

## Far North Queensland Liver Health Champions

### *A FibroScan Pilot Project for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners*

MORGAN DEMPSEY, & RHONDDA LEWIS CAIRNS SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

NO DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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Thank you to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers who are participating in the study.



*Penny from the Cairns Liver Clinic teaching us how to operate a FibroScan*

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*Vanessa, Lucie, Carlo, Sondi and Rhondda on training day*

## Far North Queensland Liver Health Champions

- ❖ Local Cairns idea from Dr Malcolm McDonald to pass the skills on to Aboriginal Health Workers & Practitioners
- ❖ Supported by ASHM and funded by the *Australian Government Department of Health*
- ❖ National committee chaired by Rhondda Lewis
- ❖ Most States & Territories are represented
- ❖ Pilot project being run in Cairns:
  - Each Health Worker needs a mentor to help train them and attend their clinics with them;
  - There aren't many mentors and clinicians available to interpret results yet.



*Jacki Mein (Wuchopperen AMS), myself, Penny Fox (Cairns Liver Clinic), Rhondda Lewis (Cairns Sexual Health Service), Dr Malcolm McDonald (Wuchopperen AMS) – Liver Health Clinic planning meeting*

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## BACKGROUND/AIMS & METHODS:

### Far North Queensland Liver Health Champions

- ❖ Hope to make FibroScanning for liver health more accessible and in a culturally safer environment
- ❖ Scope of practice documents have been developed by steering group
- ❖ There are no other scope of practice documents yet in Australia for nurses or doctors
- ❖ This is a first in Australia to be developing Fibroscanning as a clinical skill for ATSI Health Workers
- ❖ Each participant is required to perform a minimum of 10 supervised Fibroscans before being deemed competent.

## Yarning hep B Far North Queensland

*Living healthy strong lives with hepatitis B  
Test, monitor and refer*

Hep B- It's a virus that affects the liver and can be managed and treated.

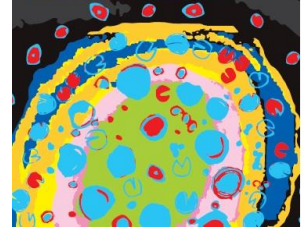
"Path Wadur, Good Health, is something we need to take care of all our lives. It keeps us alive, it keeps us safe."

"When I looked at the hep B science and the visual image of the hep b virus at a molecular level it looked like my artwork. I could relate to the colour and pattern of the virus, it looked like a cycle, just like life. I guess this is the connection we as Indigenous people can relate too".

"The inner circular lines depict the life span of country, water holes, plants, animals, us as peoples! The small circles are aspects of our lives, the interactions we have in life, our journey and experiences. It is the beautiful round leaf of the pink lotus lily, which tells a story of food, beauty, longevity, culture".

"Path Wadur" Good Health by Shaun Edwards, Ma Wanyubung Pukun Kokoberri People, Staaten River Cape York Peninsula. Kokoberri language.

Cairns Hepatitis Health Promotion ph 42264769  
Cairns Liver Clinic ph 42267224



Art work by Shaun Edwards for hepatitis B awareness in Far North Queensland

## RESULTS:

[www.hepatitis.org.au](http://www.hepatitis.org.au)

### Far North Queensland Liver Health Champions

- ❖ The training component happened in March 2018 in Cairns with 5 ATSI Health workers trained (including theory and hands-on FibroScan practice)
- ❖ Since then one Health Worker has had the opportunity to practice FibroScanning on real patients, but a clinic is commencing at Wuchopperen AMS in September 2018, with Health Worker mentoring built-in
- ❖ Challenges include:
  - Coordinating clinics with AMS, and Fibroscanning mentors,
  - Trainees leaving their position since the training
- ❖ Evaluation to include: training evaluation; interviews with Health Workers on experience; analysis of data to assess change in access to care



I had the privilege to practice FibroScanning with Professor Gregory Dore when he was in Cairns

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