

# Breaking Barriers: Advancing WHO Triple Elimination Goals in Blood-borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infection Screening and Care Through Integrated Community Outreach in Western Sydney

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## BACKGROUND

In line with WHO guidance, Western Sydney Local Health District's HIV and Related Programs and Storr Liver Centre implemented a successful integrated outreach pilot project for community correction services in western Sydney, highlighting the effectiveness of integrated blood-borne viruses (BBVs) and STI screening among at-risk populations.



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highlight the urgent integration of public health responses for key populations in community correction and prison settings, where HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) are disproportionately prevalent.



## METHODS/APPROACH

The project implemented a nurse-led model of care in collaboration with community correction services, facilitating linkages to health promotion and clinical services. A phlebotomist and hepatology nurse conducted a combined blood collection for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and syphilis and urine collection for gonorrhoea and chlamydia. Incentives were used, and Hepatitis NSW peer workers with community correction experience were engaged for promotion and peer support.

## RESULTS

The pilot project sparked interest among district community correction services staff, leading to additional services signing up to participate.

Seventeen BBV tests and five STI screenings were administered, with no positive results recorded.

The project successfully engaged numerous BBV and STI screening clients, providing valuable testing opportunities for those previously untested by local services. Clients received coordinated care, with referrals to a liver clinic for hepatitis support and a sexual health clinic for HIV and STI follow-up.

## CONCLUSION

The strategic integration of services offers a pathway to achieve WHO's triple elimination goals for HIV, viral hepatitis, and STIs. This approach reduces duplication of effort, optimises resources, and enhances the service user experience. Additionally, there is potential for statewide scaling-up of this project model within other community correction settings in New South Wales to extend its impact further.



## REFERENCES

1 World Health Organization. Global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022-2030. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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