

An Aboriginal community resource “Yarnin; about hep B”

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Background/Approach: Whilst there are several hepatitis B resources available, they are largely targeted to health professionals, there were no NSW Aboriginal community focused print resources.

Hepatitis NSW (HNSW) had previously produced a popular NSW Aboriginal community focused hepatitis C resource, *Yarnin’ about Hep C*; and recognised the need for a hepatitis B companion to that resource.

Analysis/Argument: Despite universal hepatitis B vaccination in Australia HBsAg prevalence remains four times higher among Indigenous Australians compared with non-Indigenous people.

It is well recognised and important that health promotion tools are developed in consultation with Aboriginal people given the gap in health outcomes compared to other Australians.

Outcome/Results: Consultations were held by the HNSW Aboriginal Project Officer with Aboriginal community and sector workforce, which focused on resource content, dimensions, format, wording, artwork, and storytelling.

Artwork was commissioned from the Aboriginal artist responsible for the *Yarnin’ about Hep C* booklet to create visual relationships and identity for these companion resources.

A draft was reviewed by Aboriginal workers and BBV sector staff, along with the HNSW Medical and Research Advisory Panel, for content relevance, accuracy, accessibility, cultural appropriateness, and appeal.

Further consultations followed between HNSW, the Aboriginal community and sector workforce to ensure the final product met community and service’s needs.

Conclusions/Applications: The *Yarnin’ about hep B* resource is an accessible, culturally appropriate, and relevant resource for Aboriginal people in NSW. It acts as a tool for engagement within ACCHS settings and within community engagement activities to inform and prompt action on hepatitis B for this priority population. It is available to order free from the HNSW website. It will also be available to Aboriginal people at events throughout NSW and will be included in the NSW prison information packs distributed by HNSW Infoline.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

HNSW is primarily funded by the NSW Ministry of Health.