

## Why is it important to know about hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus that affects the liver. Many people with hepatitis C live full and productive lives, but if left undetected and untreated, hepatitis C can cause serious health problems or sometimes be fatal.

Hepatitis C can affect people from all walks of life and symptoms may not appear for a long time. During this time, the virus can unknowingly be spread to other people if precautions are not taken.

There are many ways people can contract hepatitis C, some of which are associated with practices related to culture and traditions.

### Have you been at risk of contracting hepatitis C?

- **Have you had any medical procedures overseas? For example:**
  - Dental work
  - Vaccination
  - Operations
- **Have you ever had a blood transfusion overseas or one in Australia before 1990?**
- **Have you ever used injecting equipment that has been used by others?**
- **Have you had a tattoo or body piercing using equipment that was not properly sterilised?**
- **Have you ever used someone else's personal items that may have blood on them such as toothbrushes, razors, nail clippers?**

If you have answered yes to any of these questions then you may have been at risk of contracting hepatitis C.

**PEACE** Multicultural Services can assist you with information and support to make informed decisions about hepatitis C blood tests, your health, your life and that of your loved ones.

## How can I seek help?

**Call Relationships Australia (SA) on (08) 8245 8100**

and ask to speak to a **PEACE** Multicultural Services staff member.

OR, if you would prefer to speak to somebody in your own language:

- Call the Translating & Interpreting service on 131 450 (cost of a local call).
- Say the name of your language and wait on the line.
- When the interpreter comes on the line, ask them to call (08) 8245 8100.
- Speak to us in your own language, with the help of the interpreter.

### Contact

**(08) 8245 8100**

### Relationships Australia (SA)

49a Orsmond Street  
Hindmarsh  
South Australia 5007  
Telephone  
(08) 8245 8100  
Facsimile  
(08) 8346 7333

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Relationships Australia

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Servicing multicultural communities  
across South Australia



Let's talk  
about  
Hepatitis C



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## What is PEACE?

South Australia's community contains a rich mix of people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

**PEACE** (Personal Education And Community Empowerment) Multicultural Services is a statewide service within Relationships Australia (SA) with the aim to support and assist these individuals, families and communities to lead balanced, healthy lives.

If you are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and need assistance dealing with issues in your life such as hepatitis C, **PEACE** Multicultural Services can help.

### Our services are free

**PEACE** Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis C Services is funded by SA Health.

## Who is PEACE?

### Community educators

We work with a number of male and female workers who are members of various CALD communities.

Community educators are trained to assist people in their community with hepatitis C or related issues by providing support, information and referrals to individuals, families and community groups.

Community educators also work with other service providers to ensure that your rights to receive quality service are fulfilled.

### Counsellors

Our counsellors understand the impact that hepatitis C can have on people from multicultural communities.

They can help you to establish your goals and identify the pathways to achieve them.

You can work with a counsellor of your choice, with or without the support of a community educator.

### Community education project officers

Our community education project officers assist in the development and implementation of our community education programs.

## How can PEACE help?

Everyone is different and has different needs.

**PEACE** Multicultural Services can work with you to provide the support and assistance that will help you deal with hepatitis C in your life.

### PEACE Multicultural Services can offer

- A FREE and confidential service.
- Individual short or long-term support from a worker who is experienced in helping people living with hepatitis C.
- Information and support for people who are concerned for a family member or friend.
- The flexibility to meet at a time and location that is convenient for you.
- Group and community education programs.

We understand and have experience dealing with the issues that individuals and communities from various cultures can face.

Let's talk  
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