

# Living with hepatitis B: The social implications of hepatitis B infection

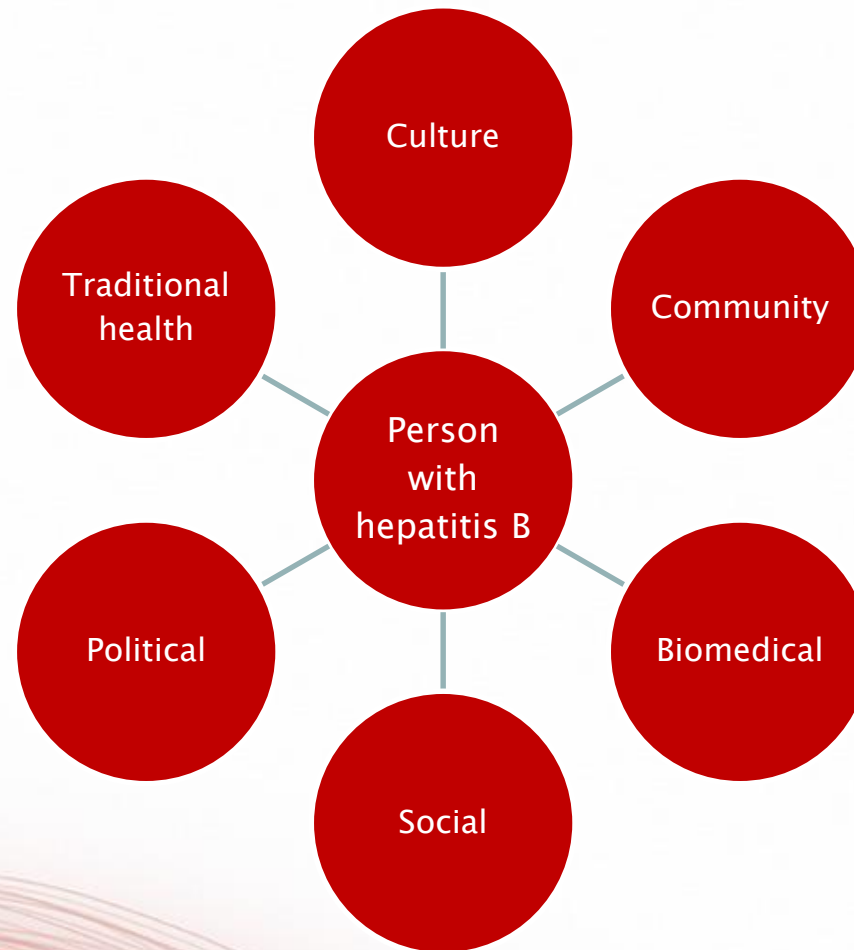
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# ARCSHS Viral Hepatitis Research

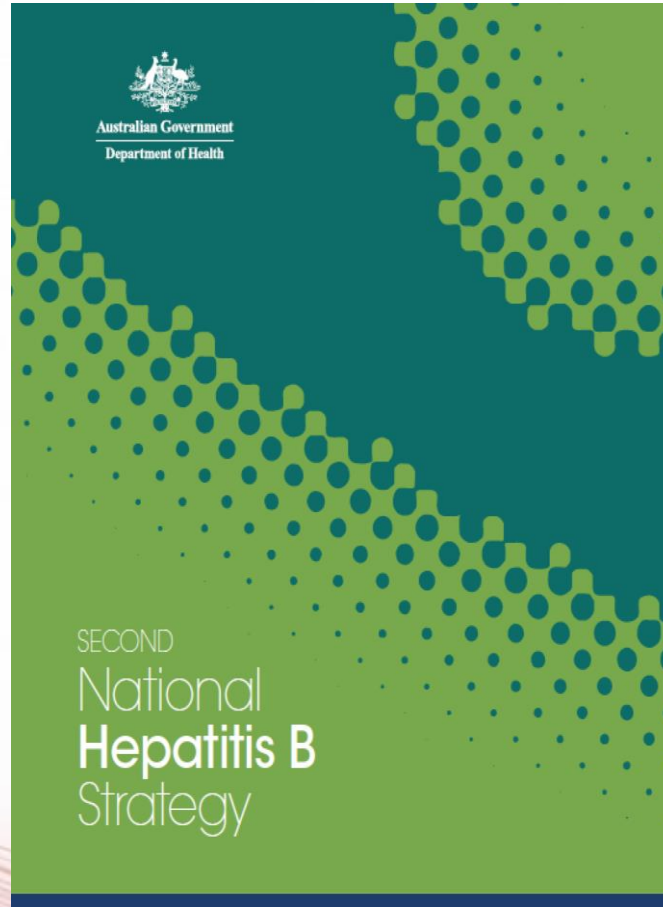


# Hepatitis B in Australia: Overview

- 218,000 people
  - 56% born overseas
    - 38% born in Asia Pacific
  - 43% Undiagnosed
  - 13% being monitored
  - 5% being treated
    - 15 - 25% need treatment



