



Access Information Centre Bulletin

Resources for the Victorian community on HIV, hepatitis and STIs

Number 12 October 2003

www.accessinfo.org.au

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HIV medicine updates

Looking for bite-sized information about news in HIV medicine? Here are two very popular update services:

HIV Newsclips

Produced weekly by Jim Arachne at the Victorian AIDS Council, this is an email bulletin with summaries/abstracts of interesting new journal articles about medical aspects of HIV. The articles are drawn from a wide range of journals. The Access Information Centre (AIC) keeps an archive of the current year of these newsclips. To join the email list, email Jim at j_arachne@vicaids.asn.au

HIV Treatment Bulletin (formerly Dr Fax) www.i-base.info

UK bulletin with summaries of journal articles and conference presentations on HIV treatments. Go to the web site to read it online or subscribe to have the PDF file emailed to you. The AIC keeps print copies of recent issues.

Personal Stories Web Sites

Over the last few years several HIV and hepatitis C web sites have developed their bulletin boards and chat sites so they can offer their users a cyber version of a support group – with a difference.

An advantage of the Internet site is that you can log on any time you like and see who in the world is awake and interested in talking. Or you can read other people's stories and

contribute your own while maintaining your anonymity. For those with access to the Internet and an interest in electronic communication, this can be helpful, particularly if the person is feeling isolated.

These web sites usually offer two types of communication:

- **Web, message or bulletin boards** – where you can post a message via a web form (may take some time before the message is included on the site, especially if the messages are reviewed first by a moderator) and read messages that others have posted
- **Online chat** – live sites where you can chat with other visitors to the site in real time by typing in a pop-up window provided on the web site

Some of the current hep C and HIV personal stories web sites:

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C Council of NSW

www.hepatitisc.org.au

The Hep C Council of NSW hosts an online community, with message boards and live chat.

- Click on **Hep C Chat Room** icon

DisEaseHCV

www.fernartz.com

Fern Smith, a Victorian artist, is developing an interactive art project on the social and physical impact of hepatitis C. As part of the project she has a web site with personal stories attached. People with hepatitis C are invited to submit their story for inclusion on the web site.

- To read stories, click on **Personal stories**
- The art project will be launched during Hepatitis C Awareness Week in March 2004
- The project is supported by Victorian Hepatitis C agencies, including Access, HCCV, AIDS, Hepatitis & Sexual Health Line & VIVAIDS

Hepatitis Central

Hepatitis-central.com

A very popular US-based web site managed by Vikki Shaw. Vikki has currently aligned

the web site's **Bulletin Board** and **Chat** features with Delphi Forums – click on the **Bulletin Board** link to be connected. The Bulletin Board messages tend to be fairly US-centric and occasionally religious in tone but they do provide a place for people to support each other while they undergo the ups and downs of assessment and treatment and the everyday challenges of living with hep C.

Hepatitis C Forum International

www.hepatitis-c.de

- German web site with a large English section
- Click on **Patient's experience** to go to the section with personal stories
- Includes some detailed treatment journals

HIV

HIV/AIDS Positive Stories

www.hivaids.webcentral.com.au

- A Victorian web site with lots of Australian content
- **Stories** webboard includes stories from various viewpoints – newly diagnosed, partners and families, teens, women, treatment
- **Feedback** section with ongoing comments from visitors to site
- **Images** section with photos from events such as Melbourne Candlelight Vigil

The Body – Connect to Others section

www.thebody.com/connect.shtml

The Body is a very popular US HIV web site, focussed on the needs of the positive person

- **Bulletin Board** with discussion threads on living with HIV, relationships, HIV information
- **First Person** section with personal stories

Ozpoz.org

www.ozpoz.org/

- Australian-based email discussion forums for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Includes an email forum for people coinfecting with HIV and hepatitis

Suzanne OC

Looking for reports on the Internet? Try the Virtual Library Catalog

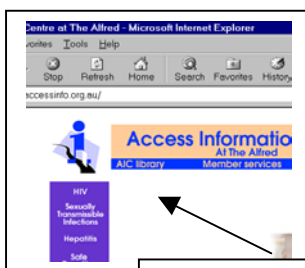
Lost your copy of *Futures III*? Trying to find a copy of the *National Hepatitis C Strategy* on the Internet? The Access Information Centre/CAN Virtual Library Catalog can link you directly to these reports within a minute or two.

How do you use the catalogue?

