

NOT JUST HEP C: THE KAEWA PILOT PROJECT

Implementing Broader Health Care To People Experiencing Homelessness



New Zealand
Needle Exchange
Programme
Te Waipounamu | DISC

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1 BACKGROUND

The nurse-led Rodger Wright Community Clinic and peer-led Needle Exchange, run by The DISC Trust, provides outreach hepatitis C point-of-care (POC) testing and treatment. Recognising the need to go beyond POC testing, the clinic aimed to address wider health needs of people experiencing homelessness and/or drug use.

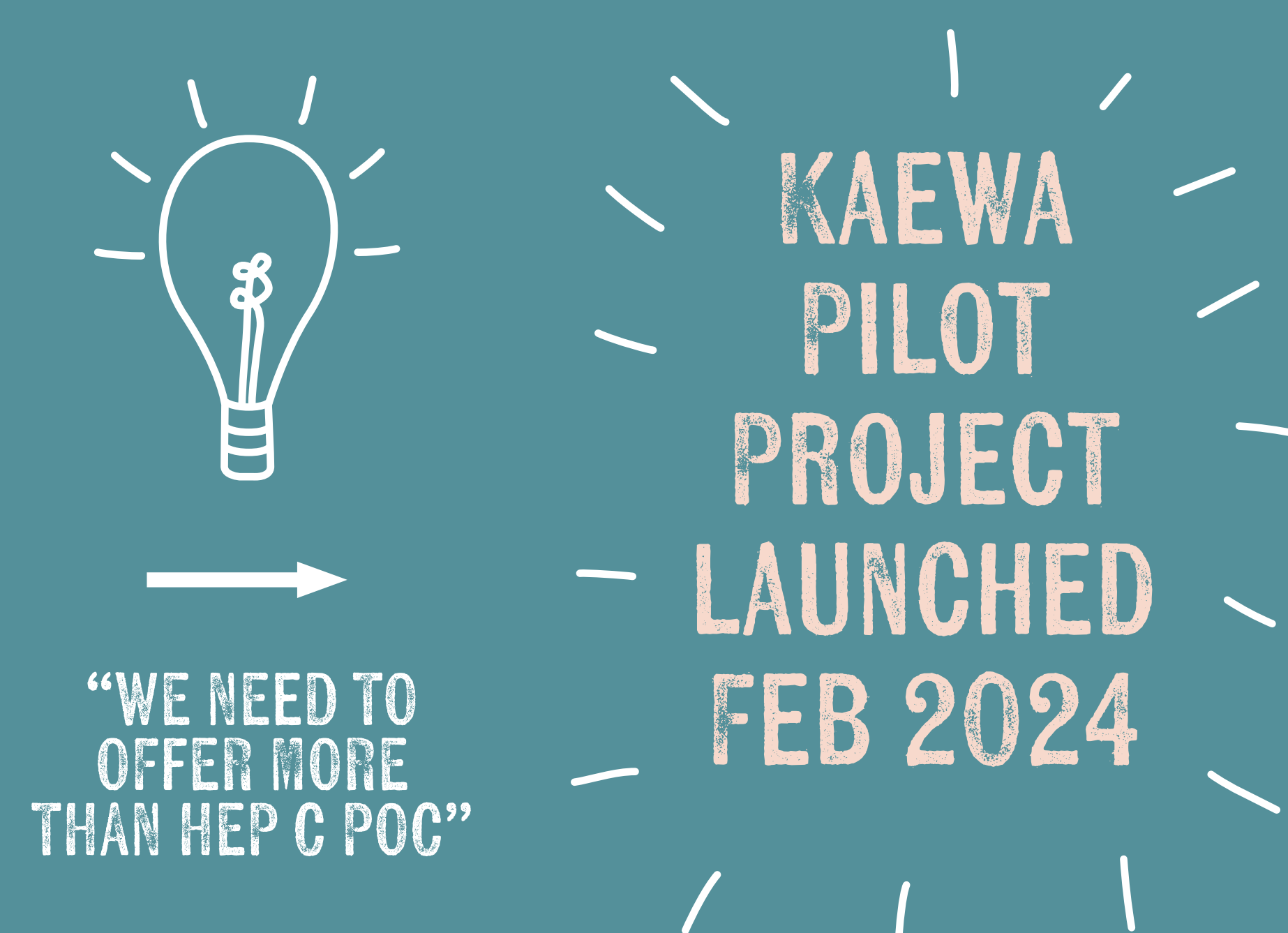
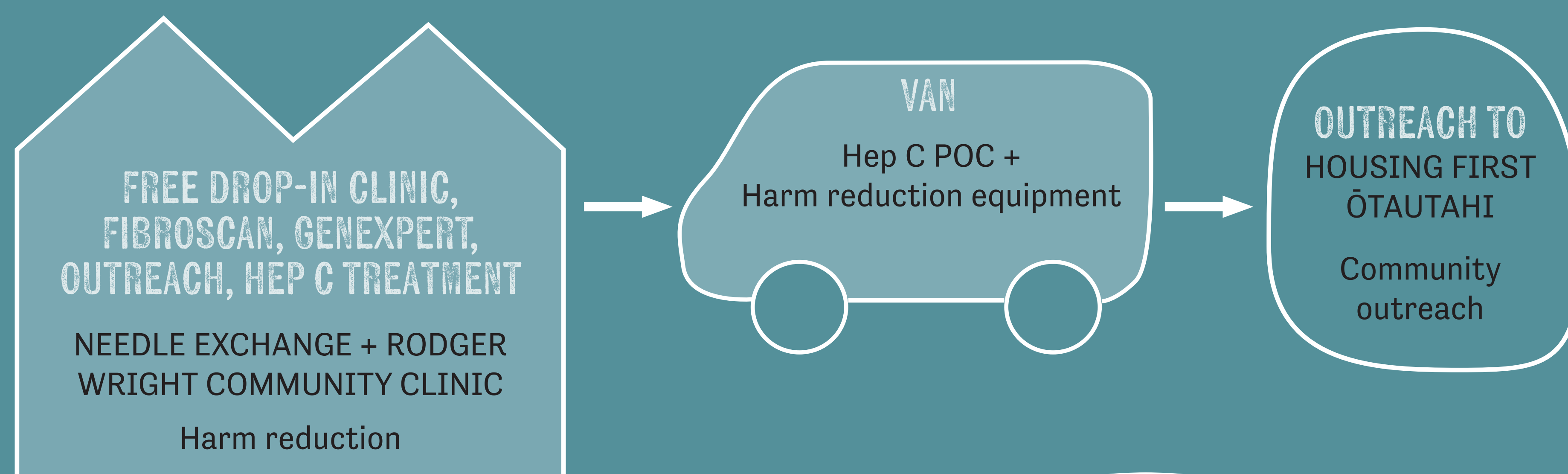
In response, the **KAWEA PILOT PROJECT** was launched in partnership with Housing First Ōtautahi, a service for kaewa (to wander, roam) experiencing chronic homelessness in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

