

# Strengthening Hepatitis C treatment services in New South Wales AOD settings

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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The NSW Ministry of Health acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of NSW and pays respect to Elders past and present.

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“Our shared ground: Pathway of healing and connection”



By Lakkari Pitt - a proud Gamilaroi Ularoi yinarr from Walgett

This artwork symbolises a healing journey that is filled with reflection, hope and renewal.

Round meeting places represent our Country and communities.

Lines throughout the artwork depict flowing water which is vital to our health and wellbeing.

Calm yellow, blue and pink colours reflect the beautiful and peaceful nature of our ancestors. Browns symbolise Country and our connection to it.

# Acknowledgement of Lived Experience

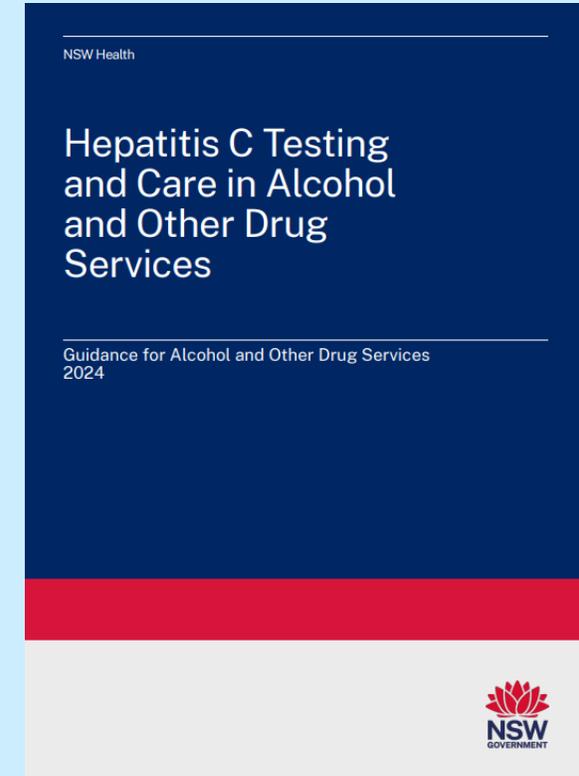
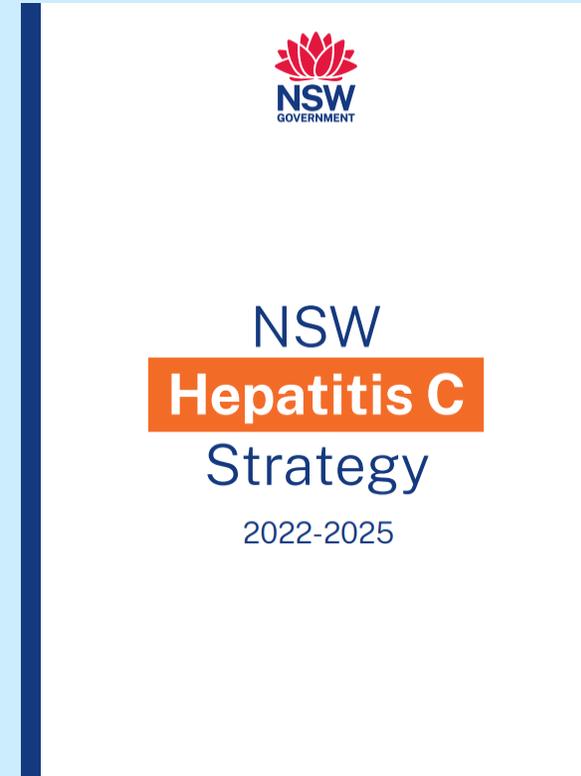


# Aim

- How hep C care is currently delivered in AOD settings
- Support hep C integration into routine, holistic care

# Methods

- Local Health District (LHD) consultation
- Hep C Guidance document
- Framework for Hep C Care
- Survey of LHD AOD services



# Key findings

Type	Role of service in HCV care	Metro LHDs	Rural & regional LHDs	Total n (%)
<b>X</b>	DBS testing not yet established	3	15	18 (23)
<b>A</b>	DBS only, refer for HCV work up bloods	6	18	24 (30)
<b>B</b>	DBS and venepuncture, LFT, no arrangement with remote prescriber	1	11	12 (15)
<b>C</b>	Conduct all HCV testing, but refer to remote or part-time prescriber	4	5	9 (12)
<b>D</b>	Conduct all HCV testing and treatment, but refer to liver clinic for surveillance	12	5	17 (21)
	Total	26	54	80 (100)

# Key findings

## Key enablers at the district level:

- Hep C Clinical Lead
- Established referral pathways
- Collaboration with health promotion units

## Improving care through:

- Nurse upskilling (venepuncture, POCT, Fibroscan)
- Liver clinic in-reach to AOD services
- District AOD service in-reach to non-government organisations (NGO) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS)
- Peer involvement
- Pharmacy engagement
- Financial incentives

# Future Directions

- Support all AOD services to offer hepatitis C Dried Blood Spot Testing as a minimum service
- Map AOD NGO and ACCHS/AMS services to identify partnership and support opportunities
- Embed new hep C testing advancements into routine care
- Use the new District Hep C Clinical Leads Forum to share best practice and support

