

QuIHN Hepatitis C Prison Transition Service

Linking people between prison and community services for ongoing treatment and support



The Prison Transition Service (PTS) is a vital link between Queensland Prison Health and community services. It ensures people who live with hepatitis C, and who transition in and out of prison, remain engaged through the hepatitis C care cascade.

Outcomes

600 people were referred to the PTS from 13 Correctional Centres across Queensland

33% of referred clients required linkage to hepatitis C testing.

20% of clients had not commenced treatment on referral.

9% of clients had received a DAA script and not started treatment.

67% of referred clients had tested hepatitis C RNA positive, and required linkage to appropriate care, including support accessing a direct-acting antiviral (DAA) script, support during treatment, and support accessing a sustained virologic response (SVR) test for cure.

7% of clients were on DAA treatment.

15% of clients had completed treatment and needed an SVR test in the community.

77 clients were referred to QuIHN's Treatment Management program.



27 clients received medications from PTS after being released without hepatitis C treatment medications.



Regular in-reach education sessions were conducted for people in prison including at induction, in a group setting and one-on-one, and ensured the PTS staff were known to people in prison.



Five testing blitz events using point-of-care testing were conducted in partnership with Queensland Corrective Services to increase access to hepatitis C testing.



The in-reach hepatitis C service streamlined the referral pathway for prisoners with hepatitis C.



Success Factors

✓ **Strong partnership** between Queensland Prison Health and community services enabled streamlined referral pathways.

✓ **Professional, ongoing and reliable support** by the PTS worker resulted in increased client trust.

✓ **Increased awareness of hepatitis C testing and treatment** options among Queensland Correctional Services clients and staff contributed to positive engagement with the PTS program.

✓ **Consistent presence inside prisons** builds strong relationships with both stakeholders and clients.

Future Initiative



The successful service aims to expand across Queensland to boost testing and treatment and contribute to hepatitis C elimination in the state.

An EC Australia project
Learn more burnet.edu.au/ec-australia



Supported by