# National Hepatitis B Strategy 2014-2017



# National Hepatitis B Strategy

- Prevention
- Testing
- Management, care and support
- Workforce
- Enabling environment
- Surveillance, research and evaluation



# National Hepatitis B Strategy: Testing

*We just took a general test for everything ... it wasn't like I knew ... no, he didn't [tell me].*

*Claudetta, woman, 18 years old*

*I didn't have an understanding of it, either in my own culture and language (or) in English... there was ... no discussion about it and what that meant for me. ... It was a bit of a shock, I really didn't understand it.*

*Ayana, woman, mid-20s*



# National Hepatitis B Strategy: Testing

*During the first one year, I was worried and I was like I was going to die. ... I was a bit shocked and not feeling okay ... when one is informed of something that you don't really know what it is the first reaction is so bad ...*

*Keita, 35-year old male*



# National Hepatitis B Strategy: Management

*You know, hep B has never concerned me because, as the doctor said, “Once you turn yellow, you see me”.*

*Carmi, early 70s, woman*

*My body is normal, there’s nothing different about it so I don’t have any treatment...there are no physical manifestations...people say that your skin must be yellow, your eyes must be yellow*

*Truc, 45-year old woman*





# National Hepatitis B Strategy: Management

*If I become sick, then they call it the C virus don't they?  
It's like I have the B virus [now] and if I become sick, if  
[the virus] is not sleeping, then I will be sick and it's  
called C...*

*Yen, 44-year old woman.*

Survey of 93 people with hepatitis B in specialist services: 48% didn't know treatment is available.



# National Hepatitis B Strategy: Enabling Environment

*I called my girlfriend and said, 'I don't think we can be together anymore. I'm sick and have this illness so I will die early. [I told her] 'You should find someone else to be with'. I was scared and worried about that.*

*Vinh, 32-year old man*



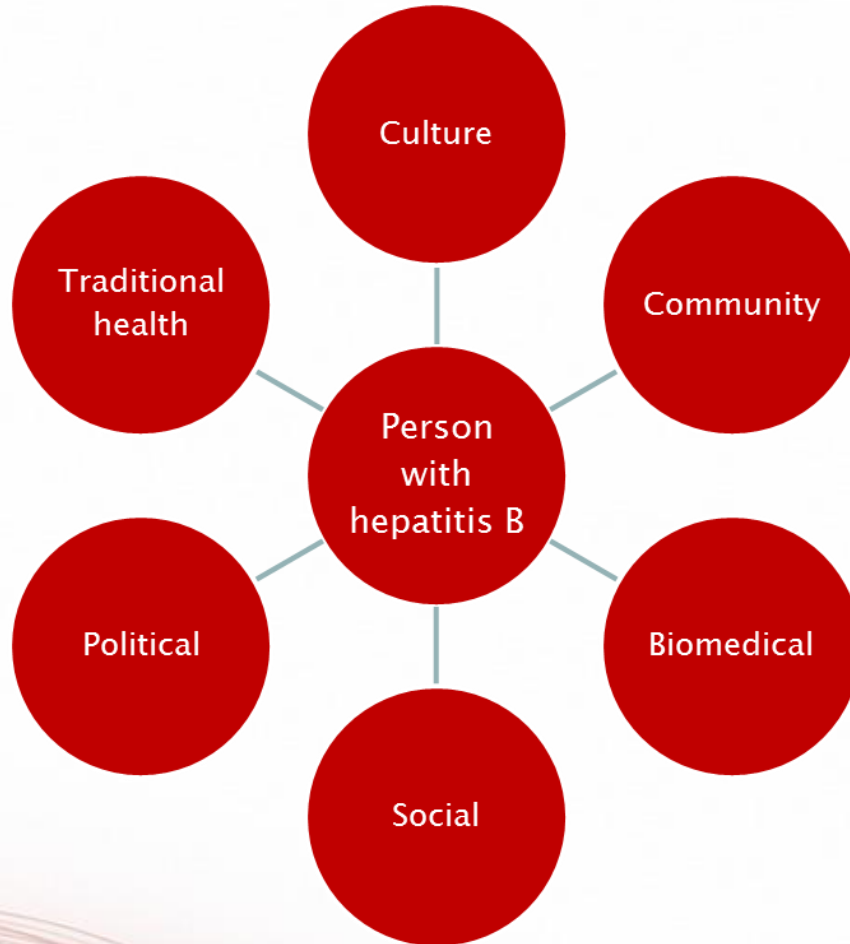
# National Hepatitis B Strategy: Enabling Environment

*When I found out I've got hepatitis, my whole family got tested and my mum and one of my brothers found out they have hepatitis B (Ayana, mid-20s, woman)*

*I said, "you should give me some medication because I have liver disease and if I don't take any medication then later on, the virus will wake up and it will eat my liver. Then I will have cancer and die". They didn't give me any medication... They need to give me medication!*  
*(Dat, 52-year old male)*



# Eliminating Hepatitis B



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