



Department of
Justice & Regulation

State-wide Hepatitis Assessment and Treatment Program in Victorian Prisons

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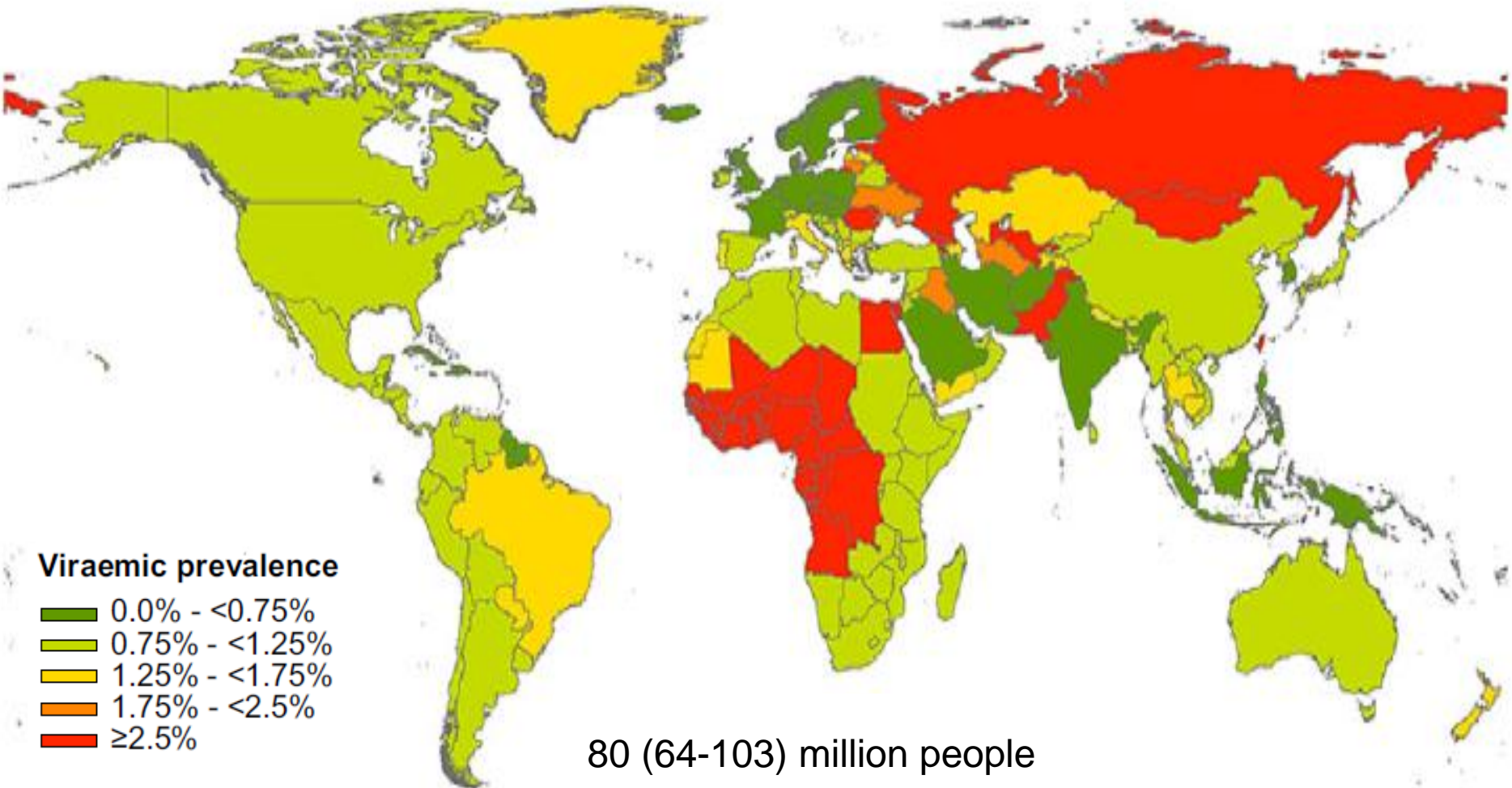
Annabelle Gibson, Pharmacist

