

## **HepLink Targeted Outreach Grants Program: Commonwealth funding for local action to drive national impact**

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### **Background/Approach:**

HepLink is a community-led national viral hepatitis information and support service, coordinated by Hepatitis Australia and delivered in partnership with the eight state and territory community hepatitis organisations.

In 2025-26, HepLink was strengthened through the addition of a grants program designed to address unmet need in hepatitis B and C. Grants were open to the eight state and territory community hepatitis organisations to enable locally tailored responses to reach priority populations and improve linkage to care. Funded projects will yield scalable insights and resources for national benefit. Grants were critically assessed by experts in viral hepatitis.

### **Analysis/Argument:**

Investing in community hepatitis organisations to address unmet need in hepatitis B and C is an effective strategy for achieving hepatitis B and C elimination, as these organisations are uniquely positioned to identify community need and engage priority populations.

As the only Commonwealth program directly funding community hepatitis organisations to participate in the national response, HepLink provides an effective platform for coordinated, community-driven action. Learnings, tools and resources developed through funded projects will be shared and scaled nationally through the HepLink network, amplifying impact and strengthening community capacity across jurisdictions.

### **Outcome/Results:**

The first cycle of HepLink targeted outreach funded projects will be completed in June 2026. Key performance indicators include number of people engaged, number of outreach events delivered, improvements in linkage to care and community developed resources. Preliminary observations indicate strong engagement and client uptake and early identification of opportunities for scale-up.

### **Conclusions/Applications:**

Establishing a national grants program through HepLink will increase the capacity and capability of community hepatitis organisations to address unmet need in hepatitis B and C in their jurisdictions. Sharing learnings across the HepLink network will enable effective practices to be adapted nationally, enhancing quality and efficiency while advancing progress toward elimination goals.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

Hepatitis Australia receives funding from the Australian Government, through the Australian Centre for Disease Control, and grants and sponsorships from industry partners.