

CAPACITY BUILDING, PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

We provide input and feedback on hepatitis C strategic plans, submissions, resource and project development, and educational planning. We also represent people affected by hepatitis C through participation on advisory committees, steering groups or reference groups for hepatitis C related projects.

HEPLINK

HepLink is a statewide network made up of various health care workers and others who address issues relating to hepatitis C in their work. The aim of *HepLink* is to share information, resources and support. In addition to an email-based interagency, *HepLink* members meet quarterly. The Council acts as the secretariat for *HepLink*.

“*HepLink* is a statewide network made up of various health care workers and others who address issues relating to hepatitis C.”

ADVOCACY

The Council strives to represent and promote the interests of our members and all those in New South Wales affected by hepatitis C at the local, state and national level by taking action on broader community issues.

VOLUNTEERING

We have a team of administration and *Helpline* volunteers who regularly give their time and effort in;

- management committee participation
- mailing out our quarterly magazine, *The Hep C Review*
- proof reading and focus testing our written resources
- medical and research advice
- involvement in planning and evaluation of the Council and its programs
- administration assistance
- support for the *Hep C Helpline*

We welcome your involvement.
Please contact us for more information.

HOW CAN YOU HAVE A SAY?

By joining our growing membership you will be a key part of our organisation. Members are kept regularly informed through *The Hep C Review* and other mailouts of hepatitis C news, views and developments. Membership fees contribute financially to the continued operation of the Council in its work in addressing the hepatitis C epidemic.

Please contact us for further information and ask us to send you a membership application. Or you can find one on the back page of each edition of *The Hep C Review* and on our website www.hepatitisc.org.au

OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE:

Waged: for people in paid employment	\$25
Concessional: for people on government benefits	\$10
Zero Fee membership: for people in NSW experiencing severe financial hardship (NSW prison inmates)	\$0
Health or allied professional	\$40
Community-based agency	\$50
Public/private sector agency	\$70

We also welcome donations and bequests. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

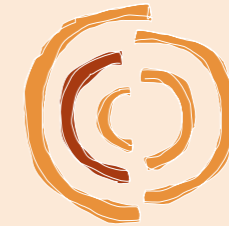
PO Box 432 Darlinghurst NSW 1300
349 Crown Street, Surry Hills, Sydney

ADMINISTRATION:

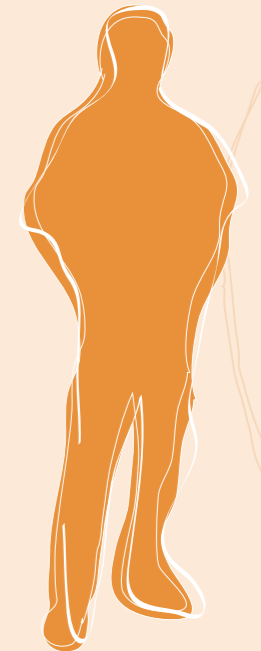
Ph 02 9332 1853
Fax 02 9332 1730
Email info@hepatitisc.org.au
www.hepatitisc.org.au

HEP C HELPLINE:

02 9332 1599 (Sydney callers)
1800 803 990 (Freecall from outside of Sydney)



Hepatitis C
Council of NSW



www.hepatitisc.org.au

“The Hepatitis C Council of NSW is the community based, not-for-profit, non-government membership organisation funded by the NSW Health Department to provide information, support, referral, education, prevention and advocacy services for all people in NSW affected by hepatitis C.”

OUR MISSION

We strive to be representative of, supportive and accessible to people affected by chronic viral hepatitis, especially hepatitis C. Working actively in partnership with other organisations and the affected communities, we work to bring about improvement in the quality of life, information, support and treatment for the affected communities and to prevent hepatitis C virus (HCV) transmission.

OUR STANDARDS

We integrate principles of quality within all aspects of our operations and are accredited by the Quality Improvement Council of Australia (QIC) in recognition of our successful assessment against the Australian Health and Community Services Standards.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

We produce and disseminate detailed HCV information booklets, brochures and factsheets. *The Hep C Review*, our quarterly magazine, provides up-to-date information on clinical developments, political and legal issues, support services, membership information and other HCV-related news. *The Hep C Review* is also an important source of peer support, and is circulated widely in NSW correctional centres as well as within the broader communities affected.

Our website www.hepatitisc.org.au provides a range of general and detailed hepatitis C related information.

We operate a library loan service of hepatitis C information videos, cassettes and books. These cover general and specific information about living with hepatitis C, clinical treatments, complementary therapies and how hepatitis C affects the liver.

“Our Medical Research & Advisory Panel, comprising of eminent clinicians, researchers and public health specialists, provides guidance and advice both in our resource development and in our education work.”

Our resources are endorsed by the NSW Health Department and reviewed and updated regularly. They are distributed to people affected by hepatitis C and to a wide range of health, welfare and education services.

CLIENT SERVICES

HEP C HELPLINE

The *Hep C Helpline* is the free and confidential statewide information, support and referral service for people affected by hepatitis C, family and friends, health workers and the general community. The *Prisons Hep C Helpline* is an extension of the service for NSW inmates, their families and prison staff. The *Hep C Helpline* is staffed by a professional team of full time employees who provide assistance to approximately 4,000 people each year, and is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers.

“Anyone can contact the *Hep C Helpline* for any matter related to hepatitis C (or other types of viral hepatitis) to obtain information, free printed resources, support and referral suggestions to GPs and treatment services.”

OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

Outside of these hours people can listen to up-to-date recorded information about hepatitis and/or refer to the website www.hepatitisc.org.au

CONTACT THE HEP C HELPLINE:

02 9332 1599 (Sydney callers)

1800 803 990 (Freecall from outside of Sydney)

Email: info@hepatitisc.org.au

Inmates can freecall using the prison phone system.

People from a non-English speaking background can speak to the *Hep C Helpline* workers through an interpreter by phoning the Telephone Interpreter Service (phone 131 450). Interpreter services are generally free to access.

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

We provide free education services to health care, community and youth workers, and others who work with people affected by or at risk of hepatitis C. Our services include developing and delivering customised educational workshops or planning sessions for groups or whole organisations.

C-EEN & HEARD SPEAKERS SERVICE

C-een & Heard speakers are people with hepatitis C who are trained to share their experiences with audiences of health care and other workers, and community groups with the aim of increasing understanding and awareness of hepatitis C, dispelling myths and misconceptions, and reducing related stigma and discrimination.

The *C-een & Heard* service is free to non-government organisations and members of the Council. All other organisations are asked to pay an \$80 fee which goes directly to payment for the speaker.