Prof. Alex Thompson, MBBS PhD FRACP

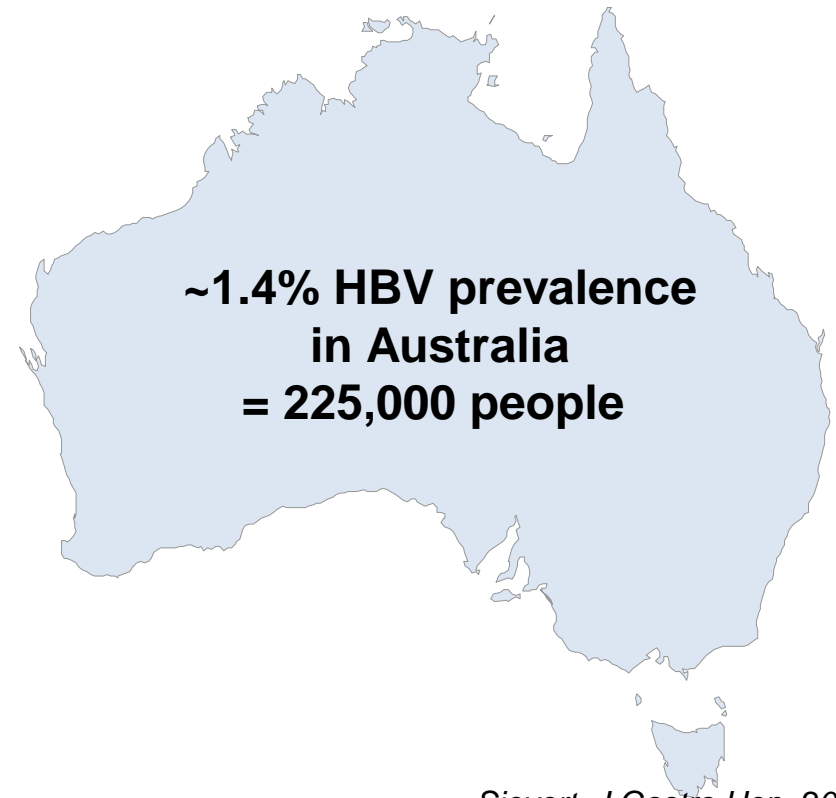
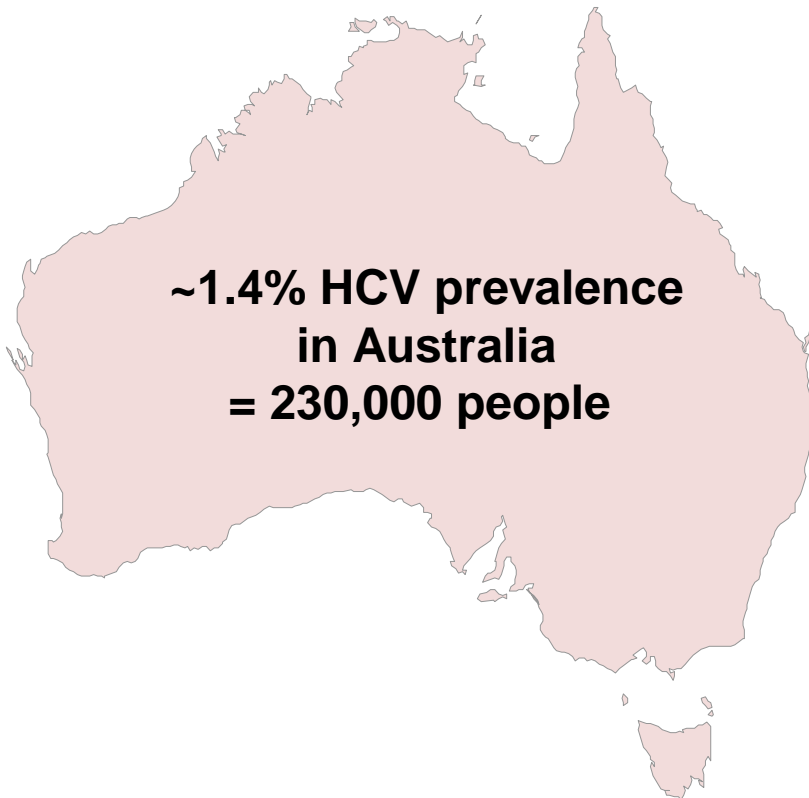
Dr. David Iser, MBBS PhD FRACP



HCV is a major global problem



Viral hepatitis burden in Australia



*Sievert, J Gastro Hep, 2014;
HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia. Annual surveillance report, Kirby Institute, 2013
MacLachlan, J.H., et al; 2011. Aust N Z J Public Health 2013.*

Who has viral hepatitis?

