

## Building relationships, making allies and lighting a few fires

Presentation for the Hepatitis C and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Communities Workshop  
June 2007

Presenter: Bill Jang      Manager/Educator

Hepatitis C Trust, Te Waiapounamu  
Christchurch, South Island-New Zealand

### Main Aims of the Hepatitis C Resource Centre

- To raise the awareness of hepatitis C within the general population.
- To prevent the incidence of transmission within the community
- To increase the knowledge and understanding of hepatitis C amongst those affected or potentially infected with hepatitis C.
- To produce and distribute relevant and appropriate information about hepatitis C.
- To assist in the establishment of Hepatitis C Support Groups throughout the South Island.
- To provide appropriate and timely education to all sectors, including health professionals and allied community service providers.
- To provide a responsive hepatitis C information service.
- To develop a workforce that is adequately trained to provide services throughout the South Island.
- To ensure organisation sustainability and develop its capacity to grow.
- To develop a service that is responsive to the needs and the cultural safety of Maori and other ethnic populations accessing the Centre.

## Modeling estimates of HCV burden in New Zealand

- In the year 2000:
  - 25,200 people HCV antibody positive
  - 1% adult pop. >20 yrs. 7% total population
  - 25 new infections each week
  - 1200 HCV-related cirrhosis
  - 14 incident cases of HCC    21 incident cases of HCV-related liver failure
- ❖ By 2010:
  - 50% increase in people with HCV antibodies
  - 1,930 HCV-related cirrhosis
  - 24 case HCV-related

Reference: Estimate of incidence and prevalence of hepatitis C in N.Z. ESR 2000

## Indicators of Drugs Use in Canterbury

- 100 visits a day at dedicated exchange
- 45,000 syringes distributed a month [including pharmacies]
- 18 outlets region wide
- Significant issue for public & personal health
- Evidence now supports early treatment for HCV but most of those infected do not present to Primary care

## Aims of the Primary Health Strategy

- Better health for all
- Reduced health inequalities
- More emphasis on population health
- Better access to primary health care services
- Co-ordination, continuity, collaboration
- Community participation
- Primary health care fully involved in health system

## Population figures for South Island by ethnicity

■ European	737016
■ Maori	73233
■ Pacific Island	17499
■ Asian	40716
■ Other	5310
■ Total	873774

❖ Census figures 2006



## He Oranga Pounamu

- **Maori Development Organisation (MDO)**
- **Mandated by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu**
- **Established June 2000**
- **Kaupapa to advance the Maori health and social services sector for all Maori in Ngai Tahu rohe**

## Affiliated Providers

- **30 affiliated Maori for Maori provider organisations**
- **Service delivery across health, social services, education, justice, employment and housing**
- **Kaikoura in the north, Bluff in the South, and across to Hokitika and Reefton in Te Tai Poutini**
- **Some structures are runaka based or mandated while others are Maori/Community NGO driven**

## Aims of the project

- **To provide a continuum of care from initial testing and assessment to options for treatment (this includes pre-test and post-test counseling, explanation, interpretation of diagnostic testing and education)**
- **To reduce the harm associated with potentially risk activities, particularly associated with sharing of injecting equipment.**
- **To recognize and respond to the multiple factors that determine the health outcomes of hepatitis C, infected people including: income, level of education, cultural orientation, lifestyle and social stigma through referral and advocacy.**
- **To support the patient in monitoring and self-managing symptoms related to the infection and side effects of treatment.**
- **To encourage and enable the involvement of partners, whanau/families and others identified as playing an important role in the lives of those with hepatitis C.**
- **To promote improved coordination and liaison with primary care service to reduce barriers to access.**
- **To create a resource centre of specialised hepatitis C knowledge and expertise to share with other health professionals involved with the care of hepatitis C affected patients**
- **To improve the detection and measuring of the burden of disease in a high population dense region (Canterbury) contributing a model by which to estimate national prevalence figure. This will lend valuable data for future-cost analysis and the appropriate**