

HEPATITIS B VOICES AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Hepatitis B Voices Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge that the land on which we stand always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge people living with and affected by hepatitis B – and all lives lost globally due to hepatitis B. We deeply appreciate the global movement of lived experiences, advocacy and resilience to eliminate hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B Voices Australia

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ABOUT HEPATITIS B VOICES AUSTRALIA

Hepatitis B Voices Australia is an independent, not-for-profit community-led organisation that supports, represents and advocates for the health and well-being of people affected by hepatitis B in Australia.

We are the first hepatitis B community-led organisation that is wholly led by people living with hepatitis B in Australia. The voices of affected communities are central to our work.

Our Values



Lived Experience



Equity



Diversity



Collaboration



Respect



Transparency

Our History

Hepatitis B Voices Australia launched in November 2022 by a group of passionate people living with hepatitis B across Australia. Our goal is to improve health outcomes for people impacted by chronic hepatitis B across all aspects of the response including hepatitis B prevention, management, cure and elimination.

Our framework is centred in lived experience, robust evidence, social justice, cultural safety and trauma-informed practices. People living with hepatitis B are the experts in their own experiences and are change makers. Our approach is utilising the multi-faceted intersectional experiences, strengths and resilience of affected communities.

our
Services



ADVOCACY AND DEVELOPMENT

- Capture and convey the needs of the hepatitis B affected community to enable effective advocacy.
- Guide policies in all areas that impact the affected community.



RESEARCH AND TRAINING

- Work with researchers to design and execute research that benefits the affected community.
- Develop training programs for both sector and community to enable effective conversations between all parties.



CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- Offer training, workshops and facilitation on the interactions between affected community and consultees in an efficient, culturally safe, and representative manner.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Undertake peer-led community engagement and support activities with sector collaboration.
- Develop community networks and effective partnerships.

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Nafisa Yussf (2022 – present)

Co-founder, Director and Board Chair

Nafisa Yussf is co-founder and Director of Hepatitis B Voices Australia. She has an extensive background and expertise in public health; community engagement, social research, and advocacy and policy development working in both government and not-government sectors.



Prof Thomas Tu (2022 – present)

Co-founder, Director, Vice-chair and Secretary

Associate Professor Thomas Tu is a molecular biologist and currently leads a research group at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research (Sydney, Australia), where his team focuses on curing Hepatitis B and preventing liver cancer. A/Prof Tu is also the founder and Director of HepBCommunity.org, a global support network for people affected with HBV. He has won multiple awards for his research and outreach, most recently a highly commended finalist in the 2024 Sydney awards Unsung Hero category.



Lien Tran (2022 – present)

Co-founder, Director and Treasurer

Lien is a public health researcher at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis, Doherty Institute, Australia. Her research focuses on hepatitis B care delivery in primary care.



Uyen Vo (2022 – present)

Co-founder, Director

Uyen is a co-founder of Hepatitis B Voices Australia. After arriving to Australia, Uyen struggled to find hepatitis B resources and support. 2017-2018, Uyen joined LiverWELL Board. In 2018, Uyen co-founded an online support group for Vietnamese living with hepatitis B; and the newcomers to navigate health care in Australia. It's also a casual platform promoting the ASHM Prescriber Map in Australia.



Dr Kim Ngo (2023 – present)

Director

Dr Kim Ngo is an Australian medical graduate with 20 years clinical experience who is currently working for NSW Health as a mental health practitioner. She has an active interest in promoting community awareness and advocacy especially in disadvantaged populations such as those suffering with mental health disorders.

VOLUNTEERS



Mylisa Vu (2023 – 2024)

Board Volunteer

Mylisa was a volunteer for Hepatitis B Voices Australia. She has a Master of Public Health and previously worked at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research, as the project manager of HepBCommunity.org. Her passion is in health and providing the community with the care and support they need to improve their health and wellbeing.



Sumaya Mozumder (2024 - present)

Board Volunteer

Sumaya is a Board volunteer for Hepatitis B Voices Australia. She is currently working at Westmead Institute for Medical Research as the project manager of HepBCommunity.org. She has a Master's of Global Health and has worked as a scientist in Australia and overseas, including working at a hospital in Papua New Guinea testing for Tuberculosis. Sumaya has a passion for scientific research and helping within the community

GOVERNANCE

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

Hepatitis B Voices Australia is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Hepatitis B Voices Australia is governed by a voluntary Board that oversees governance and supports operational matters. Our Board has a range diversity of lived experiences and expertise in public health, community engagement, policy and advocacy, medical and scientific backgrounds.