Risk factors for viral hepatitis

People who inject drugs or who have ever injected drugs

Sex workers

People in custodial settings

Tattooing or body piercing

People who received a blood transfusion / organ transplant prior to 1990

Children born to infected mothers

Sexual partners of infected persons

People infected with human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B virus

People with evidence of liver disease (persistently elevated ALT level)

People who have had a needle-stick injury

Migrants from high prevalence regions (Egypt, Pakistan, Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, Africa and Southern Asia)


- HCV – there is **NO** HCV vaccine
- HBV – HBV **IS** vaccine preventable

Hepatitis in the Prison System

- **Inmates of Australian prisons are among the most at risk population for hepatitis C**
- Hepatitis C is six times more prevalent than in the general community
- Up to 50% of the total full-time prison population is infected

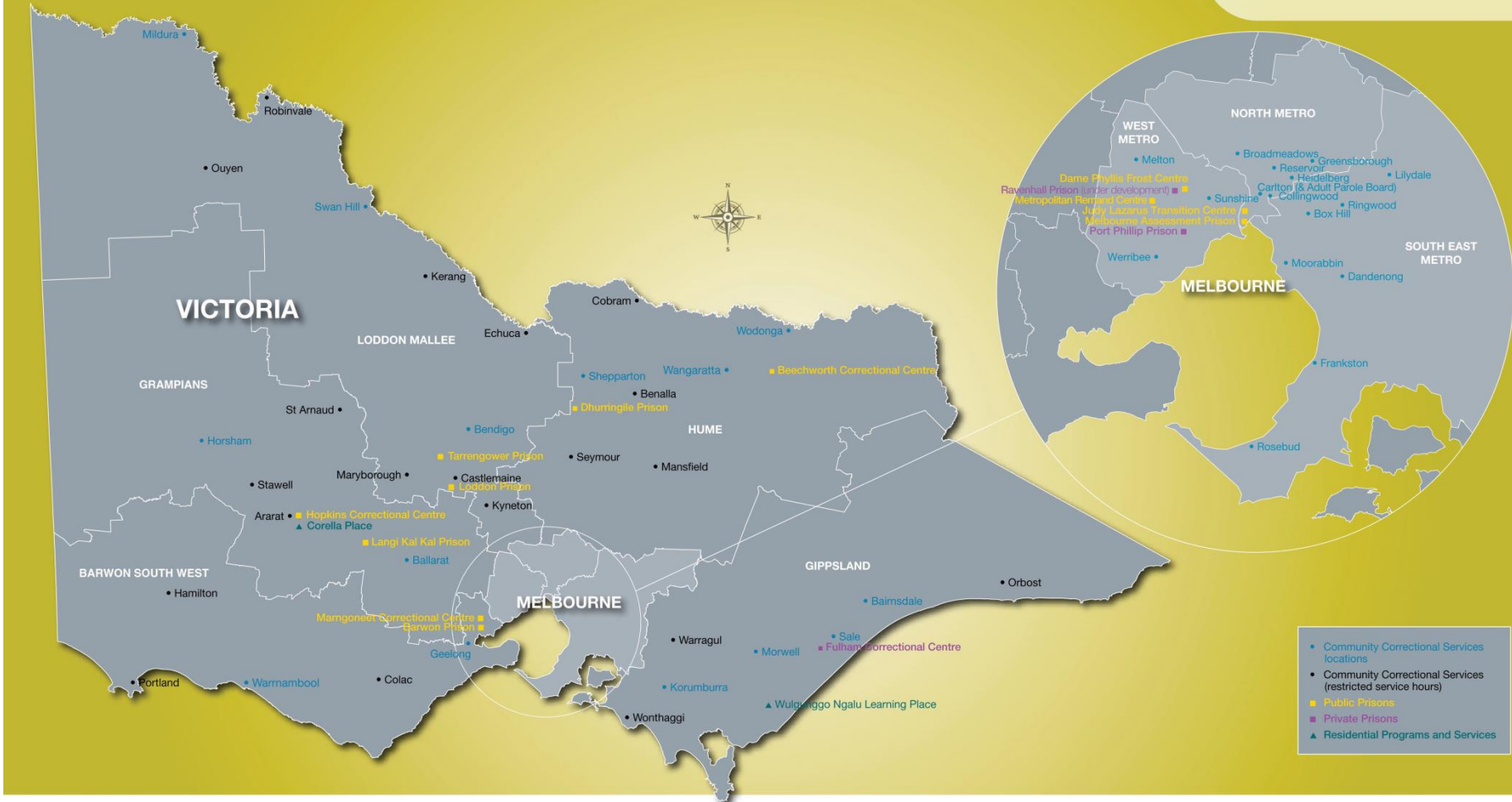


- **Prior to 2015, there were multiple barriers to care resulting in limited engagement with clinical services for hepatitis**
 - **On March 1st 2016, new medicines for Hepatitis C were listed on the Australian PBS**
 - **These all oral agents are highly effective, well tolerated and of short duration (3 – 6 months)**
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- **The Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation funded the development of the Statewide Hepatitis Program to assess and manage people living with chronic viral hepatitis in the Victorian Prison System**
 - **The program is the first of its kind in Australia, and one of very few such programs internationally**
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Prison and Community Correctional Services Locations

May 2013





ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITAL
MELBOURNE

