

AN AUSTRALIAN MODEL TO ERADICATE HEP C BY 2030

SCALING-UP FOR HEP C ELIMINATION



Lessons From A Successful Partnership
between An HIV & Homelessness Nursing
Program &
An HIV/AIDS Service Organization
in Melbourne, Australia



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Summary

Integrating HCV care into a Partnership between an HIV & Homelessness Nursing Program & an HIV/AIDS Service Organization (ASO) is a practical initiative to scale-up the response to eliminate HCV as a major public health threat by 2030.

Background

Amongst people living with HIV (PLHIV), HCV is almost eliminated in Australia.

Gaps: people experiencing homelessness; who inject drugs (PWID); indigenous communities, prisoners, some gay/bisexual men.

The HIV sector is well-organized, with Partnership models optimizing care linkages, health promotion, harm minimization and can readily adapt

Effectiveness

This Partnership model offers coordinated pathways to holistic healthcare, seamless access, health interventions for PWID, and continuity, optimizing retention in care for those most marginalized
Of a sample of 51 PLHIV, 15 had HCV. All were successfully linked to care. They received weekly or daily nursing visits if needed, for adherence support and coordinated healthcare

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Model of Care

A **formal partnership** between:

- HIV Nursing Program &
- Community-based HIV/AIDS Service

⇒ providing **integrated services** for PLHIV, ~30% of whom have HCV, within a **social model** of health.

Services

- HIV/HPP nursing, 24-hour support, nursing outreach
- Sexual health, blood borne virus clinic
- Needle/syringe programs
- Alcohol/other drug services
- Rapid testing
- Peer + volunteer support
- Legal support
- Housing services
- Financial assistance
- Carer/worker education
- Structural advocacy



Conclusions

This Partnership represents a blueprint to engage priority populations in education and awareness of HCV through **integrated services**.

The model could readily incorporate HCV care for all, not only PLHIV, utilizing existing networks. Stronger Partnerships with the HCV sector will **enhance this response**. The future inclusion of Nurse Practitioners will enable collaborative expansion to test, treat and cure HCV especially for those who experience barriers to healthcare.



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