



Partnership Approach to Sustainably  
eliminating Chronic Hepatitis B in the  
Northern Territory

Hep B PAST



## Hep B: PAST Concepts, progress and partnerships

Kelly Hosking

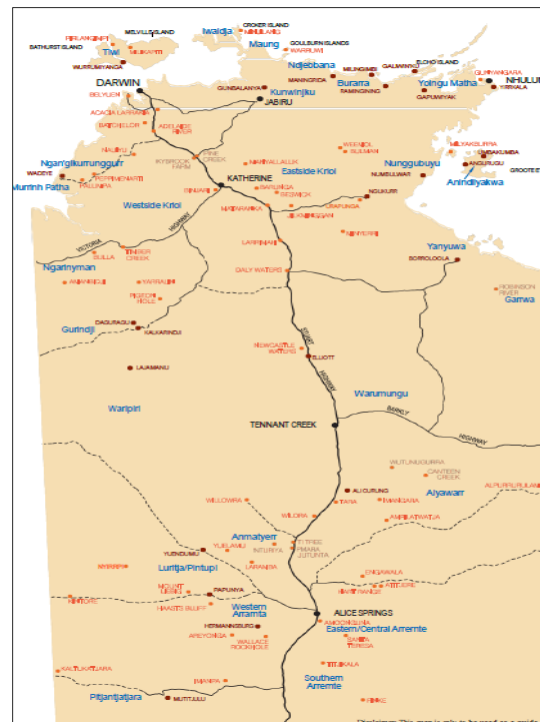
Linda Bunn

Sarah Bukulatjpi

# The Northern Territory

## Access

- 60,000 Aboriginal people
- >100 languages
- ~ 500 remote communities
  - Many road access cut off in wet season
  - Many islands, can only fly in
  - Health care delivered mostly by nurses and AHP
- Transient population
- Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) endemic



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# NHRMC Partnership Project

## Hep B: PAST



**GOAL – Eliminate CHB for Indigenous Australians in the NT**

### AIMS:

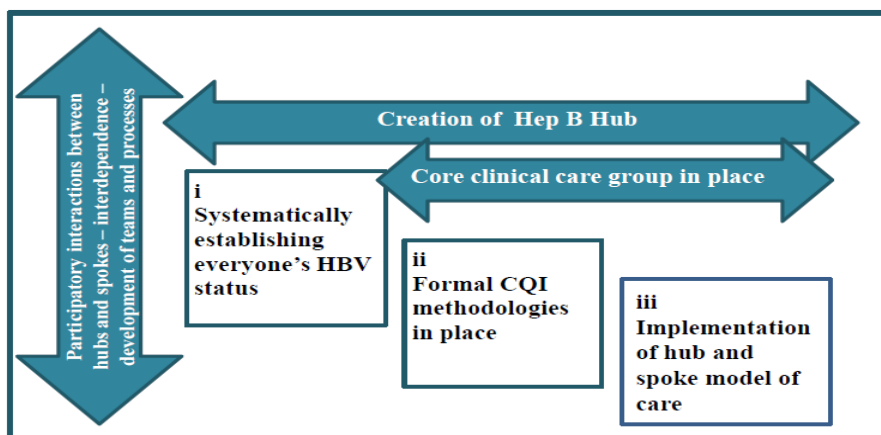
- Improve health literacy around CHB
- Determine sero-status of >80% of Indigenous individuals
- Transition CHB care to primary health care, with specialist support
- Improve access to care and increase equity

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## Summary of complex interventions to improve the cascade of care

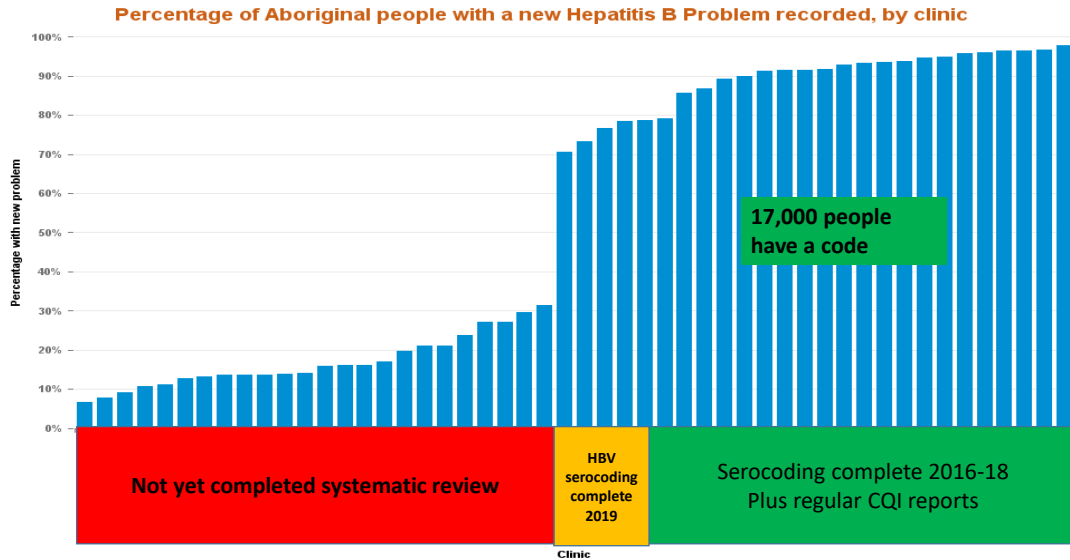


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# Progress in NT Government clinics



