

Welcome

Welcome to the first official Hep B PAST Bulletin!

Hep B PAST is a collaboration between Menzies School of Health Research, the Northern Territory Government, Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, Katherine West Health Board (KWHB), Australasian Society of HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) and NT Aids and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC).

Through a partnership approach we are working towards the elimination of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) from Aboriginal Australians in the Northern Territory.

In this bulletin we will introduce the project, share some of our achievements to date and map out the road ahead.

We thank everyone who has been involved in the project so far and look forward to continuing to share our learnings and successes!

Hep B PAST Project Team



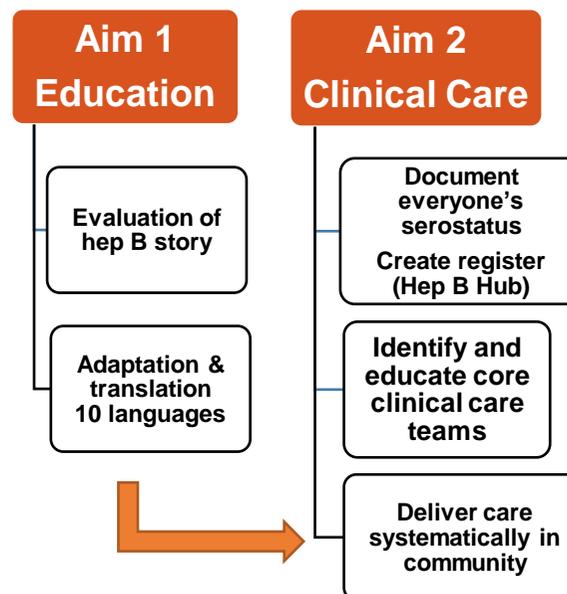
Attendees at our investigators meeting, February 2020

The vision

With an effective vaccine and antiviral treatment, we have the tools to eliminate CHB in the NT.

The project will achieve this through:

- Use of “Hep B Story” an in-language educational app for patients and their health care providers. Upon completion it will be available in 10 Aboriginal languages.
- Improving the cascade of care for individuals living with CHB in the NT through:
 - Determining serostatus of at least 80% of the Aboriginal population in the NT and assigning all individuals with a hep B serocode
 - Transitioning CHB into primary health care and ensuring a gold standard of care through supporting workforce education and the establishment of core clinical care groups



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Project aims

How are we tracking

Workforce education

Resource development



Key Contact:

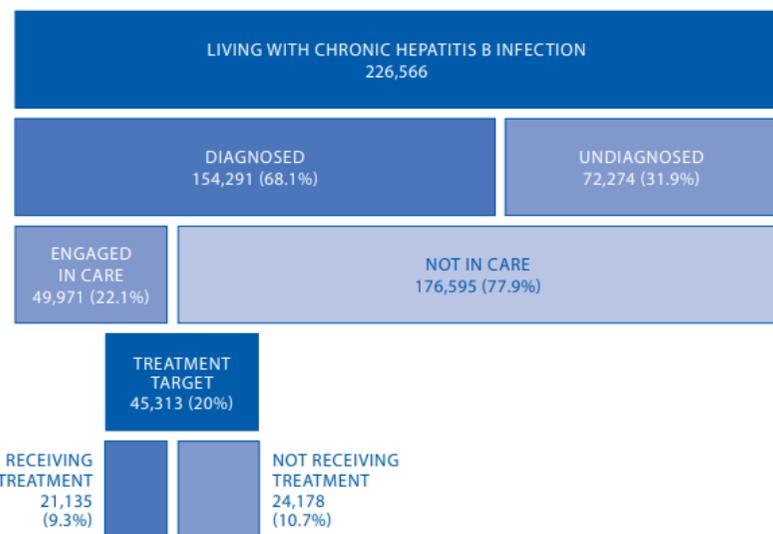
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Achievements benchmarked

The Third National Hepatitis B Strategy (2018 – 2022) sets the target to:

- Increase the proportion of people living with chronic hepatitis B who are diagnosed to 80%
- Increase the total proportion of people living with chronic hepatitis B receiving care to 50%
- For people living with chronic hepatitis B, increase the proportion receiving antiviral treatment to 20%

Indicator	Target by 2022	National level (2018)	NT (2018)
Diagnosis	80%	68%	61%
Care (treatment or monitoring)	50%	22%	28%
Treatment	20%	9%	7%



Analysing data from all NT Health Primary Health Care Centres and our project partners Katherine West Health Board and Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, we have successfully determined hepatitis B serology for 59 communities, covering a population of just under 30,000 Aboriginal individuals.

