



# Spotlight on Chronic Hepatitis B: The Victorian Hepatitis B Working Group

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# Why hepatitis B?

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- Number of Australians with chronic hepatitis B
  - estimated 160,000 (130,000-190,000)
- Most common cause of chronic hepatitis B in Australia
  - Mother to child transmission in a country with high hepatitis B prevalence
- Public Health responses to hepatitis B in Australia
  - Screening of blood supply
  - Vaccination (limited impact on chronic hep B)
  - Funding of treatment (<2% uptake)
- Public Health impact of hepatitis B in Australia
  - Increase in liver cancer
  - Increase in related deaths
- Community response to hepatitis B
  - ?



## The first question:

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- In the absence of leadership or coordination at a state or federal level, how can the community sector respond to hepatitis B?

# Hepatitis B Working Group



Multicultural & Refugee Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Multicultural Health and Support Service - Manager</b></li> <li>- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre – Community Health Nurse</li> <li>- <b>Multicultural BBV-STI Working Group - Pharmacist</b></li> </ul>
Prisons	- <b>Melbourne Sexual Health Centre -Victorian Prisoner Initiative</b>
People who inject drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Harm Reduction Victoria - Manager</b></li> <li>- DoH - Harm Reduction and Pharmacotherapy Services Team, Mental Health and Drugs Division</li> </ul>
Hepatitis C Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Hepatitis C Victoria – Programs Manager</b></li> <li>- <b>DoH - Senior Policy Officer, BBV/STI Section, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit</b></li> </ul>
Cancer Prevention and Support	- Cancer Council Victoria – Manager, Community Education Programs, Cancer Education Unit
Indigenous Sector	- <b>Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation - Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit</b>
Hospital & Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>St Vincent’s Hospital - Viral Hepatitis Educator - Hepatology Nurse</b></li> <li>St Vincent’s Hospital - Consultant, Hepatitis B</li> <li>Royal Melbourne Hospital - Infectious Diseases Physician</li> <li>Victorian Infectious Diseases References Laboratory- Medical Epidemiologist</li> <li>General Practice Victoria - CALD Immunisation Consultant</li> </ul>
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ARCSHS La Trobe University - BBV Program Coordinator</b></li> <li><b>ARCSHS La Trobe University - Research Officer</b></li> </ul>
BBV/STI education	<b>HIV, Hepatitis and STI Education and Resource Centre, The Alfred Hospital - Coordinator</b>
Surveillance	DoH - Viral Hepatitis Public Health Officer, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit



## Hepatitis B Working Group - 2008

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- Identifying the issues from a 'community sector' perspective
- Letter to Director of Public Health
- Identifying information, resources and services
- HBWG work plan



## Hepatitis B Working Group: Priority Areas 2009

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**Advocacy:** ways of ensuring hepatitis B is firmly on the agenda of key decision makers

**Workforce development:** ways of building the capacity of the health and community sector to respond to hepatitis B

**Engaging Communities:** ways of reaching affected communities with appropriate information and support about hepatitis B



# Mapping hepatitis B

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- Information and resources
  - Australian, international, and multilingual
- Services – clinical
  - Including free vaccination
- Services – support
- Education and workforce development programs
- Strategic policy
- Advocacy groups and bodies



## ‘Spotlight’ Forum 2009

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- During National Hepatitis Awareness Week 2009
- Two part program
  - Part 1 - hepatitis B overview, monitoring, treatment, notifications, hepatitis B services in Victoria
  - Part 2 - changing practice, responding to gaps in services and leadership



## Outcome of Spotlight forum

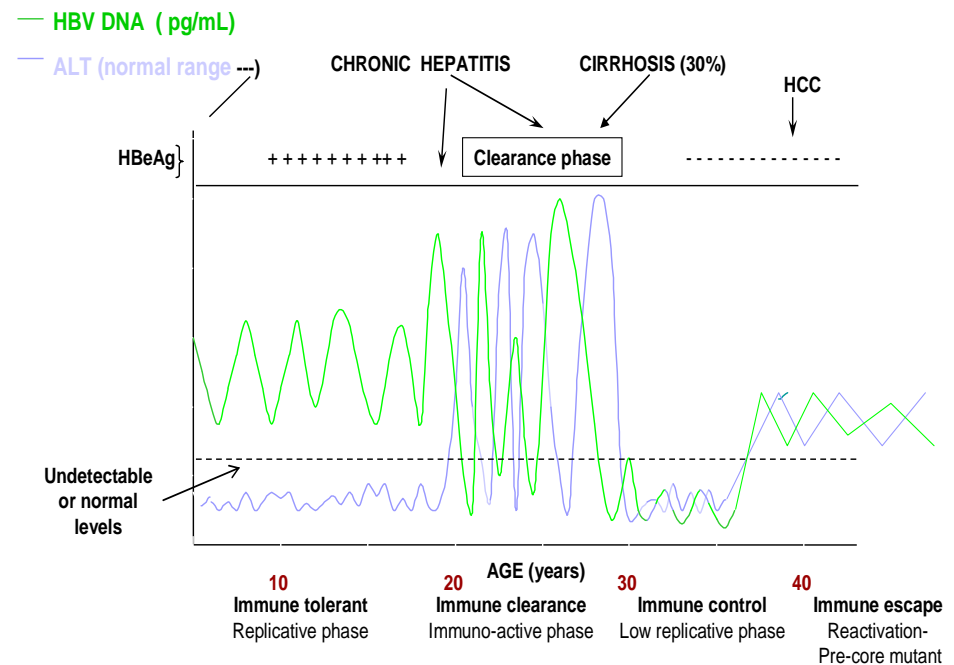
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- Attended by 50+
- Established new relationships
- Build in new ways of working with clients and communities
  - engage communities most affected by CHB and building their capacity
- Expand workforce development priorities

# Hepatitis B Basics

- anti-HBs
- HBsAg
- ?-foetoprotein
- anti-HBc
- HBeAg
- Titres
- Escape mutants
- HBV DNA

## hepatitis B natural history





## Everyday Understandings of hepatitis B

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- Finding plain language
- Demystifying clinical terms
- Building the confidence and capacity of educators within the community sector to educate about hepatitis B



# acknowledgements

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## Contact information

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