

Message from the CEO

Increasing hepatitis C awareness has been a focus for the organisation this year. We have contacted every Victorian Parliamentarian to ensure they are aware of the issues facing people with hepatitis C and its impact on the broader community. Hepatitis C Victoria has also worked closely with Hoolville Communications, which has helped raise the profile of hepatitis C in the media.

Organisational changes over the last 12 months have also helped to expand the role of Hepatitis C Victoria. The employment of a Programs Manager has facilitated improved coordination and expansion of programs and employment of additional staff, resulting in a higher profile for hepatitis C.

We also had to farewell two long-term and highly valued staff members: Jen Johnson and Genevieve Dickson. Both have gone to other positions in the health sector, and they take our thanks and good wishes with them.

Government funding for Hepatitis C Victoria has increased by 60% over the last five years and the Department of Human Services (DHS) has continued to provide excellent support to the organisation. Thanks, in particular, to Philip Cliff and Maria Karvelas from the Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Unit.

Thanks are also due to a number of people: the staff of Hepatitis C Victoria for delivering targeted and innovative programs with passion and commitment; Corrs Chambers Westgarth, for providing pro bono legal services (and in particular Sarah Hodggers for her work with the organisation); all our Board Members for volunteering their time and expertise; and the community organisations and workers who have worked in partnership with us.

Finally, 'thank you' to people with hepatitis C, including our members and supporters. In the last 12 months we have had contact and interaction with a larger group of you than ever before. As a result of hearing your needs, views and thoughts, Hepatitis C Victoria is a very well informed agency, and this assists us to develop our response to the many challenges of hepatitis C.

Helen McNeill
CEO



Financial Report

INCOME STATEMENT		
INCOME	2008	2007
Grant – DHS Commonwealth	253,978	243,000
Grant – DHS Minor Works	20,688	10,400
Grant – DHS Core	632,515	389,444
Membership Fees	-	920
Organisations and Professional Donations	1,520	952
Other income	30,377	1,870
Interest received	12,540	7,744
Fees for Service Sponsorship	1,133	498
	-	2,128
Total	954,171	656,956
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising and Promotions	5,789	8,434
AGM Costs	4,421	2,798
Amenities	2,991	904
Audit	1,500	1,500
Awareness Week Costs	29,867	15,600
Car Leasing Costs	21,161	13,129
Car Running Costs	13,836	9,365
Catering	1,772	991
Cleaning	5,114	3,760
Communication Project Costs	26,402	-
Community Participation Costs	32,288	-
Computer Software and Maintenance	12,676	10,819
Consultancy	2,707	5,809
Custodial Settings	5,564	1,664
Depreciation	19,408	14,953
Employee EAP Costs	-	260
Equipment	1,584	1,784
F.B.T.	2,309	2,550
Financial Services	5,415	3,932
Information and Communication Costs	39,424	9,901
Insurance	5,684	5,169
Internet Costs	8,996	2,275
Meeting Costs	1,340	771
Metro Support Groups	437	595
Petty Cash	-	370
Photocopy and Printing	8,913	10,184
Postage and Courier	8,337	5,702
Provision for Long Service Leave/Annual Leave	12,483	(7,005)
Publications and Subscriptions	3,390	1,597
Repairs and Maintenance	20,760	-
Rent	48,029	38,588
Rural Com. Dev. and Education Salaries	18,209	17,171
Staff Development	490,407	351,507
Stationery	5,225	977
Stationery	4,814	3,358
Strategic Planning Expenses	11,677	-
Sundry Expenses	2,626	2,050
Superannuation	42,390	28,830
Telephone	13,453	10,523
Travel and Accommodation	5,396	3,451
Utilities	3,025	3,155
Volunteer Costs	-	104
Website Upgrade	3,500	-
Workcover	11,819	8,862
Workshops and Conferences	1,894	2,471
Total	967,042	598,858
Profit before income tax	(12,871)	58,098
Income tax expense ²	-	-
Profit after income tax	(12,871)	58,098
Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year	132,499	74,401
Retained Profits at the end of the financial year	119,628	132,499

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2008		
CURRENT ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash at Bank	345,806	497,765
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	345,806	497,765
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	46,326	19,827
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	46,326	19,827
TOTAL ASSETS	392,132	517,592
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other creditors	34,458	27,125
Amounts received in advance	80,000	214,714
Provisions	158,046	143,254
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	272,504	385,093
TOTAL LIABILITIES	272,504	385,093
NET ASSETS	119,628	132,499
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained profits	119,628	132,499
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	119,628	132,499

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Vic.).

