

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.

People living with hepatitis B or C in St George and Sutherland Shire are being encouraged to get tested, have their livers checked and ask about treatment. Assessment and treatment is easy.

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.

Associate Professor Amany Zekry, Director, St George 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," Associate Professor Amany Zekry said.

"There are also more than 230,000 Australians 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

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Media

Deborah Field, 0411 730 842, deborah.field@health.nsw.gov.au

SESLHD Hepatitis Awareness Week 2016 Events

Date	Event name	Description	Location
Monday 25 th July 9am – 12pm	Hepatitis Health Promotion Stall	Health education and outreach regarding viral hepatitis, giveaways, and quiz.	Forest Road, Hurstville (opposite the Bus Terminal)
Tuesday 26 th July 9am – 12pm	Scone and scan	Hepatitis Awareness Week promotion – Morning tea provided. Education regarding viral hepatitis and need for screening. Fibroscan liver assessment available for registered clients of the St George Drug & Alcohol Service.	St George Drug & Alcohol Service 2 South Street Kogarah
Wednesday 27 th July 9:30am – 12pm	Scone and scan	Fibroscans available, scones, and health education.	Mission Australia Centre 19 Denham Street, Surry Hills, 2010
Thursday 28 th July 2:30pm start	Ward based education session	Education session about new treatments	St George Hospital
Thursday 28 th July 9am – 12pm	Hospital Hepatitis Awareness Day event	Health Promotion and fundraising	St George Hospital
Thursday 28 th July	Hep C Awareness Morning Tea	Needle & Syringe Program, scones and fruit, quiz, and brief interventions promoting treatment	KRC South Cnr Kingsway & Kareena Rd, Caringbah, 2229
Thursday 28 th July	Poster display in atrium at Sutherland Hospital	Health promotion	Sutherland Hospital Atrium Cnr Kingsway & Kareena Rd, Caringbah, 2229