



Access Information Centre Bulletin

Resources for the Victorian community on HIV, hepatitis and STIs

Number 13 December 2003

www.accessinfo.org.au

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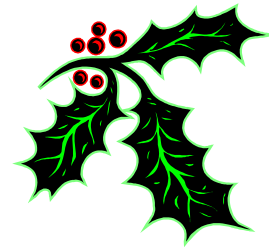
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*Seasons greetings !
from
Suzanne and Jane*



The Access Information Centre
will close
at **5pm on Monday 22 December 2003**
and reopen
at **10am Monday 12 January 2004**
for the Christmas/New Year break

Treatments information

Where do you look on the Net to find the latest on treatments for yourself and your clients?

Here are a few tips on useful web links drawn from our most commonly used web sites:

Hepatitis C

Access Information Centre

www.accessinfo.org.au

The Access Information Centre has collaborated with a couple of large Victorian hepatitis clinics to produce some up-to-date fact sheets. These focus on medical treatments for hepatitis C that are available in Victoria. The fact sheets also explain relevant research.

- There are 2 levels of information: a **plain and simple fact sheet**, and a more **detailed fact sheet**. The detailed fact sheet will be rewritten shortly to include the very latest research results on Peg Interferon.
- Go to the **AIC fact sheets** page on the **Access home page**, or ring to have a copy posted to you
- The Access web site also has links to good treatments web sites, including complementary therapies, on its **Hepatitis** page

Hepatitis C Council of Victoria

www.hepcvic.org.au

- **Good Liver** magazine is a great source of current information about treatments, drawing together Australian experts, workers and people with hepatitis C to give their perspectives on treatments. Back issues of the **Good Liver** are under **Information & Resources**
- The Council's web site also has a page on treatments under **You and hep C**

Hepatitis C Council of NSW (HCCN)

www.hepatitisc.org.au

The HCCN's magazine, the **Hep C Review**, regularly publishes articles about medical treatments and complementary therapies and often includes summaries of recent medical research. Back copies of the **Hep C Review** are available on the web site, along with **fact sheets** and **frequently asked questions**.

Australian Hepatitis Council (AHC)

www.hepatitisaustralia.com

The AHC has copies of its brochures on treatment in PDF (fulltext) format on its web site under **News & Resources**. People with hepatitis C are invited to join the discussion threads on the **Discussion Forum** message board (click on **Discussion & Feedback**)

HCV Advocate (USA)

www.hcvadvocate.org

Look under **News Updates** for the latest summaries of treatments research results from international conferences. This can be a bit indigestible, so if you are looking for more reader-friendly articles, try the **HCV Advocate Newsletter**, where you will find articles by treatments activists and US experts. As it is a US site, it often gives information about treatments that may not be standard or available in Australia, so it pays to check the fine print on the type of Interferon they are using.

HIV

HIV Treatment (Better Health Channel/Access Info Centre)

http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhc/articles.nsf/pages/HIV_treatment?open

- A partner fact sheet by the AIC for Better Health Channel
- Gives a 1 page simple introduction to HIV treatments

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

www.afao.org.au

- AFAO brochures on treatments, including the new **Tests and Treatments**, are available on the web site under **Living with HIV**
- The **Treatments** page also includes background to current treatments issues in Australia

New Mexico AIDS InfoNet (USA)

www.aidsinonet.org

- **Fact sheets** are all simple language, aimed at Year 8 level
- Has a **comprehensive list of fact sheets on HIV drugs**, including a couple of introductory fact sheets about treatment generally

HIV drug guide – TPAN (USA)

www.tpan.com/publications/drug_guide/drugguide_2003.html

- HIV drugs in more detail. One page per drug with dosage, side effects, tips and comments by an HIV physician, an HIV treatments activist and the manufacturer.

Suzanne OC

SEXPO 2003

Access Information Centre (AIC) had a successful SEXPO year this year, thanks largely to three things:

- the positioning of the SHARE area with other SEXPO stands;
- concentrating on one theme, *Safe sex & STI prevention*, as the core message of our stand;
- sharing our stand with Aids, Hepatitis and Sexual Health Line (AHSHL).

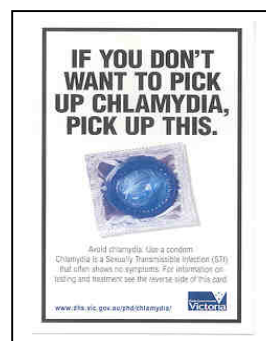
We had fun playing our 'safe sex' game with SEXPO goers. It was a game of true skill in which players attempted to throw quoits over 'safe', condom-covered objects such as plastic dolphin, banana and latex penis. All players won a prize (a safe-sex pack of condom, lube & AIC / AHSHL cards), some won lollies as well and the really skilled players won a safe sex-related prize kindly donated by the *Bliss 4 women* shop.

We also provided a lot of information brochures and cards on safe sex, STIs and HIV at our stand and included a special stand of 'parents information' which contained the *KISSSS* brochure (*Keep it Simple Guide to Safe Sex*) and the *Talking sexual health: information for parents* brochure.