Chairperson's Report

It has been another inspiring year for Hepatitis B Voices Australia (Hep B Voices) as we continue to champion our vision: ensuring that people living with hepatitis B are central to the national hepatitis B response. Our commitment to placing lived experience at the heart of hepatitis B engagement, care, and policy has guided all of our efforts throughout the year.

Over the past 12 months, Hep B Voices has played an instrumental role in the hepatitis B response through strategic partnerships, advocacy, and collaboration. We've been proud to partner with **16** organisations working collectively to improve the health and wellbeing of people affected by hepatitis B.

Internally, we have made significant strides in strengthening our organisational capacity – we have enhanced our governance framework, deepened our financial strategy, and laid the foundation for sustainable growth.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. Our priorities for 2024-25 will focus on building upon the implementation of our Strategic Plan (2022-2025). This includes expanding our volunteers, enhancing community engagement, and continuing to build partnerships and bridge the gap between affected communities and the sector. A critical part of our strategy will be to ensure community co-design remains at the forefront of hepatitis B engagement, care, research, and policy to ensure equitable health outcomes for people affected by hepatitis B.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Board Directors for their unwavering passion, dedication, and commitment to Hep B Voices. As a non-funded, volunteer-led organisation, I am humbled and immensely proud of our Board. Their collective endeavours have been instrumental in advancing Hep B Voices forward and ensuring we continue making a meaningful impact.

On behalf of the Board, I also extend our heartfelt thanks to our supporters, volunteers, and sector partners for their invaluable contributions. Your enduring support and collaboration are truly invaluable to us, and we look forward to building on these partnerships as we work together to create a future where people affected by hepatitis B receive the care and support they need.

Nafisa Yussf

Board Chair

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our Strategic Plan 2022-25 guides us to focus on our strategic priorities and opportunities to achieve our purpose and long-term vision.

1

Organisational growth: build capacity and expertise, focusing on good governance, financial sustainability and membership



Goals

- Expand Board capability and capacity
- Develop our structure and processes
- Build membership and financial sustainability
- Establish our Expert Advisory Group

2

Partnerships: develop strategic partnerships with community groups, policy makers and researchers to achieve national presence and influence



Goals

- Build relationships across our sector and community to establish national presence and influence
- Collaborate with researchers to guide hepatitis B research.

3

Policy and advocacy: develop and influence Australian policy to ensure it is respectful, culturally safe and evidence-based



Goals

- Develop national policies for appropriate and culturally safe hepatitis B language and community engagement
- Influence national and state hepatitis B policy.

4

Community support: support and strengthen our community through mentoring and peer education



Goals

- Develop community engagement strategy
- Develop a peer education strategy
- Develop programs for community mentoring and leadership



2023 - 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

1 Organisational growth


- **Three** of our Board members have completed Governance training through the Australian Governance Institute. The course supported our directors understand essential elements of governance, rules and regulations, compliance and work health and safety aspects, especially for not-for-profit organisations. We acknowledge Hepatitis Australia for supporting our Board members in completing this vital governance training
- Continued to strengthen our internal policies and procedures including development of financial strategy.
- Created and unveiled our new logo, a powerful symbol that embodies our core purpose and vision.
- Recruited a new Board volunteer.


2

Partnerships

- Collaborated and presented at more than **10** national and international conferences and workshops.
- Collaborated on **four** research and grants projects.
- Contributed to the development and implementation of **key partnership projects** including:
 1. *Victoria Hepatitis B GP Toolkit* (ASHM and the Peter Doherty Institute), an online toolkit resource for GPs and health professionals to support people living with hepatitis B.
 2. *Linkage to Information and Care for People notified with hepatitis B service pilot (LINC-B)* (Peter Doherty Institute) to improve linkage to healthcare services for people diagnosed with hepatitis B, and ensure they receive the information and care they need in a culturally appropriate and safe manner.
 3. *Legal Needs Study (LeNS)*, part of Health+Law's national collaborative research on the legal issues faced by people living with hepatitis B or HIV, led by UNSW. The study aims to understand people's legal needs and experiences including barriers to access legal services and information and its impact on their health and wellbeing. HBVA recruited and supported people living with hepatitis B, especially those in Victoria and NSW, to participate in this critical research through interviews and survey.
 4. *Real World Assessment of people living with Chronic Hepatitis B (REACH B)* to monitor hepatitis B linkage to care and assess the rate of liver disease progression across Australia.
 5. *B Referred* (ASHM) developed resources to support primary care clinicians at the time of diagnosis or engagement through what needs to happen next, as well as options for ongoing management and care.
 6. Supported hepatitis B and migration resources for community and health professionals in partnership with LiverWELL and ASHM.
 7. Contributed to global advocacy including the WHO Hepatitis B Guidelines.

