

## **NOT ON TARGET FOR ELIMINATION: AUSTRALIA WON'T MEET THE HEPATITIS B TARGETS by 2030.**

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**Background:** Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) is a significant public health burden and is now the most prevalent chronic blood-borne viral infection in Australia. Australia has endorsed the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis 2016 – 2021<sup>1</sup>, which calls for the elimination of hepatitis B as a public health threat by 2030. Global targets for 2030 include 90% of people living with hepatitis B diagnosed, 80% of eligible persons with CHB treated and a 65% reduction in hepatitis B related deaths compared to 2015.

**Methods:** We developed a mathematical model incorporating population projections and the impact of overseas vaccination to provide national and state/territory estimates for the current and future burden of CHB in Australia. The model provides estimates of the number of people living with CHB, the proportion diagnosed, the proportion receiving treatment and attributable mortality.

**Results:** In 2030 an estimated 240,321 people will be living with CHB in Australia. An estimated 75% of people living with CHB in Australia will be diagnosed by 2030. The proportion diagnosed varies considerably between states and territories, with some on track to meet the 2030 targets and others not. If treatment uptake trends continue an estimated 13% of people living with CHB will be receiving treatment in 2030.

The number of deaths attributable to CHB in 2030 is estimated to be 433, which only equates to a 16.6% reduction since 2015.

**Conclusions:** If current trends for diagnosis and treatment of CHB continue, Australia WILL NOT reach the WHO's 2030 targets. It is imperative that initiatives aimed at increasing access to screening, care and treatment for individuals affected are prioritised as Australia aims to reach the 2030 targets.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** None to Disclose.

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<sup>1</sup> Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, 2016–2021. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016.