Here are some vital statistics on the 2003 SEXPO stand:

- 596 people played the 'safe sex' game
- 108 people engaged us in health-related queries
- 1360 information cards & brochures on safe sex, STIs and HIV were picked up at the stand, including:
 - Our entire stock of the *KISSSS* brochure (196 brochures)
 - 127 *Talking sexual health: information for parents* booklets
 - 426 cards and brochures on Chlamydia - representing one third of the entire amount of information brochures & cards picked up from the stand

- 604 cards and brochures on safe sex and STIs (including the chlamydia items mentioned above)



- AIC information picked up included
 - 596 AIC cards given out in the safe sex packs
 - 72 AIC brochures
 - 26 *Surfing Safely* AIDS Awareness Week competition

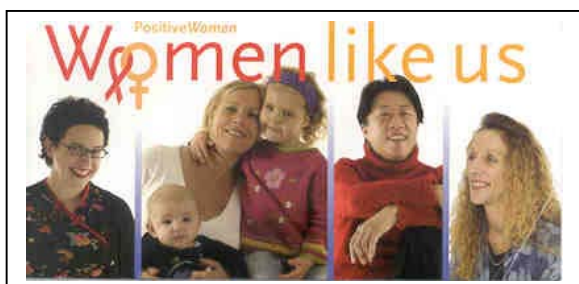
The playful aspect of the game helped attract passers by and the DHS posters, outlining recent rises in STIs in Victoria, gave us the opportunity to engage in conversations about STI prevention and sexual health.

We also made sure that volunteers on the stand were there with at least one Access staff member (Jane or Suzanne) or Rosey Cummings, BBV/STI Health Educator at The Alfred. Sharing the stand with AHSHL also gave us a lot of space, camaraderie and an ability to keep the game going, the safe sex packs replenished, brochures stocked and the video playing.

We'd like to acknowledge the sponsorship of *Bliss 4 women* who donated prizes to us for this year's stand. A big thank you to Alex Nikolovsky from AHSHL and Suzanne O'Callaghan from AIC for creating the games and organising the stand. A special mention of Louise Juracich from DHS who made sure all of the stock of STI brochures arrived ahead of time and walked the STI statistics poster down to the stand at SEXPO. A huge thanks also to all the volunteers who helped make this year's SEXPO stand such a success this year.

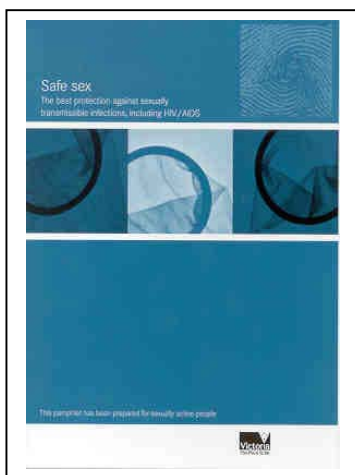
Jane WB

Hot off the press (new brochures)



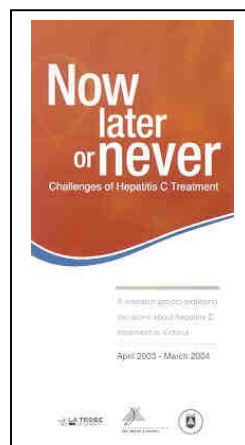
Women like us

Positive Women Victoria has revamped and re-released its information brochure. It has a great new look using the *Positive Women* logo and colours. The brochure takes a personal, inclusive approach to talking about positive women, answering questions such as 'Can I still have a baby?', 'Is there a cure or a vaccine yet?' and more. There's information on *Positive Women* as a support and advocacy group, on HIV, safer sex as well as a useful contact list.



Safe sex

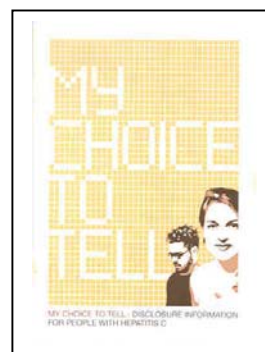
Dept of Human Services. [12 pages]
An update of the *Safe sex* brochure. It is aimed at sexually active people and includes explanations of what safe sex is and how to practise it. It shows how to use condoms correctly (including a diagram). At the end of the brochure there is a comprehensive list of sexual health clinics and information services around Victoria.



Now later or never - challenges of hepatitis C treatment

La Trobe University Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society and Deakin School of Health Sciences. [1 page brochure]

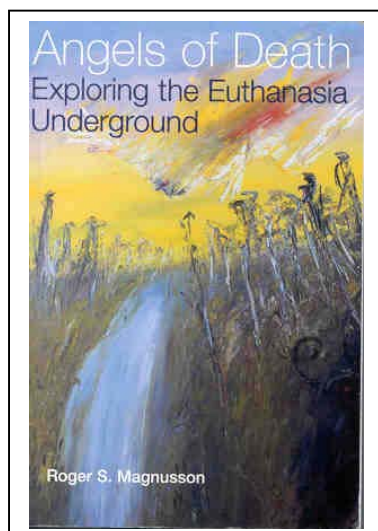
This brochure is an introduction to a current research project exploring decisions about hepatitis C treatment in Victoria which will finish recruiting in March 2004.