2 WHY THE PILOT?

To demonstrate that **combining general health care with hepatitis C POC testing** can reduce barriers and improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and/or drug use who are disproportionately affected by:

- Inequitable access to health care
- Mistrust of health services
- Increased morbidity and mortality rates

3 HOW IT BEGAN



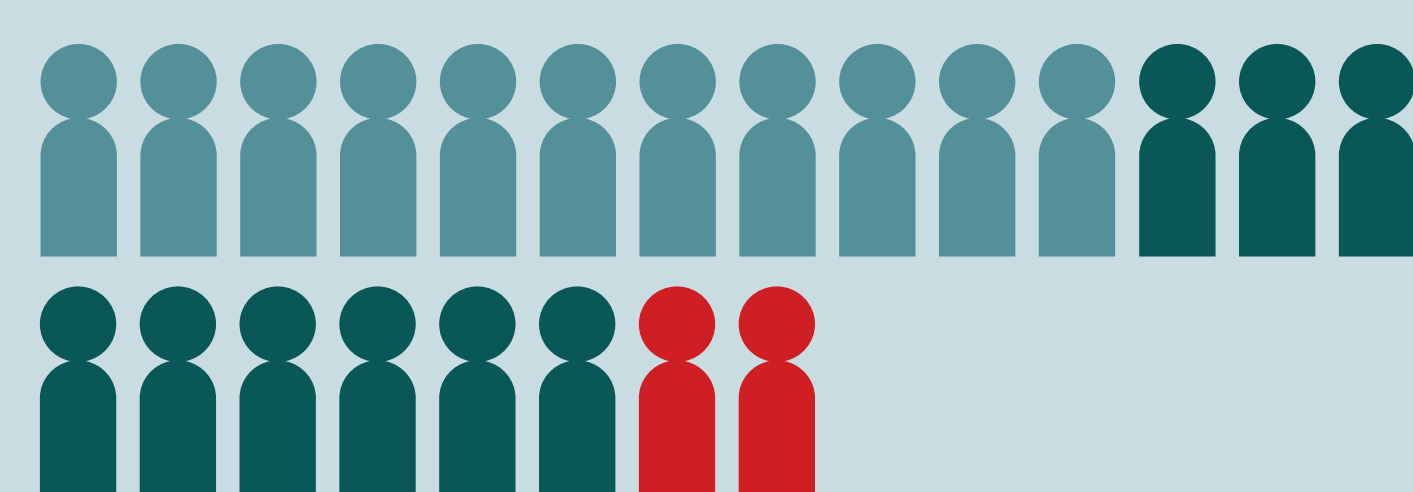
4 RESULTS AFTER 5 MONTHS

47 KAEWA SEEN

43 YEARS AVERAGE 62% MALE

72% MĀORI OR MĀORI/NZ EUROPEAN

34% PAST OR CURRENT INJECTING DRUG USE



22 POC TESTS POC POSITIVE 50%
VIRAL LOAD DETECTED 9%



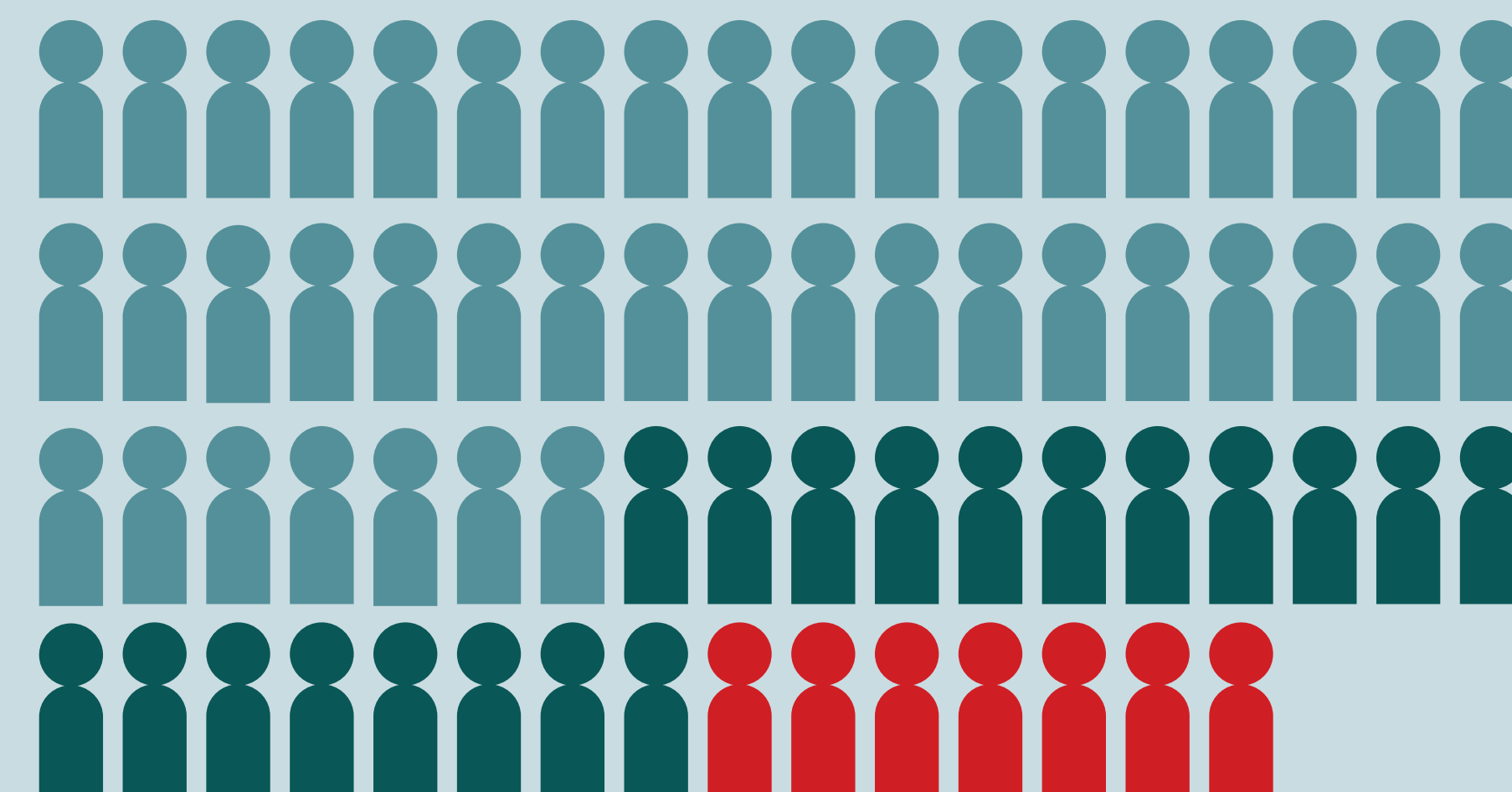
RESULTS AFTER 16 MONTHS

102 KAEWA SEEN

43 YEARS AVERAGE 69% MALE

65% MĀORI OR MĀORI/NZ EUROPEAN

42% PAST OR CURRENT INJECTING DRUG USE



69 POC TESTS POC POSITIVE 37.6%
VIRAL LOAD DETECTED 10.1%

5 SUCCESSFUL HEALTH OUTCOME EXAMPLES:

Diagnosed cirrhosis, **rectal cancer, diabetes, COPD & other health conditions.**

Re-referrals to secondary care missed appointments, **mental health & AOD referrals,**
unmanaged Hep B, contraception & sexual health.

6 OUTCOMES

- New Hep C diagnoses and quick access to treatment
- Chronic health conditions diagnosed (otherwise missed)
- Linkage to primary and secondary care
- Re-engagement with health care
- >55% kaewa engage on regular basis

7 KEY MESSAGES

- Offer Hep C POC + general health care
- Flexible models of care with peer support
- Outreach into the community
- Develop trust & return regularly
- Collaborative partnerships