

BARRIERS TO REACHING THE 2030 HCV ELIMINATION GOALS:

A Community Voice Perspective

Gorringe, A ; Kennedy, R
Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League,

Injecting Drug Use + HCV Transmission

- HCV is primarily transmitted through injecting drug use
- 50% of prison inmates inject drugs
- HCV Prevalence:
 - 30% overall
 - 60% among PWID
- Healthcare quality varies widely in prisons
- Short sentences = disrupted treatment
- Poor transition to community care
- 92% PWID in prison share equipment

3.2% of the National Australian Population is First Nations, yet 32% of the prison population is First Nations.

Only 64% of prison discharges test for HCV and 8.1% of them test positive.

Barriers to HCV Elimination

- Criminalisation
- Inadequate access
- Lack of harm reduction
- Insufficient funding
- Lack of peer-led programs
- Inadequate culturally safe care

Call to Action

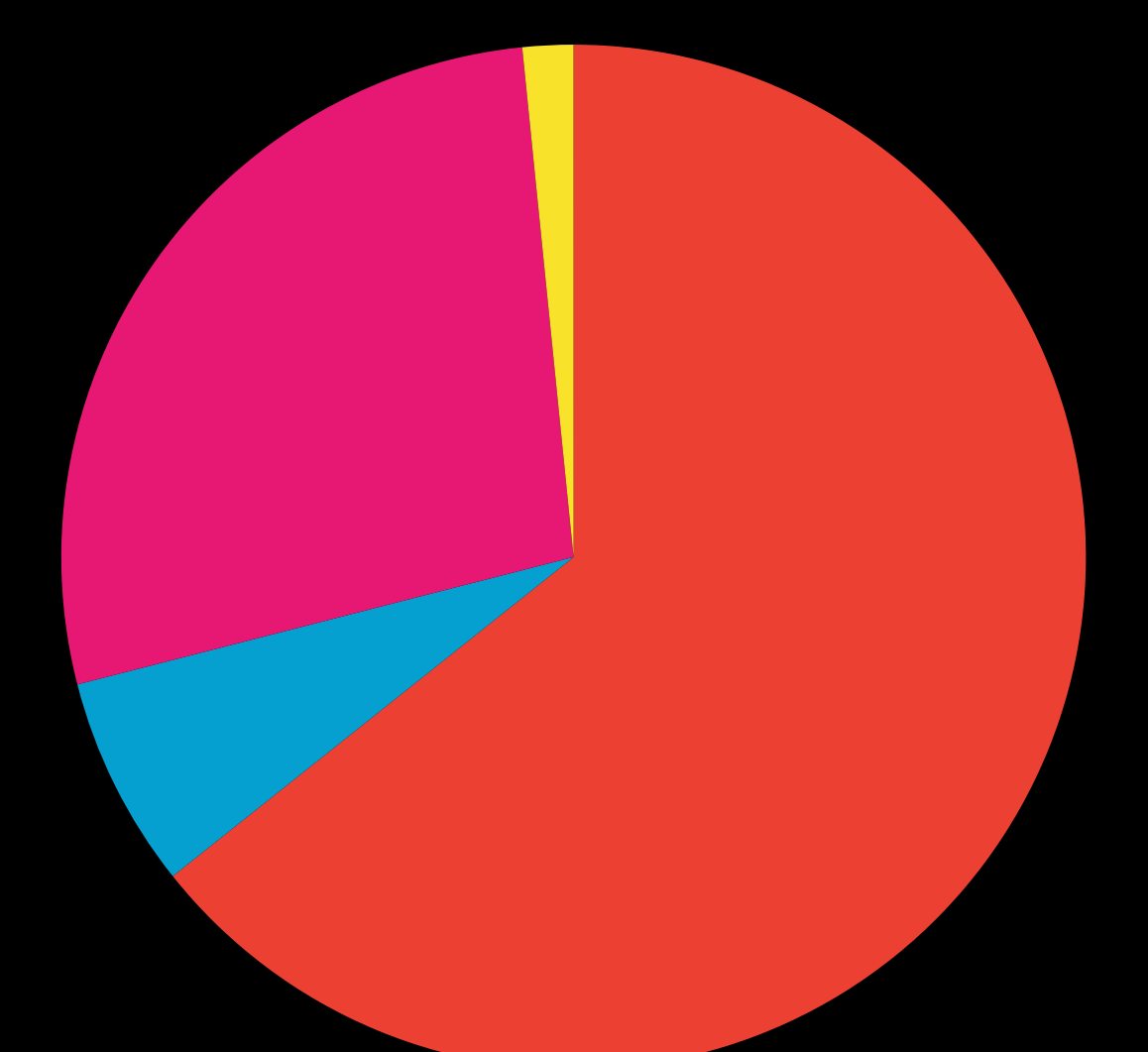
- Implement NSPs in prisons
- Expand peer-led and culturally appropriate services
- Ensure treatment continuity during & after incarceration
- Address barriers: criminalisation, stigma, etc.
- Align with National HCV Strategy

Impact and Cost Effectiveness of NSPs in Australia

- A government-commissioned return-on-investment study found that every \$1 invested in NSPs returns over \$4 in healthcare cost savings.
- Between 2000 and 2009, NSPs were estimated to have prevented:
 - Over 32,000 HIV infections
 - Nearly 100,000 HCV infections

For the full cost-effectiveness NSP in Australia:

Funding & Allocation for Harm Reduction



Law Enforcement 64%
Prevention 6.7%
Drug Treatment 67%
Harm Reduction 1.6%

