

HEPATITISVICTORIA

Yarning about hep B

- an awareness and educational program for Victoria Aboriginal communities

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Hep B - the facts

- An estimated 30,000 Aboriginal Australians living with chronic hepatitis B
 - o 16% of people in Australia with chronic hep B, (however 2.5% of the Australian population)
- 90% of hep B infections in the Aboriginal community in 20+ age group
- 30 39 age group highest rate of hep B acquisition



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Hepatitis B in Aboriginal communities

- · DoH Victoria notification data indicates
 - newly acquired hep B rates 5 x times higher in Aboriginal communities
- · Community consultation indicates lack of knowledge and awareness of hep B amongst
 - community members
 - health workers



Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in Victoria

- · VACCHO is the peak body representing 27 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) in Victoria, that were set up to service their local Aboriginal Community needs
- The role of VACCHO is to build the capacity of its membership and to advocate for issues on their hehalf



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Hepatitis Victoria





- Hepatitis Victoria is the peak not-forprofit community organisation working across the state for people affected by or at risk of viral hepatitis
- Hepatitis Victoria works to:
 - lead and coordinate the Victorian community response to viral hepatitis
 - raise community awareness and prevent transmission of viral hepatitis
 - · increase access and referral to quality viral hepatitis information, care, treatment and support
 - work with priority populations: ATSI, custodial, young people



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The Project Aim

- · A partnership to raise awareness about hep B in the Victorian Aboriginal community
 - · for community members
 - · for Health & Community Workers
 - development of culturally appropriate information resource
 - provision of education programs/forums for ACCHO workers in key locations



The process

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- Establishment of a representative Project Steering Committee
 - · Hepatitis Victoria
 - VACCHO
 - VAHS
 - Aboriginal community members
- Development of appropriate general awareness messages around hepatitis B
- Development of a series of concept designs

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The process

· Focus testing of key messages resulting in:

- Hep B it's everyone's business
 - B active
 - B tested
 - B vaccinated
 - ➤ B well
- · Focus testing of designs resulting in:

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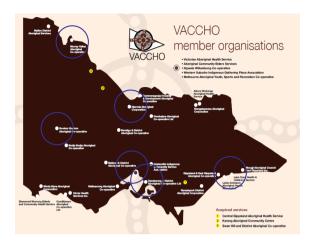


BEVERYONE BEUSINESS

Awareness workshops

- Part 2 six hepatitis B Awareness Forums
- Aimed at health and community workers from Aboriginal Health Services; community members also welcome to attend
- Held in key locations within the VACCHO member network
 - Robinvale
 - Lakes Entrance
 - Horsham
 - Echuca
 - Melbourne (VAHS)
 - Dandenong

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Awareness workshops

- Partnership approach
 - Hep Vic, VACCHO, VAHS
- The content
 - · the facts
 - testing, vaccination and treatment
 - clinical strategies
 - screening and recall systems including proformas for assessment and recall

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Learnings from the project

- 5,000 brochures (and posters) distributed to community members and health professionals
- •The benefit of partnership
 - · technical accuracy
 - cultural appropriateness
 - community access
- Knowledge raised = action taken with clients
- Unknown whether changes in clinical practice or audit of health service files – follow up required

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- VACCHO member organisations
- Aboriginal Community members

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