

Hepatitis C treatment uptake following hepatitis C point-of-care testing through a community-based mobile clinic:

The Kombi Clinic



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the lands we meet on today, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and pay my respect to elders past present and emerging.

I would also like to acknowledge the lands that I live and work on homelands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples.



COLLABORATORS, MATES & Disclosures



Gilead
MSD
Abbvie
Indivior

Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment

Barriers

- Testing and treatment requiring multiple visits
- Venous access for phlebotomy
- Frequent loss to follow up
- Access to GPs
- Access to Gastro / ID clinics
- Patient priorities
- Stigma



Break down the barriers to accessing Testing and Treatment



Break the myth of the “Hard to Reach patient”.

Its not the patient that’s hard to reach ... It’s the Doctor !

Change the service to suit



Kombi Clinic



Mobile out reach HCV care in Queensland

- Started in 2017
- Focusing on marginalized populations
 - Homeless, incarcerated, mental health and addiction issues
- 1000's of patients seen
- Delivered from a Awesome Kombi Van
- 2 x GPs, a Nurse and a phlebotomist – wearing rad Hawaiian shirts





Kombi Clinic – since 2017



See a GP



Phlebotomy bloods



Fibroscan if needed

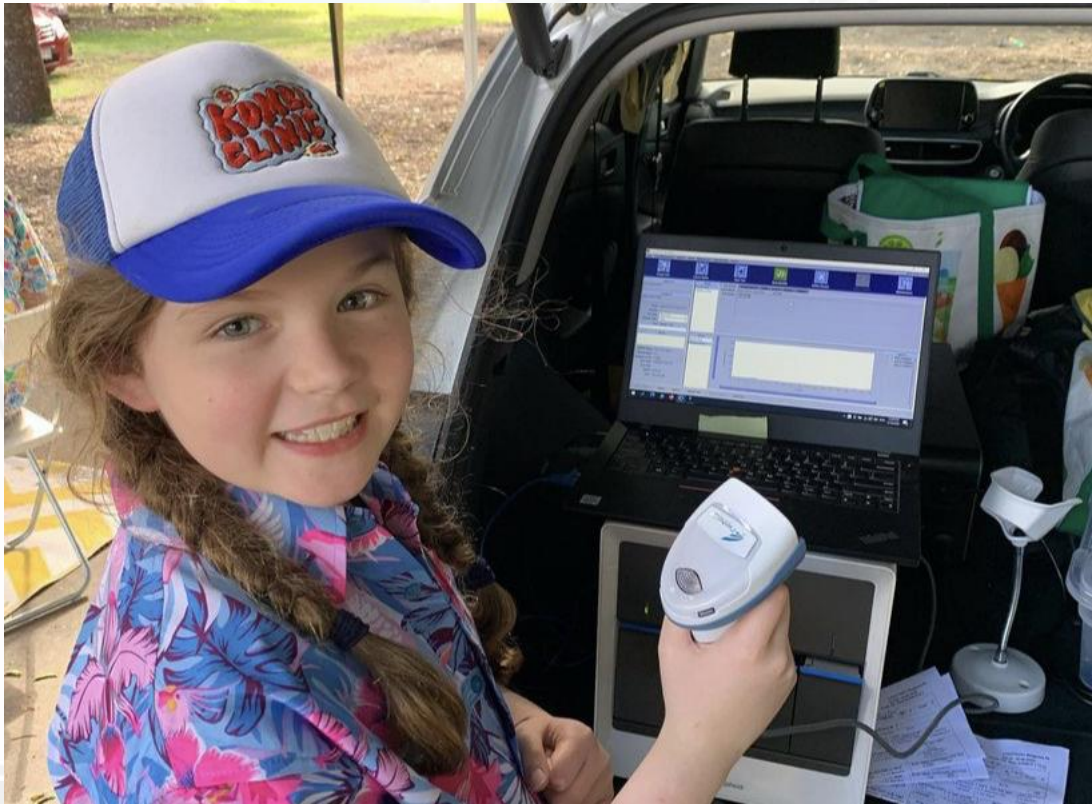


Needing a second Visit,
2 weeks later for blood results

Effective model ... but is there a better way ?



The times they are a Changing → POCT Since 2020



Faster testing and now ... faster van !

The Kombi Way



Engage and link in with venues and other providers & Peers



Provide a service patients want to visit that is appropriate and convenient



Not just HCV – link to care. Assist with other care



Flexible, adaptive, patient focused





Collaboration with HCVPOCT (Kirby/ Flinders



On started in Feb 2022 (data for this presentation)



Support with data collection, quality control procedures and equipment training and MORE



