

## **Supporting the development of effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks in community organisation settings; learnings from an Australian hepatitis C elimination program.**

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**Background:** The Eliminate C Australia (ECA) partnership funded community organisations to implement innovative hepatitis C virus (HCV) programs in priority settings. High-quality evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of community-based HCV programs on testing and treatment uptake is needed, but often stymied by limited monitoring and evaluation capacity within organisations. We outline strategies to support community organisations to evaluate their models of care and contribute to the evidence base for HCV elimination.

**Methods:** The ECA partnership provided funding to 12 community organisations across Australia to implement HCV models of care, and supported them to monitor and evaluate these programs. Through this partnership, ECA embedded staff, shared resources, and worked collaboratively with organisations to develop tailored program logics and evaluation plans, which were reviewed and refined over the life-cycle of programs. Technical support was available at no-cost, and included evaluation theory and skills training, support with formal reporting, dissemination of evidence, and the development of funding applications.

**Outcome/Results:** Between 2019–2022, ECA has provided \$2m in funding to 12 community-based programs across five Australian jurisdictions. Funded models of care included workforce development, nurse outreach, peer support and incentive programs. Organisations were enthusiastic about applying robust monitoring and evaluation strategies, and remained highly engaged throughout the implementation of their models of care. All 12 programs successfully implemented and reported against their program logic and evaluation frameworks. Organisations reported sustained improvements in their organisational monitoring and evaluation capacity.

**Conclusions/Applications:** We demonstrated that research organisations can support community organisations to develop and implement high-quality monitoring and evaluation frameworks. With a collaborative approach, ECA strengthened the monitoring and evaluation capacity within community organisations, embedding processes to generate high-quality evidence of program effectiveness. Future large-scale HCV elimination programs which fund community organisations should employ a collaborative, partnership approach to building evaluation capacity to ensure robust evidence is generated.

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