

Prevention Support and Treatment  
of Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) &  
Sexually Transmissible Infections  
(STI) among alcohol and drug users

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## Background



- Specialist Infectious Diseases Service (SIDS)
  - Established October 2007
  - Community based service delivery model

## SIDS Service



- Provision of service
  - Education
  - Support
  - Referral pathways
  - Promote treatment
  - Health promotion

## Chronic Health Disease



- 80% of current infections and 90% of new HCV infections are estimated to be due to unsafe injecting practices.
- 75% of those exposed with HCV will progress to chronic Hep C.
- Estimated 20% will develop cirrhosis over a 20-40 year period.
- Only about 1% of those diagnosed with Hep C are being treated annually.

## Benefits of SIDS



- To increase the uptake of treatment services for Hepatitis C and other BBV/STI's.
- To prevent the spread of BBV/STI's.
- To provide clients with better outcomes in regard to treatment options, education and support for clients BBV/STI's.
- To provide of a local community based service.
- To assist clients who may be accessing service outside of the Bendigo area e.g. Melbourne.

## References



Department of Health and Aged Care, 2005. *National Hepatitis C Strategy 2005-2008*, Canberra.

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