

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) Hepatitis C Project



Working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in Western Australia to build hepatitis C capacity

AHCWA worked with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) to increase awareness of and enthusiasm around hepatitis C testing, diagnosis, and management. Our project used clinical audits and the ‘Birds and BBV’s’ tailored education program and resources. We also advocated for the uptake of harm minimisation strategies.



Image: Perth Birds and BBV’s training was delivered to 19 Aboriginal healthcare workers, practitioners, liaison and youth workers and mentors.

Outcomes



16 **Birds and BBV** two-day training sessions and 3 ‘Bites’ sessions were delivered between 2020 and 2022, in partnership with Hepatitis WA.

6 **ACCHS** including remote sites, participated in clinical audits.

3 **ACCHS** demonstrated improvements in hepatitis C testing.

Hepatitis C notebooks and screensavers were distributed to all ACCHS each year, with new resources including a ‘When to Test for Hepatitis C’ infographic.

Ramped up advocacy around hepatitis C finger prick testing and Needle Syringe Programs (NSP).



Learnings



We must adapt our strategy, not just the way our activities are delivered.



Positive results around clinical audits **should always be highlighted** over downfalls.



To keep a high profile of hepatitis C testing and treatment during the pandemic, **clinicians need to be regularly reminded** to embed hepatitis C management into their regular service delivery.



The uptake of **harm minimisation strategies** at ACCHS is paramount to ensure hepatitis C infections can be addressed in Aboriginal people.

Sustaining the Initiative

- Release of **NSP and Hepatitis C Finger Prick Testing Fact Sheets** for ACCHS staff.
- Continued advocacy** for NSP services at ACCHS.
- Comprehensive support** to improve hepatitis C diagnosis rates, recalls and medication adherence support through ACCHS.

An EC Australia project
Learn more burnet.edu.au/ec-australia