1

Go to www.accessinfo.org.au

2



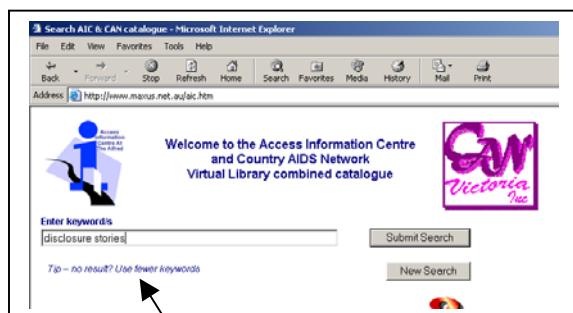
Click on **AIC Library**

3

Book & Video Catalog

Click on the **Catalog** button

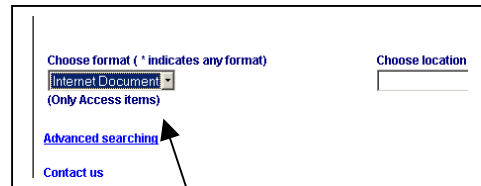
4



Type your **keywords** in the **Keyword** box (2 or 3 words)

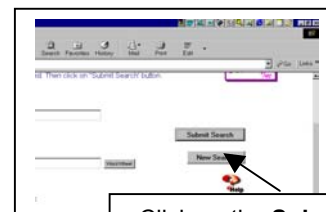


5



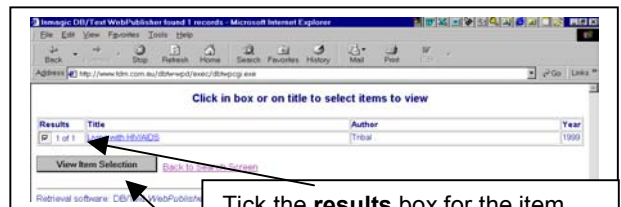
Scroll down the screen to the **Format** box and choose **Internet document** from the drop-down list

6



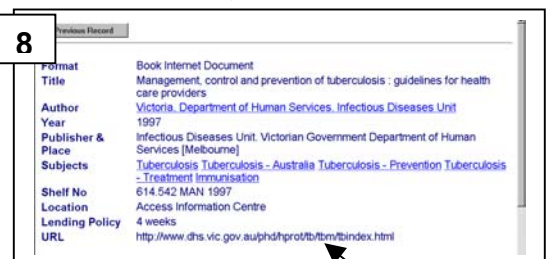
Click on the **Submit Search** button

7



Tick the **results** box for the item you wish to view, then click on the **View item selection** button

8



In the full record, click on the **URL** – *this will take you to the Internet document*

What is this hep C thing?

www.hepc.com.au

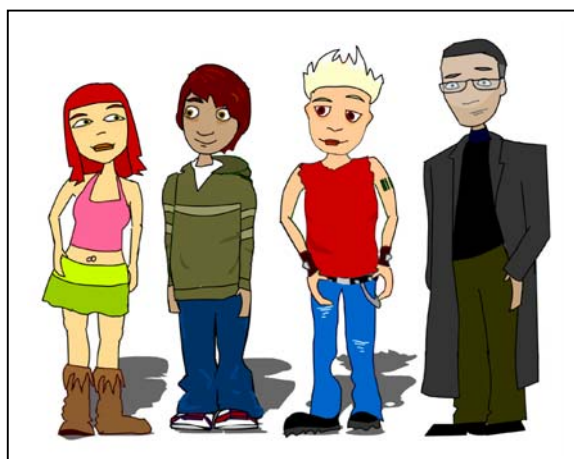
What is this hep C thing? – you may well ask. It is the title of an interactive Internet education activity for young people about hepatitis C. The name is drawn from the cartoon section in the activity where a group of kids are talking about tattoos and body piercing, and highlights the involvement of the year 9 and 10 students who wrote the story and helped with the design.

The activity is part of a joint project by Access Information Centre At The Alfred, the Hepatitis C Council of Victoria and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society. Funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services as part of the Victorian Hepatitis C Strategy, the project aims to develop and evaluate an innovative web-based education activity for middle school students.

Schools are heavily involved in the project. Secondary teachers, school nurses and the Department of Education and Training are represented on the Reference Group. A focus group of year 9 and 10 students helped to develop the concept and write the story. Two government schools will test the activity with their year 9 classes to see what they learn from it and to get feedback on what they think of it. The activity is also being promoted to all Victorian secondary schools to get feedback on what they like and don't like about the activity via online feedback forms. The evaluation report should be available in mid-2004.

Research has shown that young Australians have an alarming lack of knowledge about hepatitis C and how it is transmitted. In several surveys many school students thought there was a vaccine for hepatitis C, confusing it with the vaccine for hepatitis B. Seeing that most are vaccinated for hepatitis B, how many students think they have been vaccinated for hepatitis C as well and that they don't have to worry about it? And the statistics on new infections show us that young people are one of the fastest growing

groups to be infected. When the reference group for the project defined the activity's key messages, transmission and prevention issues were among the top 5.

