

Nurse-Led Model of Care for a Hepatitis C Clinic within Alcohol and Other Drugs Service

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Background

Since February 2024 West Moreton Health (WMH) Alcohol and other Drug Services (AODS) Ipswich clinic has been part of The National Australian Hepatitis C Point-of-care Testing Program (HCVPOCT) with the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney and the International Centre for Point-of-Care testing at Flinders University.

Demographics

West Moreton Health is one of Queensland’s key regional health services. WMH provides a plethora of care—including ambulatory, acute, sub-acute, and specialised services — to about 325,000 people in the Somerset, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley, and Ipswich areas.

The population is projected to increase to 636,000 by 2046. WMH has the highest projected annual growth of all health regions in Queensland.

The resident population’s diversity is an important aspect of West Moreton Health’s service environment.

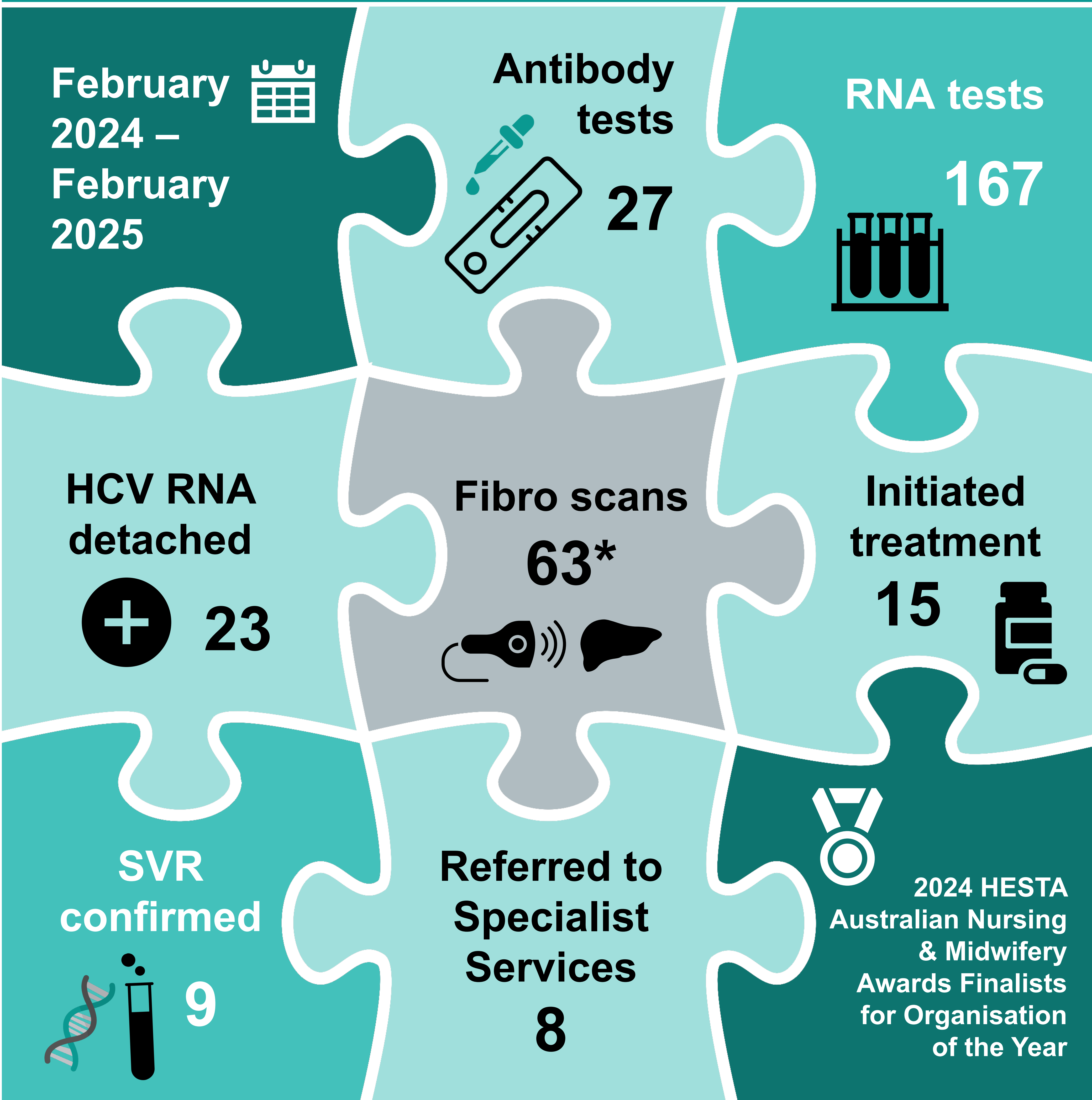
- 7 correctional centres
- The Park Centre for Mental Health – Queensland’s only forensic mental health service
- 5.2% identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 19.6% of residents born outside Australia
- 12.1% speaking a language other than English at home



Nurse-Led Model of Care

Screening	• Point-of-care RNA and antibody testing • Phlebotomy • On-site Fibro scans available once a month
Education	• Inform and educate patients about Hepatitis C • Treatment options • Lifestyle modifications
Treatment	• DAAs prescribed by AODS physician • Provide counselling and support to ensure treatment adherence
Follow up	• Conduct follow-up tests to confirm SVR • Post treatment counselling
Health Promotion	• Raise awareness about Hepatitis C prevention • Harm reduction including safe injection practices • Needle syringe program

Every Piece Counts in the Hep C Journey



* Performed by Hepatitis QLD

Conclusion

The Nurse Lead Model of Care for Hepatitis C within AODS is a transformative initiative aimed at breaking down barriers to care, enhancing patient experiences, and improving health outcomes. By integrating testing, treatment, and follow-up into a cohesive, patient-centred framework, WMH AODS is setting a standard for excellence in addressing Hepatitis C in vulnerable populations.