B and liver cancer outcomes. AMSANT Chair Rob McPhee described it as *"exactly what Closing the Gap looks like in practice,"* and emphasised the importance of Aboriginal-led, community-controlled approaches.

[Media Release](#)

Other News Stories

- Prof Jane Davies on **ABC News Radio** | [Listen Online](#)
- Hep B PAST featured in the **Hepatitis SA Community News** | [Closing the Gap in Practice](#)
- Hep B PAST was also highlighted the **National Indigenous Times** | [News article](#)



Training the Health Workforce

Building a strong and confident local workforce remains central to Hep B PAST Plus. Our training programs are designed to support clinicians and Aboriginal Health Workers to deliver high-quality, culturally safe hepatitis B care within their own communities.

Managing Hep B Courses (Hep B PAST Plus)

Our Managing Hep B courses are tailored specifically for the Aboriginal health workforce and focus on practical, hands-on skills for testing, treating and managing hepatitis B in community settings. These sessions emphasise culturally safe care, early detection, and strengthening confidence to support patients across the full care pathway.



We have an upcoming course in Darwin, on 17 June 2026.

Registrations are open now, please share with your networks!

[Register Here](#) or with this QR code:



April

22 April - Horne Island (FNQ)
Managing Hep B Course

June

17 June - Darwin
Managing Hep B Course

July

22 July - Darwin
NT Hep B Advanced Management

NT Hepatitis B Advanced Management and Prescribing, Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)

(formerly known as the Hepatitis B s100 prescriber course)

Delivered by ASHM, this course is suitable for anyone interested in clinical hepatitis B management—you do not need to be eligible to become a prescriber to attend. The course supports participants to, understand the role of primary care in hepatitis B diagnosis, management and treatment and plan long-term care, including monitoring and liver cancer screening.

The first course for 2026 was successfully delivered online over two sessions in March. Facilitated by Prof Jane Davies and Dr Marilou Capati, engagement was excellent across the two days. With 28 people in attendance this takes the number of GPs and NPs trained by the team to over 300.



ashm

The next in-person course will be run in **Darwin on 22 July 2026**. Registrations are open now!

[Register Here!](#)

Hep B PAST Plus: Out and About!

NACCHO Member's Conference

At the end of 2025, Tammy-Allyn Fernandes, Patricia Nundhirribala and Teresar Ngurruwthun (representing Hep B PAST, Menzies, NT Health and Miwatj) were invited by NACCHO to deliver a 45-minute presentation on the Hep B PAST Plus program at the 2025 NACCHO Conference. Their presentation showcased Hep B PAST Plus as a leading example of true co-design, delivering care on Country, and strengthening hepatitis B services for Aboriginal communities across the NT. The session highlighted the success of our partnerships with both NTG and ACCHOs and how ensuring Aboriginal leadership and ACCHO ownership lead to positive health outcomes for Aboriginal communities.



Liver One-Stop-Shop: How's 2026 looking so far?



Our outreach work has continued at pace, with 15 liver clinics delivered between January and March 2026, alongside a Central Australia trip that included visits to the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and Papunya.

Some highlights from this quarter include:

- Commencing clinics in Gunbalanya (Oenpelli)
- Delivering a dual viral hepatitis and gastroenterology clinic in Maningrida, supporting more integrated care

As always, these clinics are made possible by strong partnerships with local health services and communities, and we're grateful to everyone involved in making them happen.

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere thanks to all ACCHOs, NT Health services, community members, Elders, and partners who continue to support and guide this work.

Together, we're continuing to build a future where hepatitis B is no longer a public health threat in the Northern Territory.

Hep B PAST Plus: Research Updates

Research

MASLD Study

Our Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) sub-study continues to expand,

building a clearer picture of liver

disease in remote communities. We've been continuing our MASLD work in Kalkarindji, including completing some 12-month follow-ups. The study is now also up and running in Galiwinku and Maningrida, and Borrooloola.



LUSH Study

The Liver Ultrasound Surveillance in Hepatitis (LUSH) study continues to grow, with Jenn Maurier now leading the project. LUSH focuses on training health professionals to use handheld ultrasound devices, building local capacity for early detection of liver abnormalities and liver cancer. Training has now commenced in a third remote community, supporting clinicians to incorporate point-of-care ultrasound into routine practice. For any enquiries about LUSH, please contact the team at hepbpast@menzies.edu.au.



Hep B Story App – New Translations & Upgrades

- Warumungu: we've completed the forward translation and are on track to launch in 2026
- Pintupi-Luritja translations are underway and expected to launch in 2026.
- We're in early stages exploring translating to Gurindji Kriol
- We continuing to work with FNQ partners to identify a local language for translation and commence community consultations.
- Major behind-the-scenes software upgrades will be rolled out in partnership with Dreamedia Creative, helping the app run more smoothly, updating Menzies branding and remain sustainable long-term.



Looking Ahead

We're excited about what's ahead for the rest of 2026, including continued expansion of outreach services, further rollout of training and workforce development, and growing our research program across new communities and regions.

As always, this work is only possible through the strength of our partnerships and the commitment of the communities we work alongside.