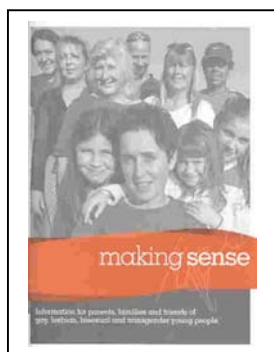


What is this hep C thing? aims to engage students in learning about hepatitis C through a story and a quiz. The cartoon story follows 3 kids, Sam, Matt and Zoe, as they argue about getting body art at Bob's El Cheapo Peersing and Tattooing (yes, focus group students decided on the names and characters as well). It progresses to a quiz where the reader is invited to click on the blood cells (complete with sound effects) to find the right answers. When the reader has found all the right answers, they can finish the story by writing what happens next. Some story endings will go into the **Story Gallery** on the web site (and make for entertaining reading). The design company, Nectarine, has done a brilliant job of the activity web site on a low budget.

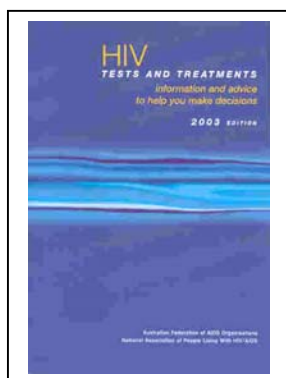
Want to try it for yourself?

Go to www.hepc.com.au ... and see what you think

Hot off the press (new brochures)

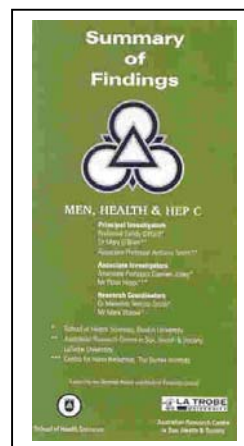


Making sense: information for parents, families and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young people produced by Same Sex Attracted Friendly Environments (SSAFE) in schools Project, Family Planning Victoria. [40 pages]
A comprehensive booklet for friends, families and parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young people. The emphasis is on understanding and acceptance. The issues and feelings young people with varying sexuality and gender identities are covered. A reading list and contact information for support and referral organisations are included.



HIV tests and treatments: information and advice to help you make decisions [2003 edition] produced by Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA). [40 pages]
An update of the *Tests and Treatments* brochure. It's aimed at anyone with HIV 'who may be considering starting, stopping or changing treatment.' The brochure helps you understand viral load for men and

women, CD4 count, AIDS risk, treatments, resistance and compliance. Also included is a useful glossary of terms, drug chart and websites on treatment information.



Summary of findings: men, health & hep C, La Trobe University Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society and Deakin School of Health Sciences. [1 page brochure]
A brief summary of the findings of the *Men Health and Hep C study*, conducted in 2001-2002. The objectives of this study were to identify health and social support needs of men with hepatitis C in Victoria and to identify gender specific needs for medical care and social support services.



My rights: anti-discrimination and health complaints laws for people with hepatitis C Australian Hepatitis Council. [38 pages]
A resource providing information on the complaint systems that Australian anti-discrimination and health care complaint laws provide for people with hepatitis C. It covers rights, problem resolution, taking action. Also included is a brief glossary of terms and list of useful contacts.

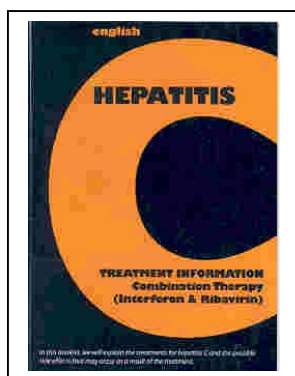
**All of these resources are available at
Access Information Centre**

Multi-lingual brochures



HIV / AIDS getting it right: HIV / AIDS affects everyone prevention is everybody's responsibility, ANCAHRD, Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service. [five-fold brochure]

This brochure has information on HIV: the virus, how it is transmitted, prevention and condom use (with pictures). It also includes information on discrimination, tests and using interpreters. Available in Amharic, Arabic, Bosanski, Chinese, English, Hrvatski, Indonesian, Khmer/Cambodian, Lao, Portuguese, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.

