

Friday, 22 July, 2016

## HEPATITIS AWARENESS WEEK, 28 JULY TO 3 AUGUST

**All Australians need to take action on viral hepatitis – it could save thousands of lives.**

The South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) is joining forces with Hepatitis NSW and other community organisations to raise awareness of hepatitis as part of national Hepatitis Awareness Week, 28 July to 3 August.

Half a million Australians are living with chronic hepatitis B or C which if left untreated can cause liver cancer, liver cirrhosis and liver failure.

People living with hepatitis B or C in the eastern and southern suburbs of Sydney are being encouraged to get tested, have their livers checked and ask about treatment. Assessment and treatment is easy.

Professor Stephen Riordan, Director, Prince of Wales Hospital's Liver Clinic, wants people to know that there are new treatments available.

“It has never been a better time to treat hepatitis C, as there are new treatments that offer enormous benefits, including for over 90% of people on treatments, a cure,” Professor Stephen Riordan said.

“There are also more than 230,000 Australians living with hepatitis C but less than two per cent currently receives treatment.

“The new treatments have much fewer side effects than the older treatments and can be taken for as little as eight to 12 weeks in most cases.

“More than 225,000 Australians are living with hepatitis B but less than 5 per cent are receiving treatment. There is no such thing as being a healthy carrier of hepatitis B – it is vital to have your liver checked regularly which will help determine the best time to start treatment.”

“If you or someone you know is effected by hepatitis B or C, it's time for action – get tested, have a liver check and ask about treatment. These simple actions can save lives.”

People affected by hepatitis are urged to talk to their GP or call the hepatitis Infoline on 1800 803 990. For more information on hepatitis, visit [www.hep.org.au](http://www.hep.org.au)

### **South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Media**

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## SESLHD Hepatitis Awareness Week 2016 Events

Date	Event name	Description	Location
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July  8.30am – 12.00pm	Scone & Scan	Fibroscans available during morning clinic of the Opioid Treatment Program. Resources and Information provided. Scones with jam and cream and fruit juice provided. Quiz and prizes to be won.	The Langton Clinic  591 South Dowling Street, Surry Hills
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2pm-4pm	Scone & Scan	Kirketon Road Centre will be providing Fibroscans	MSIC  66 Darlinghurst Rd  Darlinghurst
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> July 10am- 1pm	Scone and Scan	Fibroscans, healthy food, health promotion activities.	Kirketon Rd Centre  Darlinghurst
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2pm – 4pm	Fibroscan at NUAA (NSW Users & AIDS Association's)	Kirketon Road Centre will be providing Fibroscans at the NUAA clinic	NUAA  345 Crown St, Surry Hills NSW 2010
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> July  9am – 2pm	Scone and scan	KRC will provide Fibroscans. Resources and health promotion. Devonshire tea. Quiz and prizes to be won	Bondi CSC @ Norman Roscoe House