

HEPATITIS B ADULT MIGRANT EDUCATION; MOVING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE SPACE

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Background: Engaging culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in an evolving information space requires a dynamic approach. The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is a government sponsored program that offers education and skills to eligible migrant populations. It's in this space that we may integrate health literacy surrounding hepatitis B into the flexible curriculum of the AMEP and online, increasing the longevity and impact of our programs.

Analysis: Mobilising adult migrant populations to readily access health care services is challenging. Widely documented evidence highlights these challenges. Despite the success of universal childhood hepatitis B childhood immunisation, adult migrants are still a vulnerable population, often unaware of their status and/or lacking appropriate immunisation coverage. Our project targets this issue, whilst addressing barriers and improving collaboration across health and education sectors while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

Outcomes: We utilised peer-reviewed resources created by Hepatitis Queensland and delivered over 50 sessions to approx. 1,500 students at multiple AMEP campuses. The cost-effective savings enabled us to incorporate interpreters where required and develop an online portal for the resource with audio-files translated into 9 priority languages. Consultation with AMEP educators highlighted the need for varying resources, including audio as many students are not literate in their own language but have suitable means to access online translations. Primary barriers encountered included restructuring of curriculum and addressing dated misconceptions held by staff.

Conclusion: There is a potential to embed health literacy into adult migrant English programs and consequently mobilise communities towards hepatitis B testing and treatment in a sustainable manner. Additionally, educator engagement can strengthen the delivery of future programs.