Most patients accessing straight to Xpert HCV RNA testing

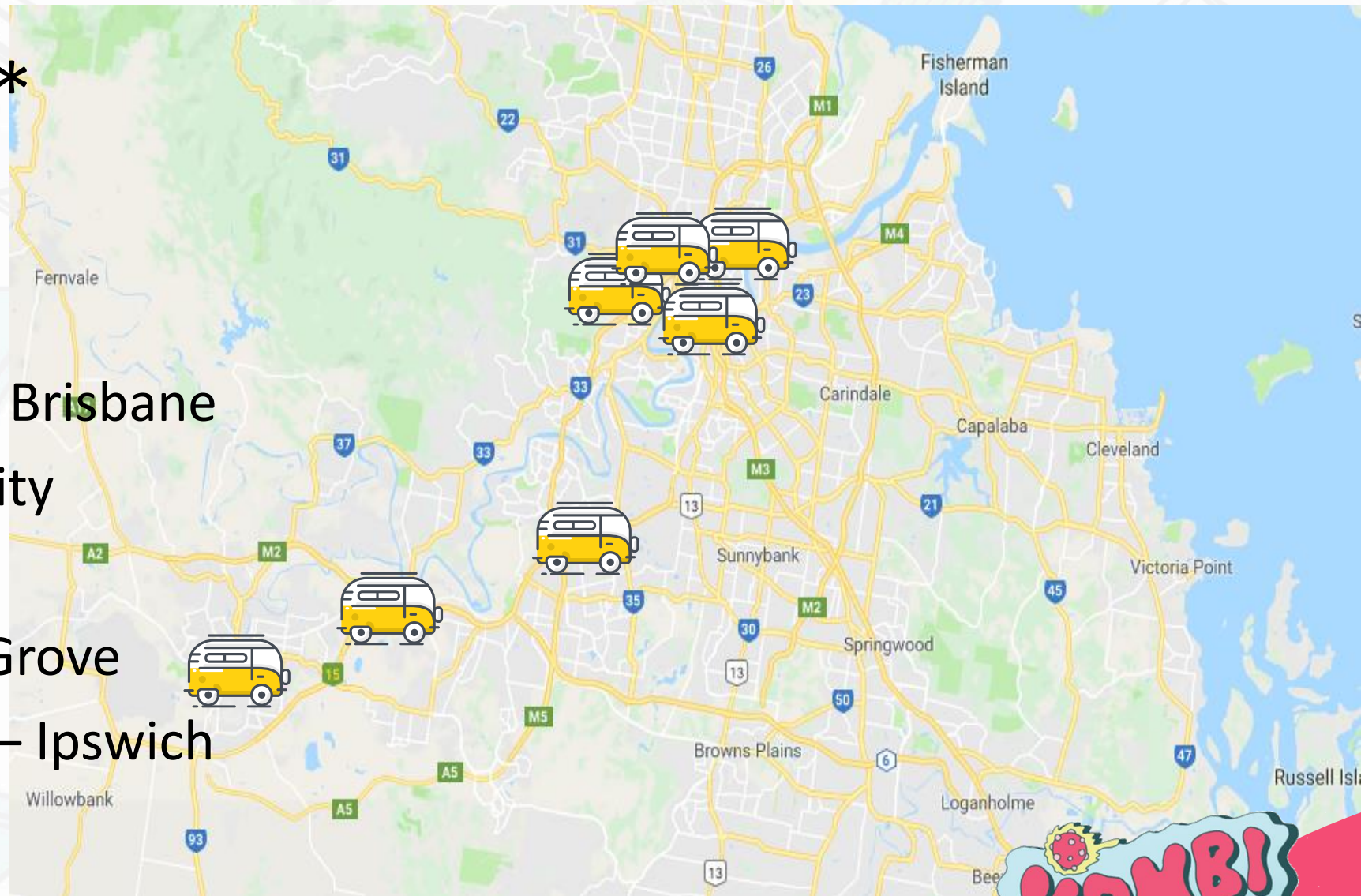


Ability to start with HCV Ab (Abbott Bioline Ab testing) has increased over the 12 months



Kombi Locations*

- GP clinic – Inala
- Homeless BBQ – Booval
- Homeless event – South Brisbane
- Big Bird backpackers – City
- ECM – South Brisbane
- La Boite / QUT – Kelvin Grove
- Community corrections – Ipswich



*locations for this data set

RESULTS Feb 2022 – Feb 2023



577 People received HCV tested



- 30% female
- Median age 42 yo
- 28% Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander
- 40 % injecting drug use in past 6 months
- 18% currently on Opioid agonist therapy



254 people received HCV antibody



357 people received HCV RNA testing



RESULTS Feb 2022 – Feb 2023



18% (67/357) had detectable HCV RNA

34% (23/67) had detectable HCV RNA
previously treated



68 % (46/67) have initiated treatment

12 months has been chosen as follow up period
for SVR. This data is yet to be collected



POCT in community is vital tool for HCV elimination

Patients LOVE a fingerstick and a fast turnaround

There is no such thing as hard to reach patients

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

POCT HCV RNA equipment portable in pop up clinics

GP settings easily accommodate HCV POCT

1975 Kombi Vans are unreliable



Don't stop us now

- Further roll out of HCV testing in priority groups (especially corrections)
- Increased accessibility of antibody testing
- Medicare rebates for testing
- Testing just the start of care.... Must include Linkage to treatment and follow up care
- Harm reduction strategies / prevention



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