



# Hepatitis B Voices Australia

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Supporting people living with hepatitis B and healthcare workers: media reports on hepatitis B and Nepean Hospital*

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Hepatitis B Voices Australia (HBVA), a community-led organisation extends its support to all individuals and families affected by hepatitis B across the country. The recent media reports about a healthcare worker with hepatitis B at Nepean Hospital may have been distressing for many people. HBVA offers our support to the families and the healthcare worker impacted by this situation.

Nafisa Yussf, Board Chair of Hepatitis B Voices Australia said:

*“Hepatitis B is a very common and manageable liver condition. Providing appropriate diagnosis, management, and support to people living with hepatitis B is critical. Many people living with hepatitis B play a crucial role serving the community and improving health outcomes for all Australians”.*

Inflammatory headlines and misinformation can contribute to stigma, discrimination, and unnecessary distress in the community and may reduce critical care uptake. It is important that the media coverage not detract from the reality that the risk of hepatitis B transmission in healthcare settings is extremely low.

Under national guidelines, healthcare workers with hepatitis B can safely continue their work, with clinical measures in place for those performing procedures with a higher risk of exposure. Critically, by offering universal testing and appropriate management for all Australians (including healthcare workers), we can prevent the already very low risk of transmission, and also protect the health and wellbeing of those already living with hepatitis B. Infants born in Australia since May 2000 have been vaccinated against hepatitis B in the universal immunisation program, with many others having been vaccinated through adolescent catch-up and other vaccination programs.

A/Prof Thomas Tu, Vice-Chair of Hepatitis B Voices Australia and Founder of HepBCommunity.org, a safe online peer support group said:

*“For people impacted by hepatitis B—whether newly diagnosed, living with the condition long-term, or with loved ones touched by the condition—support is available from peers, experts, and advocates on our forum. We encourage individuals to speak with their doctor for medical advice, seek mental health support if needed, and connect with local hepatitis organisations”.*

At HBVA, we are committed to raising awareness, reducing stigma, and ensuring that everyone affected by hepatitis B has access to accurate information, care, and a supportive community.

For further information please contact:

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