## AIM: Improve the cascade of care for individuals living with CHB in the NT

	NT overall	TEHS	National Target
Aware of Infection	61%	94%	80%
Engaged in Care	15%	83%	50%
On Treatment	3.1%	18%	20%



(Australian Government Department of Health 2018)

# What are the barriers to care and access?

- Low levels of health literacy around CHB
- Misconceptions around transmission and not understanding liver cancer association
- In Aboriginal communities multiple health priorities, high staff turn over, limited staff ~> nihilistic attitude (from clinicians)
- Health professionals contributing to patients lack of understanding

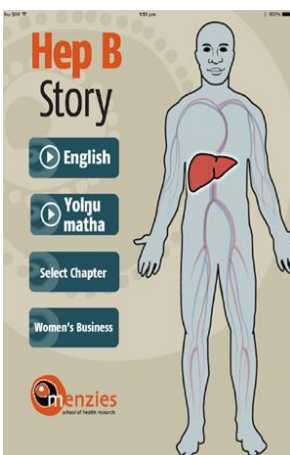
(Davies, Bukulatjpi et al 2014, Dahl et al 2017, Preston-Thomas et al 2013, Wild et al, Zhao et al 2018 )

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# Development, evaluation and progress of app



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# Aboriginal Workforce role in Hepatitis B care

- **Screening:** helping people to know CHB and help them to come to clinic for routine screening
- **Diagnosis:** if new CHB, explaining to patient in their own language so they can really understand what the disease is
- **Management:** letting people know it is very important to know the story of the CHB so they come to clinic. Help patients know when their next blood test and HCC screen
- **Health Promotion:** helping people make healthy living choices, bush tucker, hunting, stay away from grog, less or stop cigarettes
- **Reducing shame** people still feel shame and keep it to themselves. We help them share the story that they have CHB with the family to help stop the shame

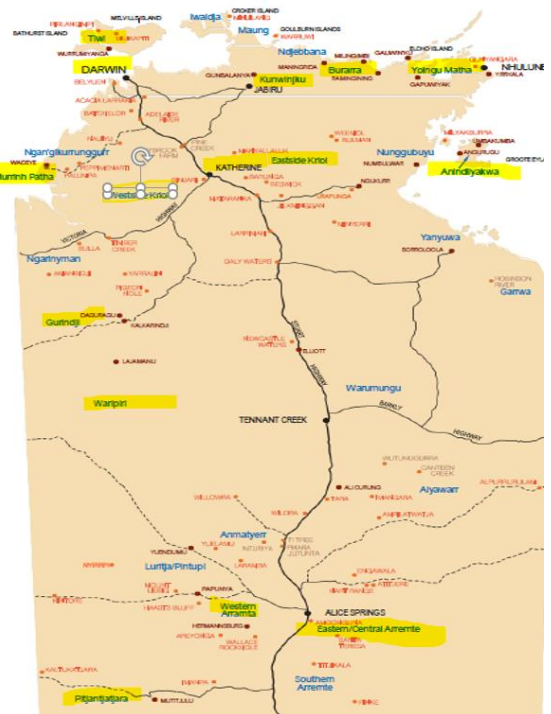
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## Aim: To improve health literacy about HBV

Language	No. of speakers	Region	Progress
Kriol	20,000	Katherine	Consultation commenced
Yolnu Matha	6806	East Arnhem	Complete
Arrernte	5475	Alice Springs	Consultation complete
Murrinh-Patha	3100	Wadeye	Waiting
Pitjantjatjara	3000	Western Desert	Consultation commenced
Warlpiri	2509	Central	Consultation commenced
Tiwi	2102	Tiwi Islands	Consultation complete
Kunwinjku	2000	West Arnhem	Evaluating back translation
Anindilyakwa	1600	Groote Eylandt	Consultation commenced
Burarra	1000	Maningrida	Consultation commenced
Gurindji	900	Katherine West	Consultation commenced



