

Sector-wide collaboration: Insights from Victoria's Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

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Background/Approach:

The Victorian Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is an innovative initiative aimed at reinvigorating elimination efforts in Victoria. The pandemic diverted the attention at a moment that was critical and led to disconnectedness in the sector. With 2030 in sight, a range of key organisations decided to act on the need for better coordinated action and for a renewed sense of urgency to achieve elimination targets. They brought the sector together through a Roundtable to reconnect and refocus. The Roundtable is a space for organisations to combine their resources and expertise to identify and address systemic barriers, enhance care pathways, and accelerate elimination efforts. Key objectives include increasing collaboration and avoiding duplication, developing key priorities for joint action, and a partnership approach to advocacy.

Analysis/Argument:

The inaugural Roundtable (November 2023) created a shared understanding of the challenges in reaching elimination. It identified four priorities to the response — Peer/Community Leadership, Nurse-Led Models of Care, Strengthening Justice Sector Responses, and Sector Capacity Building. The second Roundtable (May 2024) focused on collaboratively designing a budget bid for the Victorian government. The third Roundtable (August 2024) refined and sharpened the bid.

The diversity of perspectives allows for deep thinking and practical outcomes around developing community-led solutions.

This presentation will share key learnings and insights from the Roundtable process.

Outcome/Results:

The effectiveness of the Roundtable is measured by its achievements:

- Enhanced collaboration and sharing of learnings across the sector

- Development of a common vision and shared language
- Submission of the *Act Local* budget proposal, focused on localised approaches to elimination led by peers and nurses
- Engagement of key government stakeholders, to create urgency and a supportive political climate.

Conclusions/Applications: The Roundtable demonstrates what a sector can achieve when it comes together. While the outcomes are specific to the Victorian context, this model of collaboration and co-design may be useful elsewhere.

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