

# A United Approach to Hepatitis C Elimination in NSW

Viral Hepatitis  
Conference

Christopher Bourne  
Annabelle Stevens  
Rochelle Aylmer  
Steven Drew  
Alex Wade

1<sup>st</sup> August 2024

NSW Health





We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Urapun Muy NAIDOC 2024 poster winner by artist Deb Belyea.

'Urapun Muy' from the Kalaw Kawaw Ya dialect of the Top Western Islands of the Torres Strait, means 'One Fire'. The title of this work pays homage to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people everywhere, as we all have that one fire: our passion for our culture.

NSW Health

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## Introductions

Annabelle Stevens & Dr Christopher Bourne

# Session Introduction



## **Session Overview**

A united approach to hepatitis C elimination in NSW: leveraging strong partnerships and the peer network to increase engagement in care.

## **Speakers**



**Alex Wade**  
Clinical Nurse  
Consultant  
  
Mid North Coast  
Local Health District



**Steven Drew**  
Chief Executive  
Officer  
  
Hepatitis NSW



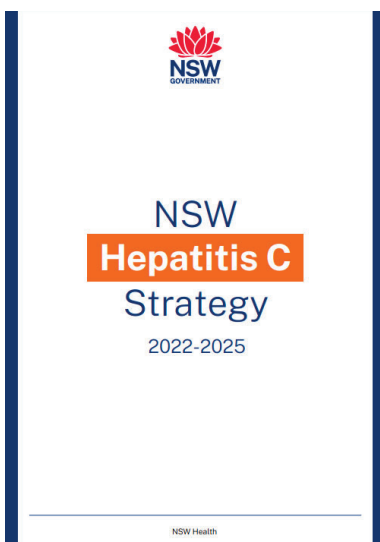
**Rochelle Aylmer**  
Harm Reduction  
Services Manager  
  
NSW Users and  
AIDS Association

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## NSW Ministry of Health - Guiding the sector

Annabelle Stevens

# NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2022 – 2025



**Aim:** Eliminate hepatitis C in NSW as a public health concern by 2028.

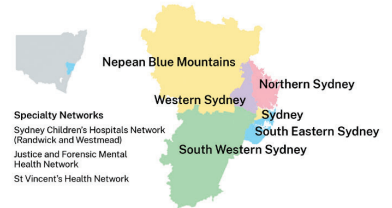
**Vision:** A NSW where hepatitis C transmission is prevented and people with hepatitis C receive regular testing and treatment without barriers.

Goals:	1. Prevent	2. Test	3. Treat	4. Stigma and Discrimination
	Prevent new infections through harm reduction, education and health promotion.	Increase access and testing for people at risk of infection.	Link newly acquired and existing infections into treatment and care.	Reduce stigma and discrimination as a barrier to prevention, testing and treatment.
<b>Targets:</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 60% reduction in the number of new hepatitis C infections</li> <li>ii) 20% or lower reported receptive syringe sharing among people who inject drugs</li> <li>iii) 10% increase in the distribution of sterile needles and syringes for people who inject drugs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 10% increase in the number of hepatitis C antibody tests</li> <li>ii) 20% increase in the number of hepatitis C RNA tests</li> </ul> <p>With a focus on services within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alcohol and Other Drug Health</li> <li>- Justice Health</li> <li>- Mental Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 65% cumulative proportion of people living with chronic hepatitis C who have initiated direct-acting antiviral treatment</li> <li>ii) 50% reduction in hepatitis C attributable mortality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 75% reduction in the reported experience of stigma and discrimination among people affected by hepatitis C</li> <li>ii) 75% reduction in the reported experience of stigma and discrimination among people who inject drugs</li> <li>iii) 75% reduction in the reported incidence of stigma and discrimination towards people who inject drugs by healthcare workers</li> </ul>
<b>Action Areas:</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Needle and Syringe Program</li> <li>1.2 Partnership with Aboriginal communities</li> <li>1.3 Peer workforce</li> <li>1.4 Custodial settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Alcohol and Other Drug services</li> <li>2.2 Innovative technologies and strategies</li> <li>2.3 Embed testing in key settings</li> <li>2.4 Primary Care</li> <li>2.5 Communication and education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Models of Care</li> <li>3.2 Public Health Unit notification follow up</li> <li>3.3 Post-cure management</li> <li>3.4 Data, research and surveillance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Barriers to accessing care</li> <li>4.2 Data, research and surveillance</li> <li>4.3 Communication and education</li> </ul>