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic.).

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion:

The financial report of Hepatitis C Victoria Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria 1981) including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2008 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria 1981).

Sean Denham

9 September 2008

Suite 12, 13-25 Church Street

Hawthorn VIC 3122

A full set of audited accounts is available to Hepatitis C Victoria members upon request.

Programs Manager

The Programs Manager now oversees the Education, Training and Health Promotion Team that includes a number of new program positions:

- Campaign and Advocacy Program
- Cultural Diversity Program
- Indigenous Program
- Prison Program
- Young People's Program.

The Programs Manager also oversees the Community Participation Program, which incorporates the HepC Infoline, and our information, referral and support phone line.

Some key initiatives include:

- The Campaign and Advocacy Program: This program focuses on individual and community advocacy to ensure that people affected by hepatitis C are continually supported and their voices heard;
- The Young People's Program: Delivers training to enhance the capacity of services to engage with young people to prevent the transmission of hepatitis C.

Building the capacity of rural and regional services to respond to hepatitis C effectively. A new and successful approach has been to establish rural and regional training initiatives within each program area. Regionally, we have delivered sessions in the past year to more than 500 workers who come from various backgrounds including drug and alcohol, nursing, education, youth work, Victoria Police, and disability services.

Other initiatives include:

- Hep C and Me Survey: We conducted a nationwide survey on attitudes and knowledge relating to hepatitis C - and received 1,033 responses!
- Impact (our hepatitis C information booklet) has been fully revised and reprinted. Since thanks to the group of experts who assisted the review;
- Strengthening the partnership between Hepatitis C Victoria, Justice Health and the Department of Health Services;
- Working in partnership with Ilbjerri Theatre Company and VACCHO to support the Chopped Liver Tour.

Emily Adamson
Programs Manager

Cultural Diversity Program

The Cultural Diversity Program assists the development and delivery of culturally sensitive and accessible hepatitis C programs and services. The program works directly with Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities and organisations to provide culturally appropriate information and training.

In partnership with the Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS) and Mary of the Cross, Hepatitis C Victoria developed recreational camp for families from the Horn of Africa. This year's camp had 60 participants and was held at DOXA's recreational facilities in Malmesbury. The families were brought together to learn about blood borne viruses (BBV) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and also to develop ways of communicating as a family about risky behaviours and culturally sensitive issues.

Hepatitis Awareness Week was made accessible to people from CALD backgrounds with banners displayed in Footscray and Dandenong in Vietnamese and Arabic. Hepatitis C Victoria also collaborated with Multicultural Health and Support Service (MHSS) to promote the Awareness Week message on ethnic radio stations across Melbourne.

A CALD-specific hepatitis C referral list for use by health and community workers has been developed. HepC Infoline posters have translation service details in six different languages.

Other highlights for the year include:

- Education sessions delivered to the South East Asian community in Springvale and a Sudanese Women's Group in Box Hill;
- A Community Worker Survey which assessed over 70 workers' training needs in relation to CALD communities and hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C Victoria has also participated in bi-monthly meetings with the MHSS BBV/STI Working Group. This has helped us to identify strategies to address hepatitis C in CALD communities in a relevant and culturally appropriate manner. Our participation in this group enabled us to identify further opportunities to work collaboratively.

Alex Taylor
Cultural Diversity Program Worker



Prisons Program

The Prison Program delivered 73 education and training sessions at nine of Victoria's 13 correctional facilities and one juvenile justice facility to more than 704 prisoners and over 81 prison staff.

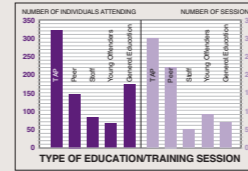
- Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) is aimed at preparing pre-release prisoners for reintegration with the general community.
- Prison peer educator training occurs over several weeks and aims to develop in-depth knowledge about hepatitis C, interpersonal skills and insights to enable prison peer educators to successfully provide information to prisoners.

