

THE EVOLUTION TO STRONG LIVER, STRONG MOB – HOW COMMUNITY CONNECTION DRIVES VIRAL HEPATITIS AWARENESS.

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Background: Hepatitis Queensland (HQ) unified our highly successful hepatitis B and hepatitis C programs, B Stronger and HepCheck Connect and Cure, to create *Strong Liver. Strong Mob (SLSM)*. SLSM uses a strength-based approach to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' awareness, knowledge, health literacy and engagement for liver health and hepatitis B and C testing, treatment, and management. Delivered in partnership with Queensland Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), SLSM includes workforce education, community point-of-care (POC) testing, art workshops and yarning.

Methods:

SLSM included education and community days to increase workforce knowledge about viral hepatitis, focusing on the importance of testing, treatment and management. Community members were encouraged to engage in hepatitis C POC testing through yarning circles with HQ's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Lead, using art as a medium. ASHM workforce education included clinical hepatitis C and non-clinical hepatitis B content.

Results: From 2023-2025, HQ delivered workforce education and community days at 7 Queensland ACCHO's. Overall, 46 staff received hepatitis B and C education, and 175 community members were POC tested for hepatitis C. Both workforce and community members were educated on the importance of prevention, testing, treatment and management of hepatitis B and C.

Conclusion: SLSM demonstrates the importance of innovative, culturally safe, community-led approaches to viral hepatitis education, testing and engagement. By partnering with ACCHOs and embedding education, testing and art workshops into service delivery, the SLSM project strengthens workforce capability and creates supportive pathways for community members to access testing, care and management of hepatitis B and C.

Disclosure of Interest: There are no disclosures of interest to declare.