

## Hep B PAST Partnership Project Bulletin

Welcome to Issue 2 of the Hep B PAST Bulletin!

In this issue we update you on the project outputs and observe World Hepatitis Day, held each year on 28 July. This year's theme is "Hepatitis Can't Wait". In line with the [2030 Accord](#)'s mission to eliminate viral hepatitis, the Hep B PAST project and partners are on track to meeting, and in some areas already exceeding the [National Hepatitis B Strategy Targets](#). We continue to work with community and health staff to improve systems and processes for a gold standard cascade of care for those living with hepatitis B in the NT.

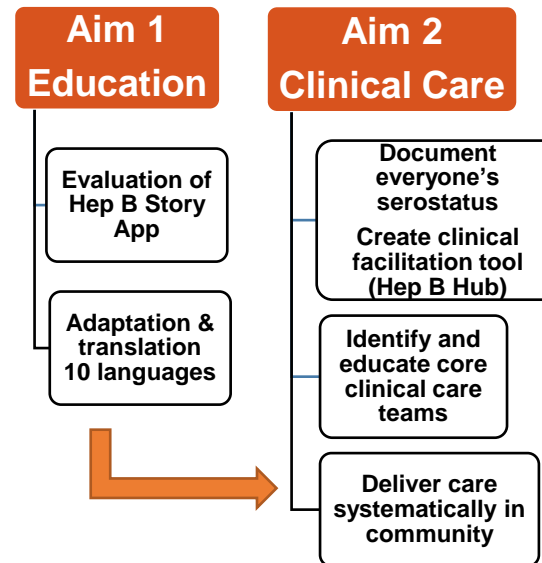
We are happy to announce our success in securing a Commonwealth grant with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress), The Doherty Institute and ASHM to improve the hepatitis B cascade of care in Central Australia. As the largest community-controlled health organisation in the Northern Territory (NT) we look forward to working with Congress to carry out Hep B PAST activities. We are currently recruiting for a RN/AHP CQI Facilitator for this role, you can check out the job description [here](#)

Lastly, the Menzies Viral Hepatitis is sad to announce the postponement of the Hepatitis B Colloquium, originally scheduled for Friday August 20, 2021. Given the current COVID19 situation, and the significant number of interstate-based speakers who were set to present in Darwin, the team has made the decision to postpone the Colloquium until 2022. Please save the date for Friday August 12, 2022.

Wishing you all the very best,

The Hep B PAST Team

### Project Goals & Progress



Progress against National Strategy Targets, July 2021

	Diagnosed	Engaged in care	On Treatment
2022 National Strategy Targets	80%	50%	20%
NT 2018	61%	28%	7%
Hep B PAST partners 2021	86%	56%	19%

## Issue 2 July 2021

### In this issue:

- Serocoding update
- Education update
- Hep B Story App Update
- Conferences & Other



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## Serocoding and continuous quality improvement

The project has analysed and allocated hepatitis B serocodes for all Top End Health Service (TEHS) Central Australia Health Service (CAHS), Miwatj and Katherine West Health Board (KWHB) clinics, covering just over 30,000 Aboriginal clients. With these codes successfully allocated the project is now supporting clinics to successfully transition hepatitis B care and management to primary health as part of their core business. Through regular CQI cycles, the project works with clinic staff and CQI coordinators to identify those that remain vulnerable, priority follow ups for

vaccination and management, and those that have sufficient data for a serocode to be allocated. This has facilitated significant gains in guideline-based hepatitis B management and care. The next phase of the project, establishing core clinical care groups, will support the maintenance of this gold-standard care. [Dr Cat Gargan](#) and [Mikaela Mobsby](#) will be working with Top End clinics and [Dr Katherine McNamara](#) will be working Central Australia clinics. They can be contacted for your region's most up to date data.

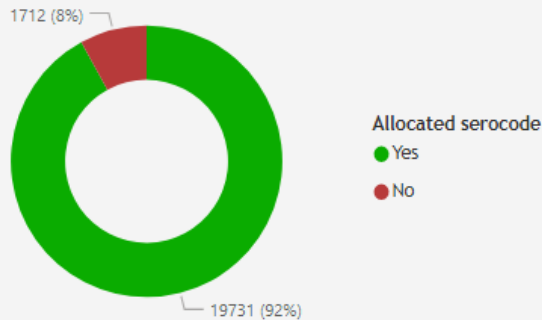
Data, June 2021	Population (Indigenous)	Allocated serocode*	Hep B infected	Engaged in care**	On treatment
<b>TEHS &amp; CAHS</b>	<b>21,442</b>	<b>19,731</b> (92%)	<b>443</b> (2%)	<b>263</b> (59%)	<b>84</b> (19%)
<b>Miwatj</b>	<b>7433</b>	<b>6037</b> (81%)	<b>321</b> (4%)	<b>160</b> (48%)	<b>63</b> (20%)
<b>KWHB</b>	<b>2186</b>	<b>1863</b> (85%)	<b>34</b> (2%)	<b>27</b> (79%)	<b>8</b> (24%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,061</b>	<b>27,631</b> (86%)	<b>798</b> (2.6%)	<b>450</b> (56%)	<b>155</b> (19%)