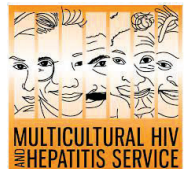
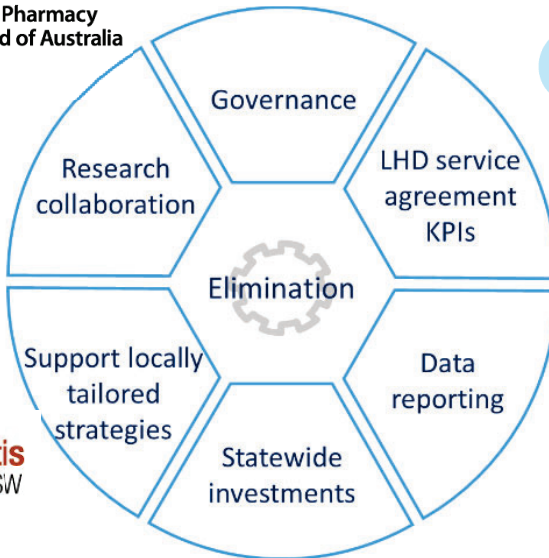
# Hepatitis C Elimination Framework



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



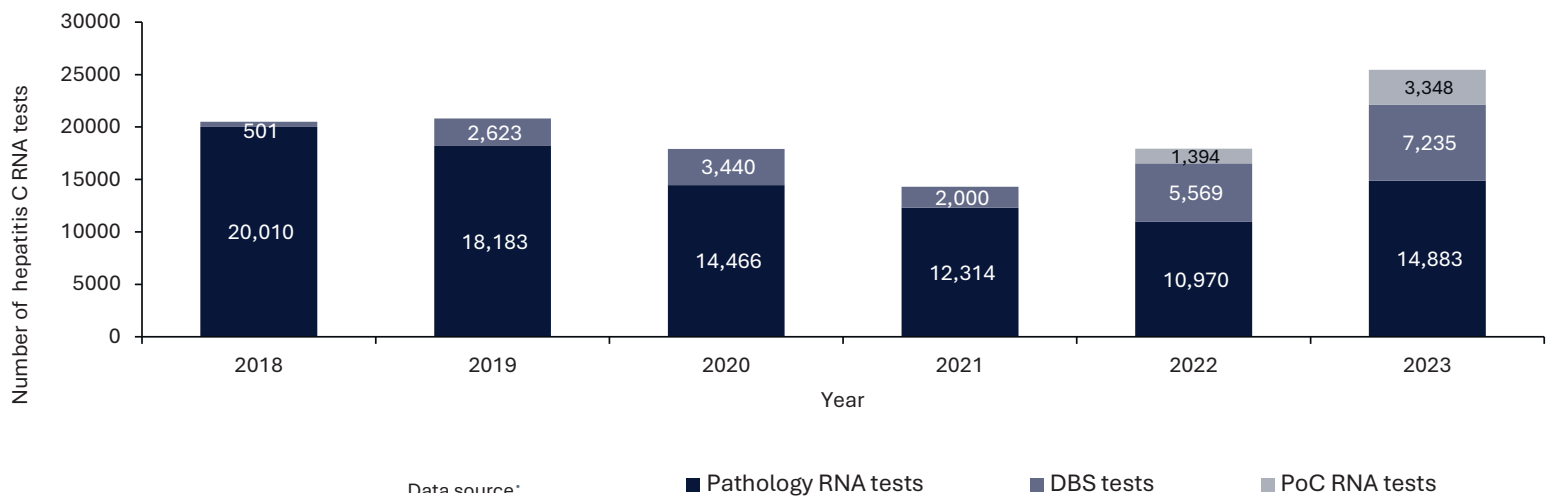
Specialty Networks  
Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (Randwick and Westmead)  
Justice and Forensic Mental Health Network  
St Vincent's Health Network



# Hepatitis C RNA Testing Data



Figure 1: Number of hepatitis C RNA tests completed by NSW Health Pathology, DBS and POC testing in NSW, 2018 – 2023



Data source: NSW Health Pathology, National Australian hepatitis C POC Testing Program and the NSW HIV and hepatitis C DBS testing pilot. Note: Excludes General Practice and other private settings. NSW DBS testing pilot commenced in October 2016 and the NSW POC testing program commenced in January 2022.



# Hepatitis C Treatment Data



Figure 1: Number of hepatitis C treatments, 2019 – 2023