- Training for staff includes hepatitis C transmission and infection control, testing, treatment and disclosure.

- Training for young offenders concentrates on transmission and testing with a view to assisting individuals to develop improved risk assessment skills.

- General education sessions provide an overview of hepatitis C transmission, testing, treatment and disclosure.

Number of sessions and individuals attending



To mark Hepatitis C Awareness Week 2008, Justice Health and Hepatitis C Victoria collaborated to provide an information stall in the foyer of the Department of Justice at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. Prison Program staff also participated in a Programs Expo at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. Approximately 110 prisoners participated in the Expo.

Finally, the Ararat Poster Project was completed and launched. The project produced eight health promotion posters developed by a group of 12 Peer Educators at Ararat Prison. The posters will be distributed to all Victorian prisons.

Kirk Peterson
Prisons Program Worker

Indigenous Program

The Indigenous Program liaises with Aboriginal communities throughout the State, as well as with Indigenous people in the prison system, to talk with them about health issues that affect Indigenous Victorians, provide support to Indigenous workers in the field, and make sure that Hepatitis C Victoria's messages are culturally appropriate and relevant.

Working in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), Hepatitis C Victoria is endeavouring to overcome some of the hepatitis C-related problems facing the Indigenous community. These include the difficulty experienced by many Indigenous people in accessing education about diagnosis, support, care and treatment for hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C Victoria has also contacted 25 Aboriginal organisations around the State, seeking closer ties with their workers.

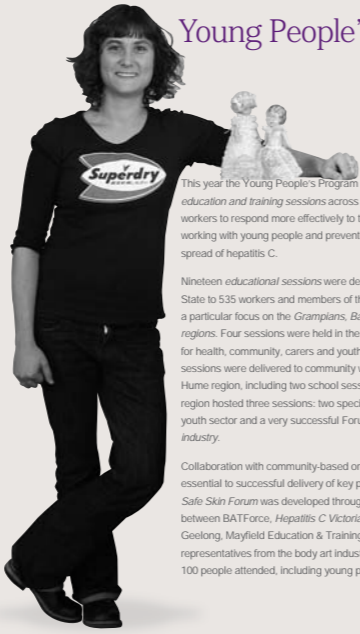
A Health Promotion poster about Hepatitis C is being created for the Indigenous community. The poster will include artwork by an Indigenous artist to ensure a culturally relevant resource.

Chopped Liver is Ilbjerri Theatre Company's latest production, and Hepatitis C Victoria has promoted and supported the show. Because this is an Indigenous play with Indigenous actors talking about hepatitis C, the Aboriginal community and prisoners can relate easily to it.

Kim Dick
Indigenous Program Worker



Young People's Program



This year the Young People's Program has delivered education and training sessions across the State to assist workers to respond more effectively to the challenges of working with young people and preventing the further spread of hepatitis C.

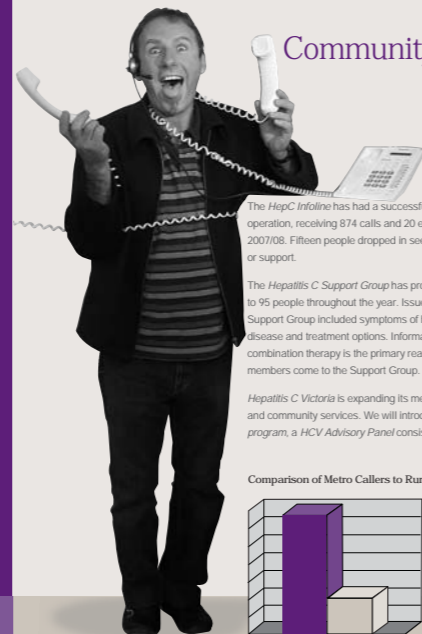
Nineteen educational sessions were delivered across the State to 535 workers and members of the community, with a particular focus on the Grampians, Barwon and Hume regions. Four sessions were held in the Grampians region for health, community, carers and youth workers. Five sessions were delivered to community workers in the Hume region, including two school sessions. The Barwon region hosted three sessions: two specifically for the youth sector and a very successful Forum for the body art industry.

