
Hepatitis Awareness Week: “It’s Time for Action!”

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

This National Hepatitis Awareness Week, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) is joining forces with Hepatitis NSW and other community organisations to raise awareness of hepatitis and encourage the community to get tested for hepatitis B or C, have their livers checked and ask about treatment.

Professor Stephen Riordan, Director of the Prince of Wales Hospital’s Liver Clinic, said there is an urgent need to ensure that appropriate education, information and support is reaching those at risk.

“In recent years there has been 300-400 cases of both hepatitis B and C recorded in South Eastern Sydney annually. In total, there are just under 1800 notifications of hepatitis B in the Randwick Local Government Area,” said Professor Riordan.

“It’s time for action on hepatitis B and C. We need to work together with GPs and our local communities to prevent, test, check and treat hepatitis in order to stop the more than 1,000 Australian lives lost each year to serious liver disease.

“More than 225,000 Australians are living with hepatitis B, but less than five 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.

“There are also more than 230,000 Australians are with hepatitis C but less than two per cent currently receive treatment. New hepatitis C treatments are expected to be available by the end of 2015. The new treatments have much fewer side effects and are much more effective at curing people of hepatitis C.”

Professor Riordan said it is important those who may be at risk of hepatitis B and C take action and get tested.

“If the tests show that they have hepatitis B or C, they should speak to their doctor about regular liver check-ups and treatment options,” he said.

“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
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SESLHD Hepatitis Awareness Week 2015 Events

Date	Event name	Description	Location
Monday 27 th July 10am – 5pm	Community Fibroscan Day at Kirketon Road Centre	All-day fibroscans available for clients and visitors. Healthy food options available throughout the day, fun health promotion activities in the Group Room space and lots of opportunities to win prizes for those who have a scan.	Kirketon Road Centre
Monday 27 th July	Hepatitis Awareness at Youth Clinics	Kirketon Road Centre will be facilitating Hepatitis Awareness activities at all Youth Clinics including the Hepatitis NSW 'Hepatitis ABC Game'.	Kirketon Road Centre Youth clinics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayside Chapel • OASIS
28 th – 30 th July	Hepatitis Awareness Week 2015	Information Stall	Prince of Wales Hospital – both Barker St Foyer and High St Entrance
Tuesday 28 th July	Hepatitis Awareness at Youth Clinic	Kirketon Road Centre will be facilitating Hepatitis Awareness activities at all Youth Clinics including the Hepatitis NSW 'Hepatitis ABC Game'.	Kirketon Road Centre Youth clinics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty10
Wednesday 29 th July 9am – 12.30pm	Scone & 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 Langton Clinic.	The Langton Clinic 591 South Dowling Street, Surry Hills
Thursday 30 th July 9.30am – 12.30pm	Scone & Scan	Hepatitis Awareness Week promotion – Morning tea provided. Education regarding viral hepatitis and need for screening. Fibroscan liver assessment available.	Mission Australia 19 Denham Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010
Thursday 30 th July 2pm – 4pm	Fibroscan at NUAA (NSW Users & AIDS Association's)	Kirketon Road Centre will be providing Fibroscans at the NUAA clinic from 2pm – 4pm.	NUAA 345 Crown St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