My choice to tell : disclosure information for people with hepatitis C.

Australian Hepatitis Council [38 pages]
This booklet is a companion to the *My rights* booklet written up in our previous bulletin issue. Telling others (or disclosing) that you have hepatitis C can be quite difficult for some people, and less difficult for others. Information in this booklet can help people make decisions that are right for them about disclosure. There are sections on disclosure to friends and family, at work, to health care workers, to children and to institutions. There's also a section on health information and privacy and a contact list of hepatitis C councils around Australia.

**All of these resources are available at
Access Information Centre**



[Thanks to Nick for writing this book review as his last contribution to the Access Information Centre's Reference Group before moving down to Gippsland. Nick has been an active member of the Reference Group and he will be greatly missed. We wish him all the best in his seachange! - Ed]

Angels of Death. Exploring the Euthanasia Underground.

Roger S Magnusson (Melbourne University Press).

Roger Magnusson (Faculty of Law University of Sydney), with contributions from Peter Ballis (HUMCAS, Monash University), has made a significant contribution to the public discussion of euthanasia and assisted suicide with a well balanced presentation of the different arguments distilled from interviews with health professionals, intimately involved in caring for people with AIDS in both Australia and California, who have been participants in assisted death.

This is a quality production from the *Forward* by Justice Michael Kirby to the eye opening snap-shots of the personal interviews. The input from surprisingly candid first-hand accounts, covering the moving dignity of a peaceful death to the reality of 'botched attempts', alone sets this book apart. These also form the basis for the book's qualitative analysis of what we have suspected but has never been formally investigated - the euthanasia underground in Australia and the USA. For an informed and informative presentation of this contentious subject this book is a "must read".

Nick Deacon
Burnet Institute

Current Awareness List

A listing of new articles, books and videos at the Access Information Centre on one or two special interest topics.

Internet addresses of the articles are included.

A note on access to online journal articles –

- **some of them you can only access online**
 - **if you are using a PC in an organisation with an online library subscription, eg The Alfred, MSHC**
 - **or if you have a password. If your organisation is an organisational member of the Access Information Centre, contact us for a password.**

Feel free to suggest new topics!

**Are you reading this on your PC?
Just click on the links to be taken to the full text of the article**

Hepatitis C

Plain language

Working out to fight fatigue by MJ Destroyer

Hep C Review 2003 Sep, p. 40-41

<http://www.hepatitisc.org.au/reviews/documents/4240-52lowres.pdf>

Research literature

Structure-based design of hepatitis C virus inhibitors by RM Smith, GY Wu.

Journal of Viral Hepatitis 2003, 10(6): p. 405-12

<http://miranda.ingentaselect.com/vl=914054/cl=47/nw=1/rpsv/ij/bsc/13520504/v10n6/s1/p405>

Hepatitis C virus infection: prevalence, predictor variables and prevention opportunities among drug users in Italy by GL Quaglio et al

Journal of Viral Hepatitis 2003, 10(5): p. 394-400

<http://miranda.ingentaselect.com/vl=914054/cl=47/nw=1/rpsv/ij/bsc/13520504/v10n5/s11/p394>

HIV infections

Research literature

Immune mechanisms in HIV infection by TP Young

Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, 2003 14(6), p 71-5

<http://miranda.ingentaselect.com/vl=914054/cl=47/nw=1/rpsv/ij/sage/10553290/v14n6/s7/p71>

Immune Restoration in Patients with HIV Infection: HAART and Beyond by R Verheggen

Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, 2003 14(6), p 76

<http://miranda.ingentaselect.com/vl=914054/cl=47/nw=1/rpsv/ij/sage/10553290/v14n6/s8/p76>

HIV treatments

Plain language

Snide effects by Galactic Acidflashbackosis [side effects of HIV drugs]

HIV Australia 2003 Sep/Nov, p 25-6

www.afao.org.au/index_afa_771.asp?section=1006&action=view_article&id=2973&third=sec_clo#one

HIV transmission

Plain language

HIV on the rise – reports by health departments and AIDS Councils in each state

HIV Australia 2003 Sep/Nov, p 6-10

www.afao.org.au/index_afa_771.asp?section=1006&action=view_article&id=2978&third=sec_clo#311

Twenty years of HIV monitoring by A McDonald, John Kaldor [patterns of HIV transmission in Australia]

HIV Australia 2003 Sep/Nov, p 27-30

www.afao.org.au/index_afa_771.asp?section=1006&action=view_article&id=2973&third=sec_clo#two

Sexual health

Research literature

Sexual health for travellers by E Hamlyn, L Dayan

Australian Family Physician, 2003 Dec, 981-4

<http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/downloads/pdf/december2003/20031218hamlyn.pdf>

To order (Members only):

Fill out and return the **Article Request Form** at the end of the Bulletin (or use the **Article Request form** on our **web site**) and we will send you the article, no cost involved.

Non-members are welcome to order the articles on inter-library loan or visit the Centre and photocopy the articles themselves.