- Published **three** academic journals to enhance knowledge and evidence-based approaches to hepatitis B, including:

 Tu, T. Treating People, not just a Virus: Cure, Community, & Collaboration for Hep B. AQ: Australian Quarterly, 95(1), 27–33 (2024)

 Ibrahim, Y., Zovich, B., Ansah, B., Freeland, C., Jackson, M., Tu, T., Cohen, C. Quality of life of people living with chronic hepatitis B: The role of social support system. PLOS Global Public Health 4, (2024)

 Freeland, C., Qureshi, A., Wallace, J., Tu, T., et al. Hepatitis B discrimination: global responses requiring global data. BMC Public Health 24, 1575 (2024)

3

Policy and advocacy

- Provided culturally safe insights and lived experience expertise on **17** Advisory Committees.
- Provide ongoing community advocacy and partnership through the Viral Hepatitis Working Group Committee, Victorian Department of Health.

4

Community Support

- Guest speaker on the Podcast, "Matter of Vax" Immunisation Foundation Australia to raise awareness about hepatitis vaccinations, testing, treatment, care and support.
- Sponsored Curiosity award for the hepBCommunity.org 2024 Research showcase.
- Supported community members in applying for scholarships to attend the 2024 Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference, Darwin.



OUR FINANCES

TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of the Hepatitis Voices Australia Board, I am pleased to present the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Hepatitis Voices Australia's financial position for July 2023-June 2024 shows positivity and potential for future development.

- Total equity as of 30 June 2024: \$ 23,693.45
- Total revenue: \$ 15,595.40
- Surplus: \$ 11,222.35

Balance sheet report

Accrual mode
30 Jun 2024

Assets

Total current Assets	23,693.45
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Equity

Current Year Earnings	11,222.35
Historical Balancing	12,471.10

Total Equity	23,693.45
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Lien Tran

Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024

Profit and loss report

Accrual mode

01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2024

Income

Total

Donatons	\$1,575.40
Services fees	\$14,020.00

Total Income

\$15,595.40

Gross Profit

\$15,595.40

Expenses

Office and administration	\$2,225.16
Meetings and Travels	\$1,631.39
Community Support	\$170.50
Staff Payroll and benefit	\$49.00

Total Expenses

\$4,373.05

Operating Profit

\$11,222.35

Net Profit

\$11,222.35

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Hepatitis B Voices Australia expresses our deepest gratitude to our Ambassadors, volunteers, and partners for your support and collaboration. We look forward to working with you to achieve our common goal of improving the health and wellbeing of people affected by hepatitis B.



Prof Ben Cowie, Director

WHO Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis, Peter Doherty Institute



Dr Lester Mascarenhas

General Practitioner, Utopia Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health



Dr Su Wang, Medical Director

Saint Barnabas Medical Center, NJ, US

Thank You



ashm



The
Westmead
Institute

FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

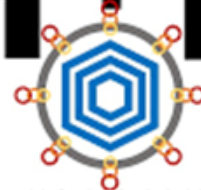


Doherty
Institute

Health
+ Law



Hep B



Community

HepBcommunity.org

VHBA

Victorian Hepatitis B Alliance

hepatitis
australia

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To support or become a volunteer, email Hepatitis B Voices Australia info@hepbvoices.au



Make a donation

Make a tax-deductible donation via our website at <https://www.hepbvoices.au>.



CONTACT US

Address: 299-305 Victoria St, Brunswick, VIC, 3056

Email: info@hepbvoices.au

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Hepatitis B Voice Australia Limited.

ABN: 659 939 456

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