\* Hepatitis B Serocodes:  
 HepB: Fully Vaccinated; HepB: Immune by Exposure  
 HepB: Non-Immune; Hep B: Infected on Treatment;  
 Hep B: Infected not on Treatment; No data  
 \*\* HBV DNA (viral load) in preceding 15 months

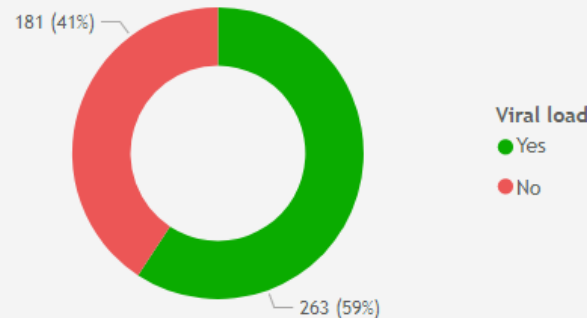
Left:  
 Summary of serocoding for Hep B PAST Partners

Below:  
 Summary of Top End Health Service and Central Australia Health Service serocoding data

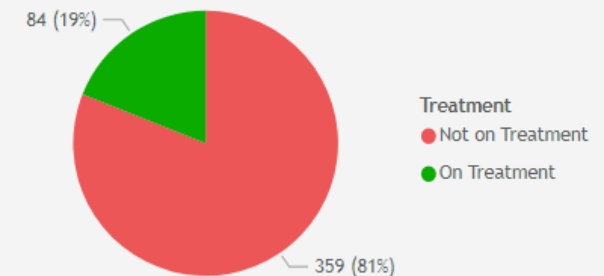
Serocode recorded on problem list (national target 80%)



Living with CHB had viral load in last 15 months (national target 50%)



On treatment (national target 20%)



## Strengthening the health care workforce

Throughout 2020-21 the project has delivered two additional Hepatitis B s100 prescriber courses (Darwin and Alice Springs) and two Managing Hepatitis B for Aboriginal Health Workforce courses (Darwin and Alice Springs), which is now NAATSIHWP accredited for 22 CPD hours.

Courses (2019-2021)	Health staff	Total trained (since 2019)
5	GPs, RMPs, registrars, physicians	86
5	Nurses, RANs, nurse practitioners	41
7	Aboriginal health workforce	124

Hepatitis B courses for nurses, GPs, and the Aboriginal workforce will take place in November. To register your interest or for access to additional hepatitis B resources, please get in touch with [Emily](#)

**Throughout 2021 the Hep B PAST team has been invited to speak and advise at various symposiums, meetings, and conferences:**

- Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections, May 2021
- First Nations Languages and Health Communication Symposium, Darwin, May 2021
- Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference, Sydney, June 2021.

Menzies Hep B PAST team Jane Davies, Kelly Hosking, Paula Binks and Emily Vintour-Cesar presented in Sydney with George Gurruwiwi (Galiwin'ku, community-based researcher), Teresa De Santis (Aboriginal health practitioner coordinator), Phillip Wilson (Aboriginal health practitioner, Nauiyu) and Amanda Dhagapan & Terese Ngurruwuthun (Aboriginal health practitioners, Gapuwiyak) on the evaluation of the Hep B Story App and the development of culturally safe education for the Aboriginal health workforce.



Above: Managing Hepatitis B for Aboriginal Health Workforce training, Darwin Nov 2020

Below: Menzies Hep B PAST presenting in Sydney for VH2021

Right: George and Rosemary working on the Burarra translation of the Hep B Story app



## Hep B Story App Progress

With many languages now nearing the end of the translation, back translation, recording, community consult process, we are looking forward to launching new languages of the Hep B Story App in the coming months. A big thanks to our many translators, back translators, voice-overs, community members and Dreamedia who have been vital in this process. Stay tuned for the launch event!



Yolngu matha	<b>Complete – ready for community consult</b>
Kunwinjku	<b>Ready for launch</b>
Tiwi	<b>Final checks</b>
Arrernte	<b>Recording complete</b>
Warlpiri	<b>Ready for launch</b>
Pitjantjatjara	<b>Ready for launch</b>
Murrinh-Patha	<b>Back translation</b>
Burarra	<b>Complete – ready for community consult</b>
Anindilyakwa	<b>Complete – ready for community consult</b>
Kriol	<b>Recording in progress</b>
Gurindji	<b>Translation in process</b>