

HepPEd in WA – let's talk about hep C

Richardson L¹, Grimbly A¹, Sheehan Y², Armstrong M³, Smith R³.

¹ASHM, ²Kirby Institute, ³HepatitisWA.

Background

ASHM Health, in partnership with the National Prisons Hepatitis Network (NPHN), is implementing the HepPEd Program (National Prisons Hepatitis Education Program) across six prison locations in Western Australia (WA) in an Australian first.

The HepPEd program adopts a 'whole-of-prison' approach to improve hepatitis C (HCV) health literacy across the correctional centre through delivery of targeted education to three key audiences: people in prison, correctional officers and healthcare providers. By improving knowledge, attitudes and capabilities across the entire prison network, HepPEd contributes to the Sixth National Hepatitis C Strategy goal of eliminating HCV as a public health threat by 2030.

Argument

Through partnership and collaboration, ASHM is leading the HepPEd rollout in WA. HepPEd has been successfully delivered at Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison in collaboration with Hepatitis WA. Targeted education sessions were conducted with all three target audiences. Using the extensive multi-model HepPEd resources, education was delivered over the five-week implementation period.

Pre- and post-evaluation surveys were administered at the population and program levels across all three target audiences to assess participants' knowledge, confidence, and feedback on program delivery.

Implementation planning and consultation have commenced at the second project site, Wooroloo Prison Farm.

Outcome

Implementation of HepPEd at Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison was completed in February 2026. While analytical evaluation is not yet completed, early insights indicate:

- 100% of people in prison who completed education agreed or strongly agreed that people in prison should be tested, treated and retreated in prison.
- 100% of correction officers and healthcare staff were supportive or very supportive of people in prison being tested, treated and retreated in prison.

Conclusion

HepPEd implementation will continue in 2026 and early 2027 across the remaining five prison locations. Ongoing evaluation findings and participant feedback will be incorporated to further strengthen HepPEd to support progress towards eliminating HCV as a public health threat by 2030.

Disclosure statement

ASHM Health recognises the considerable contribution that industry partners make

to professional and research activities. This project is funded by the Australian Centre for Disease Control (formally the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care).