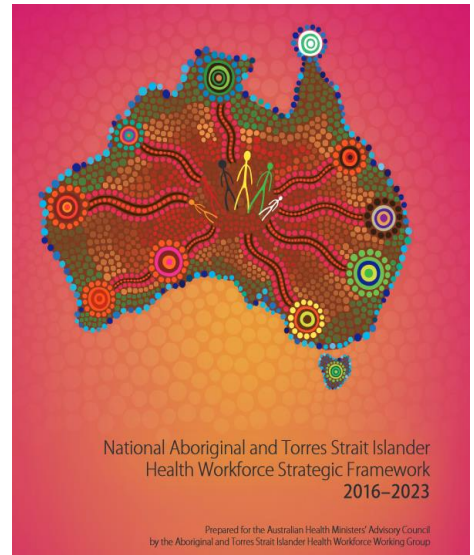
# Growing the capacity of Aboriginal workforce

## Aboriginal workforce pivotal

- Vital connection between community & health services
- Community members
- Patients voice
- Experts in their history, culture, identity

## Equitable health outcomes through

- Building a strong and supported workforce
- Appropriate clinical and non-clinical skills
- Provide culturally safe and responsive health care



# Improving equity and access Transitioning to Primary Health Care

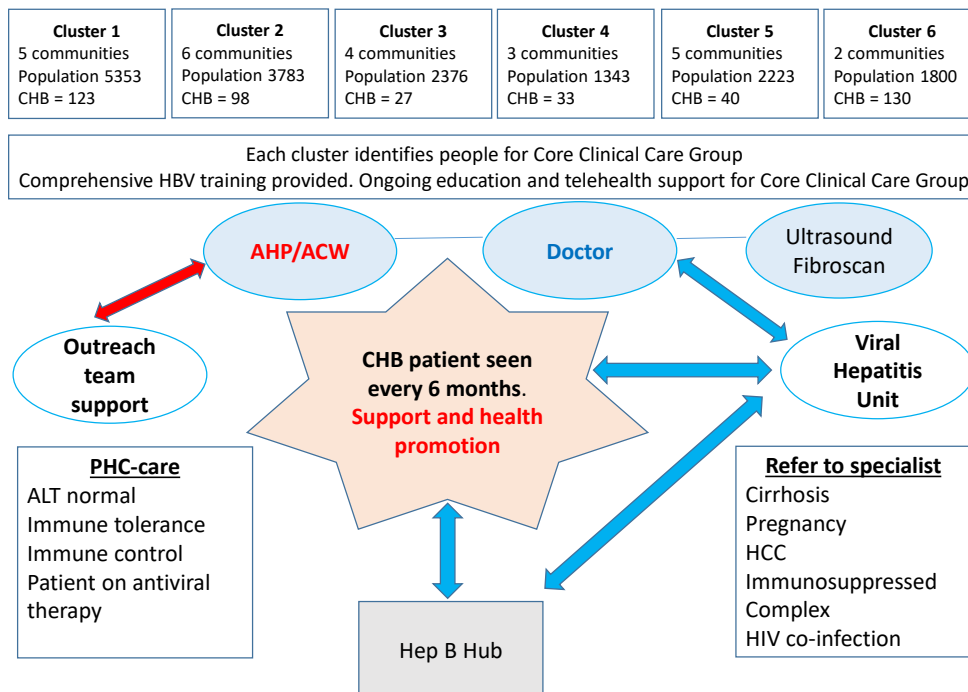
## Hub and spoke model of care including allocation of HBV specific core clinical care groups

- i) an Aboriginal Health Practitioner
- ii) a doctor who can prescribe, supported by ASHM S100
- iii) access to ultrasound and Fibroscan®

Maintaining best-practice care - Hep B Hub (clinical facilitation register)

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## Summary so far.....

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- Greater visibility of the epidemiology
- Understanding of HBV status of population
- Significant existing data available
- Demonstrated improvements in the cascade of care of CHB
- Confident that we will provide robust evidence CHB can successfully transition to Primary Health Care, in a supported manner
- Meaningful and thorough community consultation takes time, but is essential

## Partnerships / Acknowledgement

- Jane Davies
- Josh Davis
- Christine Connors
- Rhonda Powell
- Geoffrey Stewart
- Mikaela Mobsby
- Peter Nihill
- Jiunn-Yih Su
- Steven Skov
- Steve Tong
- Catherine Gargan
- Rebecca Katiforis
- Katie McGuire
- Belinda Greenwood-Smith
- Karen Fuller
- Teresa De Santos
- Gertie Cusack
- Roslyn Dhurrkay
- George Gurruwiwi
- Paula Binks
- Cheryl Ross
- Melita McKinnon
- David Reeves
- Bob Batey
- Benjamin Cowie
- Nicole Allard
- Anna Ralph
- Catherine Marshall
- Vicki Krause
- ASHM (Vanessa, Hayden, Phoebe, Emily, Su, Melinda)
- Doherty Institute (Nicole, Jen, Chelsea)
- NHMRC

***All the Aboriginal Health Practitioners, Nurses and Remote Medical Practitioners actioning the recalls  
All people living with Chronic Hepatitis B***

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