

Cairns Hep C Free


Increasing testing and treatment outreach through incentives and support





In this project, we used incentives to engage meaningfully with and provide practice support to people who inject drugs.


Community members got behind the project, coming to Cairns Sexual Health Service for testing and treatment after seeing us around the city in our outreach spots and encouraging their mates to get tested and treated.

Success Factors

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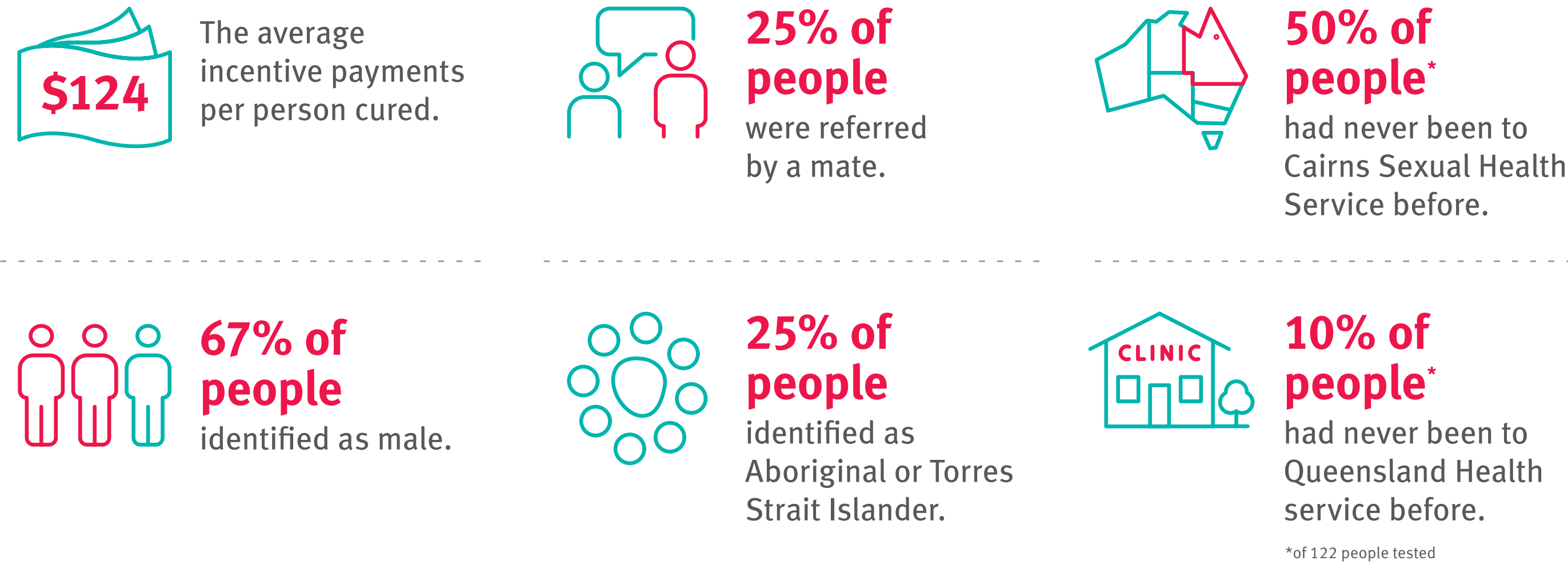
Cash for getting a hep C test and getting treated
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Medication co-payment (free hep C treatment)
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Cash for bringing in a mate
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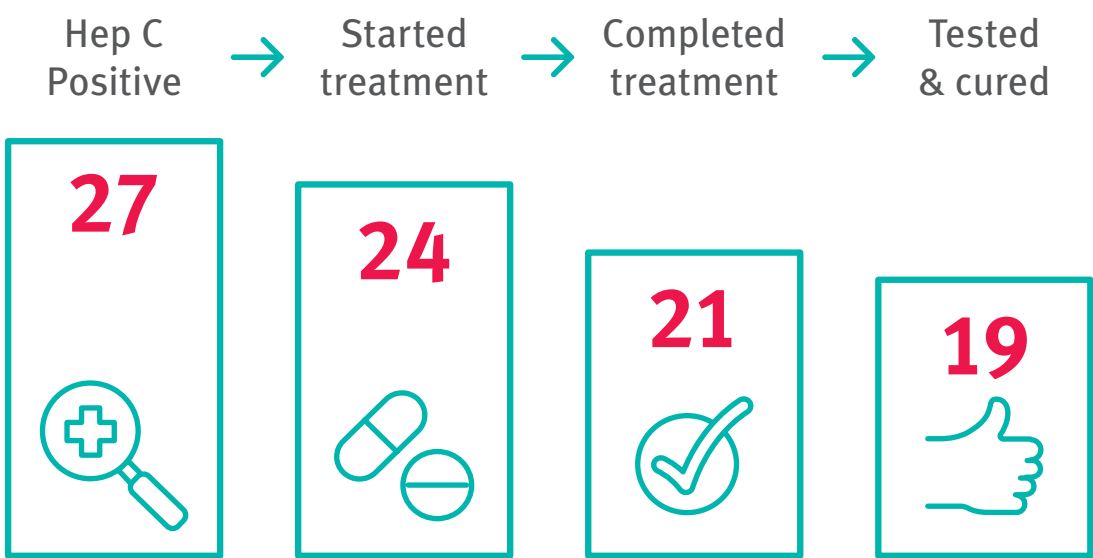
Pharmacy liaison (no need for the client to get the script filled)

Achievements



High retention in hepatitis C care

- Of the 122 people tested, 27 were hepatitis C positive.
- Of the 27 people with hepatitis C, 21 completed treatment, and 19 came back for their final blood test and were cured.



Learnings

- ✓ People appreciated help with transport and food costs when taking the time to come and see us by bus, on foot, or from further afield by car.
- ✓ It was important to keep supporting and communicating with people through text messages and in person.
- ✓ Many people hadn't seen a doctor in a very long time.
- ✓ Building strong relationships with people leads to better health outcomes.



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