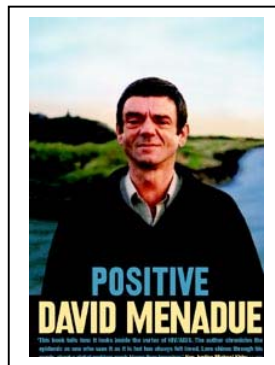


Hepatitis C: treatment information combination therapy (Interferon & Ribavirin), Multicultural HIV / AIDS and Hepatitis C service. [16 pages]

A comprehensive coverage of hepatitis C: treatment and side-effects; medical check ups; transmission; support and services; discrimination and confidentiality. It also includes a glossary of terms and contacts (NSW-based). Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Khmer/Cambodian, Italian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Jane WB

New Books @ Access



Positive, David Menadue (Melbourne : Allen & Unwin, 2003)

David Menadue is fifty years old and has lived with AIDS for twenty years. *Positive* is his autobiography charting a personal history of living with HIV/AIDS. But the title also expresses his own very positive attitude to his life. What I liked about David's book is the way he tells his story openly and positively and not completely chronologically. He begins with his stay in Fairfield Hospital in the early 1980s, then goes back to tell the story of his diagnosis. Later, David delves into his childhood in country Victoria, his teacher training in Melbourne and his coming out in late 1970s. He also covers the beginnings of AIDS activism in Melbourne and the political happenings in the Victorian AIDS Council during the 80s and 90s. His story chronicles the AIDS era in Australia. Through it, we learn much about the history of AIDS in Australia and how it has changed our world. Thoroughly recommended. ****

Jane WB

New on the Net

Australian Immunisation Handbook, 8th edition 2003

www.immunise.health.gov.au/handbook.htm

The latest edition was approved in September 2003 and can be downloaded from the web site.

Print copies will be distributed in December 2003.

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

Research literature

Predicting progression to cirrhosis in chronic hepatitis C virus infection by AJ Freeman, MG Law, JM Kaldor and GJ Dore.

Journal of Viral Hepatitis 2003, 10: p. 285-93

<http://miranda.ingentaselect.com/vl=1264098/cl=39/nw=1/rpsv/ij/bsc/13520504/v10n4/s8/p285>

Hepatitis/HIV co-infection

Plain language

HCV/HIV - 2003 Retrovirus update by T Swan

Positively Aware, 2003 May/Jun: p. 16-17

http://www.tpan.com/publications/positively_aware/may_june_03/hcv_hiv_retrovirus_update.html

Research literature

Prevalence and characterization of lamivudine-resistant hepatitis B virus mutations in HIV-HBV co-infected individuals by Louise Cooley et al

AIDS 2003, 17: p. 1649-57

<http://ipsapp003.lwwonline.com/content/getfile/13/1077/9/fulltext.pdf>

HIV infections

Plain language

Heart disease and HIV: the ongoing debate by M Sharp

Positively Aware, 2003 May/Jun: p. 24, 37

http://www.tpan.com/publications/positively_aware/may_june_03/heart_disease.html

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma [and HIV] by A Goldkorn

BETA, 2003 Summer: p. 18-23

http://www.sfaf.org/treatment/beta/b53/b53_lymphoma.html

Monitoring tests for people with HIV by L Highleyman

BETA, 2003 Summer: p. 31-39

http://www.sfaf.org/treatment/beta/b53/b53_monitoring.html

HIV treatments

Plain language

Immune-based therapies at the Retrovirus Conference by D Serra

Positively Aware, 2003 May/June: p. 16-17

http://www.tpan.com/publications/positively_aware/may_june_03/immune_based_therapies.html

Decisions, decisions - starting or switching anti-HIV therapy by S McGuire

Positively Aware, 2003 May/June: p. 31-36

http://www.tpan.com/publications/positively_aware/may_june_03/hiv_treatment_series_part_four.html

Prisons

Plain language

Special Prisons issue

Prisons: public health – public responsibility

Hepatitis C in Australian prisons – we could do so much better

Staying safe in prisons – hepatitis C educational video

A model exchange of injecting equipment for Australian prisons

NSW prisons Hep C Helpline

3 out of 10: locating and working with hepatitis C learning priorities in AOD settings

More than skin deep: tattooing in Western Australian prisons

Australian Hepatitis Chronicle, 2003 Jul, 12

Reproduction

Plain language

Full circle – one woman's story [HIV positive parenting] by Wendy Williams

Positively Aware, 2003 Sep/Oct

http://www.tpan.com/publications/positively_aware/sep_oct_03/full_circle.html

Perinatal HIV transmission and birth options for HIV positive mothers by Laura Jones

Positively Aware, 2003 Sep/Oct

http://www.tpan.com/publications/positively_aware/sep_oct_03/treatment_series_perinatal.html

Step-by-step: sperm washing by Enid Vasquez

Positively Aware, 2003 Sep/Oct

http://www.tpan.com/publications/positively_aware/sep_oct_03/sperm_wash.html

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.