

## **Hep B free ACT: a culturally inclusive education initiative**

### **Authors:**

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### **Background/Approach:**

Hepatitis B remains a significant public health concern globally and in Australia, particularly among multicultural and First Nations populations. Hep B Free ACT is an initiative aimed at increasing awareness and vaccination uptake among these communities in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Through educational campaigns and community engagement, the project seeks to address knowledge gaps and promote preventive measures against hepatitis B transmission.

### **Analysis/Argument:**

Hepatitis ACT launched this project in 2023, collaborating with multicultural and First Nations community organisations in Canberra. Utilising focus groups and community consultations, the project developed culturally sensitive educational resources tailored to the needs of diverse communities on hep B transmission, prevention, treatment, and liver health. Engagement activities, including participation in cultural events and radio programs, have facilitated dialogue and raised awareness about hepatitis B.

### **Outcome/Results:**

The ongoing implementation of the project has demonstrated positive engagement with multicultural communities in Canberra. Educational sessions conducted across various cultural hubs have reached over 50 participants from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, awareness materials and radio appearances have garnered interest from stakeholders, leading to increased collaboration with additional community organisations.

### **Conclusions/Applications:**

Hep B Free ACT campaign in Canberra has shown promising results in community engagement and awareness-raising. To further enhance the impact, continued efforts are needed to expand vaccination clinics and educational sessions. Increased conversation and awareness about hepatitis B are crucial steps toward its elimination at national and global levels.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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