

Nurse–Peer Partnership



An innovative partnership approach enabling access to hepatitis C treatment in a remote setting without visiting the hospital



Our nurse–peer partnership outreach team successfully established a holistic patient-centred clinical service offering out-of-hospital management of hepatitis C. This was focused around a weekly community-based clinic, supplemented by tailored case management, peer engagement strategies, outreach to general practice, corrections and pharmacies, and satellite needle syringe programs.

Sustained funding is required to maintain and build on the trusted relationships and successful outcomes, and to continue our work to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030.

Success Factors

-  Continued trusted relationships on all levels (between services, nurse–peer teams and with clients) are crucial to the success of this model.
-  Referral sources diversified over the project through client and provider word-of-mouth as well as formal channels, and local and national media campaigns.

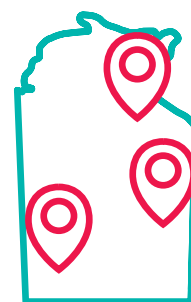


Images: The dynamic duo of Angie and Sal combine to create the nurse-peer partnership.

Achievements



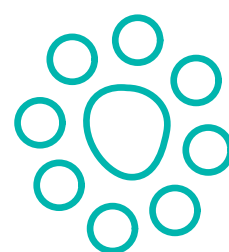
The nurse–peer partnership **enabled 159 people** to access hepatitis C care outside the hospital.



65 outreach clinics were held between June 2021 and October 2022.



32% of people assisted by the service were hepatitis C positive.



30% identified as Australian First Nations people.



61% of those found to be hepatitis C positive commenced treatment.







41% achieved a cure.



10% remain on treatment.

Learnings

-  The nurse–peer partnership model works.
-  A consistent, mutually respectful nurse–peer working relationship led to the removal of barriers that enabled holistic care to be provided in a safe environment.
-  Key to the partnership are flexible approaches, access to integrated clinical data from primary and tertiary care, and direct access to specialist services, if required.
-  Financial incentives were highly effective in engaging clients throughout the cascade of care contributing to successful treatment.

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