

Strength in partnership

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Background/Approach

Partnerships and stakeholder engagement are two essential elements that have contributed to the success of Hepatitis Queensland's (HQ) Hep Check, Connect and Cure Project (Hep Check).

Hep Check aims to optimise care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing Community Controlled Health Services by utilising a health-system strengthening approach and co-design methods to improve HCV screening, management and prevention.

Analysis/Argument

As a non-indigenous organisation, HQ is acutely aware of the importance of cultural sensitivity, community involvement, and the establishment of trust in addressing the unique healthcare challenges within Indigenous populations.

HQ has implemented numerous strategies to ensure the success of Hep Check:

- Inclusion of HQ's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liason Officer.
- Following cultural protocols to ensure services had time to review and consider if Hep Check fit within their organisation's direction.
- Creating meaningful connections with key staff to drive the project objectives.
- Continuous engagement utilising multiple modes of interaction.

Outcomes/Results

HQ partnered with Cherbourg Regional Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Service (CRAICCHS) and successfully delivered Hep Check in August 2023. The partnership saw the following outcomes:

- All-of-service education workshop in collaboration with ASHM.
- Community Hep C Testing Day, which saw:
 - 38 HCV Point-of-Care-Testing (PoCT) conducted
 - Patients who tested positive were treated through CRAICCHS
 - 22 FibroScans completed
 - Art and Story workshop conducted
 - Healthy lunch provided to 70 community members
 - Resources, merchandise and health pack items provided

At the time of submission, a road show-style event is in the planning phase in partnership with Darling Downs Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service, Goolburri Aboriginal Health Advancement, Goondir Health Service and Carbal Medical Services.

Conclusions/Applications

By fostering strong partnerships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, healthcare providers, and Indigenous leaders, HQ successfully

delivered Hep Check to align with the specific needs of each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Disclosure of Interest Statement

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