Collaboration with community-based organisations was essential to successful delivery of key programs. The Safe Skin Forum was developed through a partnership between BATForce, Hepatitis C Victoria, City of Greater Geelong, Mayfield Education & Training and representatives from the body art industry. Approximately 100 people attended, including young people, tattoo

artists, community workers, and local government and community members.

Hepatitis C Victoria has established a partnership with Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) to develop a training package. This builds on prevention research and YSAS's extensive experience in working with young people with complex needs. The training package will be delivered extensively through the out-of-home care settings sector.

Emily Lenton
Young Person's Program Worker



Community Participation Coordinator

The HepC Infoline has had a successful first year of operation, receiving 874 calls and 20 email enquiries in 2007/08. Fifteen people dropped in seeking information or support.

The Hepatitis C Support Group has provided support to 95 people throughout the year. Issues dealt with in the Support Group included symptoms of hepatitis C, liver disease and treatment options. Information about combination therapy is the primary reason why new members come to the Support Group.

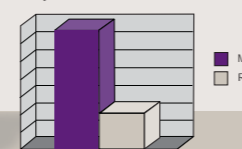
Hepatitis C Victoria is expanding its membership program and community services. We will introduce a volunteer program, a HCV Advisory Panel consisting of people

affected by hepatitis C, a Media Spokespersons' group and a trained hepatitis C positive Ambassador.

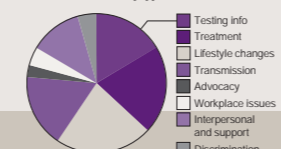
The nation-wide Hep C and Me Survey, in the lead-up to Hepatitis C Awareness Week, gave us the opportunity to understand more about hepatitis C and what the community thinks are the most important issues. More than 1000 responses revealed that people want more detailed information about hepatitis C, are still not sure about the difference between hepatitis B and C, and are still confused about how hepatitis C is transmitted. This information will inform our activities in the coming year.

Garry Sattell
Community Participation Coordinator

Comparison of Metro Callers to Rural Callers



Breakdown of calls by type



Communications Coordinator

The 2007 Annual General Meeting was held at the Fix Function rooms at Dockland. The guest speaker was Professor Nick Crofts, and Rod Quantock was the special guest performer.

Hepatitis Awareness Week was managed this year by representatives from all State Hepatitis organisations, as well as the Haemophilia Foundation of Australia, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM), Anex and Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users' League (AIVL). More than 150 stakeholders were sent resource packages.

Resources distributed included 9,000 postcards and 8,000 Flipack stickers produced by Hepatitis Australia, along with 1,500 A3 posters produced by Hepatitis C Victoria. 5,000 drink coasters were printed and distributed in the 'Hot Spots' of Footscray, Fitzroy, St. Kilda, Richmond and North Melbourne. Three awareness-raising banners were created: two were attached to freeway walkovers and one to the front fence of HealthWorks in Footscray.

The 5th Edition of Impact was produced and 30,000 copies were printed, with updated information and redesigned cover and layout.

Good Liver now features the logo, colours and sleek modern look of Hepatitis C Victoria's new brand, all in full colour. Four quarterly editions averaging 20 pages were produced during the year.

Ray Hehr
Communications Coordinator



Office Coordinator

Membership remains one of Hepatitis C Victoria's strongest points, with the latest issue of Good Liver being sent to well over 500 people. With the new e-newsletters, it is hoped to send that figure through the roof! A number of people signed up after the Hep C and Me survey and there are more projects planned to raise awareness of membership and encourage people to get involved in the organisation.

Hepatitis C Victoria is also sending out boxes and boxes of resources: in the first few weeks since publication, well over 5,000 copies of the latest edition of Impact have already been sent!

The organisation continues to source the best pamphlets and brochures on hepatitis C from around Australia and send out thousands of brochures each year, as well as journal articles and other information.

The Library is also being expanded and reorganised to make it more open and inviting. The team loves to see people coming in to browse through the diverse collection of books, journals and audio-visual materials. The collection will be catalogued in the coming year and items available on loan from our Sydney Road office.

Overall, there has been an excellent response to big events such as Awareness Week and it is hoped that this will lead to bigger and better things next year.

Halo Jones
Office Coordinator

