

# HEPATITIS

A B C D E F G

hepatitis  
australia

THERE ARE 10,000 NEW HEPATITIS C  
INFECTIONS IN AUSTRALIA EVERY YEAR.

LEARN THE FACTS

## New poll shows Australians confused on hepatitis C

A new poll released for Hepatitis Awareness Week shows many Australians lack even a basic understanding of hepatitis C virus despite it now being the leading cause of liver transplants in Australia.

"The results of this poll demonstrate a shocking level of confusion and ignorance about hepatitis C in our community. We can't hope to curb the hepatitis C epidemic unless Australians learn the facts around simple things like hepatitis C risk factors and treatment options" says Helen Tyrrell, CEO for Hepatitis Australia.

The poll which surveyed 1100 people across Australia<sup>1</sup>, found:

**42% of Australians have no idea how hepatitis C affects the body. Worryingly this figure rises to 58% for young people.**

*The hepatitis C virus attacks the liver and is spread via blood-to-blood contact. Left untreated it often results in debilitating symptoms and can cause liver failure and liver cancer in a small but significant number of people.*

**Australians also have little knowledge of the treatment of hepatitis C with only 12% of people aware that hepatitis C can be cured.**

*Thanks to current therapies between 50 and 80 per cent of people living with hepatitis C can be cured, depending on the particular strain of the virus. However only 1-2% of those eligible for treatment are actually seeking treatment.*

**Only 5% of Australian adults comprehend that over a quarter of a million Australians have been exposed to the virus.**

*Its estimated 264,000 people across Australia have been exposed to the hepatitis C virus, with an estimated 9,700 new infections occurring every year.*

National Hepatitis Awareness week runs October 1 to 7 with educational events and awareness raising activities taking place across Australia. For more information see [www.hepatitisaustralia.com](http://www.hepatitisaustralia.com). The national infoline 1300 437 222 diverts calls to the local information and support lines.

### Media Inquiries

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<sup>1</sup> The Perceptions of Hepatitis C poll was funded by Schering-Plough and conducted through an independent research company to investigate community understanding of hepatitis C transmission, prevalence and treatment. The poll was conducted with a random sample of 1,100 people across Australia, weighted according to ABS statistics