With the availability of direct acting anti-viral medications that can cure 95 per cent of people with chronic hepatitis C, the Queensland Government is committed to increasing access to hepatitis C treatment and reducing hepatitis C transmission in Queensland.

This action plan acknowledges the current provision of quality hepatitis C prevention, testing and treatment services within Queensland Health, the private sector and community based organisations across Queensland.

The plan complements this ongoing work and will drive a reduction in new hepatitis C infections and increase treatment uptake in Queensland through:

• targeted best practice prevention activities
• increased access to testing for hepatitis C
• increased access to treatment for people diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C.

The success of these efforts depends not on reaching all people but on reaching the right people through effective targeted interventions.


The Hon Cameron Dick MP
Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
### Goal
Increase the proportion of Queenslanders diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C who have undergone treatment to 50 per cent by 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Target populations</th>
<th>Key settings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Implement a comprehensive approach to reduce hepatitis C transmission</td>
<td>People who inject drugs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, men who have sex with men, people in custodial settings and young people.</td>
<td>Primary Healthcare, Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs), custodial and community settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Increase voluntary testing for hepatitis C</td>
<td>People who inject drugs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people in custodial settings, men who have sex with men and young people.</td>
<td>Primary Healthcare, HHSs, NSPs, custodial and community settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Increase treatment uptake by people with chronic hepatitis C</td>
<td>All people living with hepatitis C (including those in custodial settings), clinicians engaged in viral hepatitis treatment, general practitioners (GPs), Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) specialists and other specialist medical practitioners.</td>
<td>Primary Healthcare, HHSs, NSPs, custodial and community settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Increase awareness of hepatitis C transmission, and reduce stigma and discrimination related to hepatitis C</td>
<td>People who inject drugs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, men who have sex with men, people in custodial settings and GPs.</td>
<td>NSPs, custodial and community settings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Outcome

1. **Implement a comprehensive approach to reduce hepatitis C transmission**

2. **Increase voluntary testing for hepatitis C**

3. **Increase treatment uptake by people with chronic hepatitis C**

4. **Increase awareness of hepatitis C transmission, and reduce stigma and discrimination related to hepatitis C**

### Priority actions

#### 1. Ensure hepatitis C prevention programs target priority populations.

1.1 Work with PHNs, CBOs and HHSs to promote and increase access to testing and early diagnosis of hepatitis C.

1.2 Explore changes in notification criteria for primary hepatitis C diagnosis, focusing on the presence of circulating virus rather than prior exposure to the virus.

1.3 Work with the public laboratory sector to measure the extent of testing based on the presence of circulating virus undertaken following hepatitis C antibody testing.

1.4 Address barriers to testing through targeted marketing activities, including direction to services, reducing stigma in the wider community, and clinician engagement.

1.5 Continue to fund and support the development and delivery of targeted strategies including:

   - social marketing to educate and inform the population about hepatitis C
   - information regarding prevalence of hepatitis C in the community
   - information regarding the nature and natural history of chronic hepatitis C infection
   - how hepatitis C is transmitted
   - how hepatitis C infection can be prevented
   - the importance of testing for hepatitis C
   - new treatment options.
### Outcome

1. Implement a comprehensive approach to reduce hepatitis C transmission

2. Increase voluntary testing for hepatitis C

3. Increase treatment uptake by people with chronic hepatitis C

4. Increase awareness of hepatitis C transmission, and reduce stigma and discrimination related to hepatitis C

### Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The amount of sterile injecting equipment distributed</td>
<td>Queensland Needle and Syringe Program, Communicable Diseases Branch, Department of Health</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proportion of people who inject drugs who share injecting equipment</td>
<td>Australian NSP Survey, Kirby Institute</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of opioid dependent people receiving OST</td>
<td>Prevention Division, Department of Health</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of harm reduction initiatives in custodial settings</td>
<td>Queensland Corrective Services</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proportion of people who currently inject drugs who are tested for hepatitis C</td>
<td>Australian NSP Survey, Kirby Institute</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All PHNs promote the provision of hepatitis C testing and treatment</td>
<td>Survey of PHNs, Communicable Diseases Branch, Department of Health</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of AODS clients with a history of injecting drug use undertaking hepatitis C testing</td>
<td>Survey of AOD services, Communicable Diseases Branch, Department of Health</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proportion of people diagnosed as hepatitis C antibody positive who subsequently have testing to detect the presence of circulating virus</td>
<td>Explore collection with Public laboratories, Queensland Health</td>
<td>Annual from 2018 onwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery of a public hepatitis C awareness campaign</td>
<td>Integrated Communications Branch, Department of Health</td>
<td>One off in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaigns in place to raise awareness of hepatitis C in specific settings or among specific populations conducted by funded service providers</td>
<td>Funded service provider reports</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Queensland Hepatitis C Action plan 2016–2021**
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