The collection and analysis of this data has been a massive accomplishment of the project. It will be crucial in identifying opportunities for strengthening the workforce and ensuring ongoing support and management of patients on country in communities. Despite having the highest national prevalence of hep B, we can see that in the communities where we have collected data, the NT is making significant gains and substantially exceeding national averages in all areas.

Participating clinics are sent summary reports of this review, flagging priorities such as required recalls on serology and opportunities for vaccination. Reports also indicate how clinics are tracking against the NT average and national targets. The next stage of the project, the development of core clinical care groups, will support clinics to use this data systematically to integrate best practice hep B management into primary care.

We are well on track to meeting the 2022 targets and are excited to see how the project will contribute to increasing community understanding of CHB and providing a best practice, culturally safe hepatitis B care model for all patients.

	Population (Indigenous)	Diagnosis*	No data	Hep B Infected	Engaged in Care**	On treatment
NT Health Primary Health Care Centres	21,543	19,487 (90%)	2056 (10%)	445 (2%)	306 (69%)	74 (16%)
Miwatj Health	7626	6491 (85%)	790 (10%)	327 (4%)	275 (80%)	60 (17%)
Katherine West Health Board	2204	1855 (81%)	349 (19%)	32 (2%)	23 (72%)	8 (25%)
Total	31,373	27,833	3195	804	604	143
Total (%)		89%	11%	4%	75%	18%

* assigned a sero-status code of: hep B fully vaccinated, immune by exposure, infected on treatment, infected not on treatment, or hep B non-immune

** HBV DNA (viral load) in preceding 18 months

Strengthening the health care workforce

Recognising hepatitis B as a chronic condition that requires ongoing management, the project aims to transition CHB into a primary health care based chronic disease model of care.

Central to this is the development of core clinical groups which can consist of a trained Aboriginal Health Practitioner (AHP), a doctor who can prescribe s100 treatment, outreach team support, viral hepatitis unit support and access to Ultrasound and Fibroscan®.

Along with project partners ASHM we have trained

- 63 Aboriginal community workers and health practitioners through the Hepatitis B for Aboriginal Health Workforce course
- 94 GPs, accrediting 65 to become s100 prescribers for the treatment of hepatitis B
- 25 nurses through the Hepatitis B Nursing: Advanced Management and Care course
- 7 Aboriginal Health Practitioners as Liver Health Champions through Fibroscan training and mentoring

We have reached the workforce in areas including Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Batchelor, Maningrida, Borroloola and Wadeye. Get in touch with our team if you're interested in organising a training session for your community.



Above: attendees at our Maningrida Hepatitis B for Aboriginal Health Workforce course
Right: an excerpt from the Yolŋu matha translation of the Hep B Story App
Below: Gregoriana Parker and Francis Orsto working on the Tiwi translation of the app.



Hep B Story App Progress

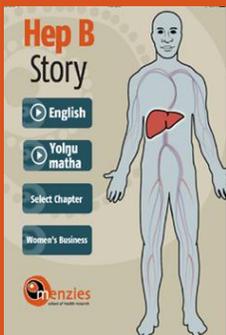
Following an extensive evaluation of the Hep B Story app in Galiwin'ku over several months, we have been able to move forward with adapting and translating the app into 10 further languages with Yolŋu matha now complete.



Each language goes through a process of translation and back translation prior to being recorded and launched. The progress of each language is outlined below. You can check out George and Sylvia from Maningrida working on the Burarra translation [here](#)

Yolŋu matha	Completed
Kunwinjku	Completed
Tiwi	Translation in process
Arernte	Back translation in process
Warlpiri	Back translation in process
Pitjantjatjara	Back translation in process
Murrinh-Patha	Seeking translator
Burarra	Translation in process
Anindilyakwa	Final checks
Kriol	Seeking back translator
Gurindji	Translation in process

Towards shared understandings: The Hep B Story App



Meaningful, culturally appropriate, in language resources and education have been identified as key tools in engaging and increasing the health literacy of people living with hepatitis B. Through ongoing partnership and collaboration with communities, the Hep B Story App has been developed. Currently available in Yolŋu matha and English, the app is a visual, interactive resource designed for patients living with hep B and their families. We have been working with translators across the NT to adapt and translate the app into 10 Aboriginal languages. We would like to deeply thank all our translators who have been involved in this project and look forward to introducing them in forthcoming bulletins. Stay tuned!



Chief investigators Dr Jane Davies and Sarah Bukulatjpi using the app in Galiwin'ku

Check it out on our website or download it on the Google Play or Apple Store
<https://www.menzies.edu.au/hepbstory/>