Introduction to the workshop
The Third National Hepatitis C Strategy 2010–2013 and its implementation plan place a high priority on ensuring health maintenance, care and support for people living with chronic hepatitis infection. While hepatitis C treatment is an option for some people, there remain many barriers to access (less than 2% of people living with chronic hepatitis C access treatment annually). It is therefore important that people living with chronic hepatitis C are supported to take an active part in managing their chronic disease to maximise their quality of life.

This workshop will address the issue of hepatitis C care and support with particular emphasis on non-clinical aspects of care. It will highlight chronic disease self-management (CDSM) and explore the challenges and opportunities it provides. CDSM is about people being actively involved in their own health care to maximise their quality of life and is widely used in other areas including cancer.

Aims of the workshop
- to explore principles of CDSM and suggest how it can be tailored to hepatitis C
- to increase delegates’ knowledge of CDSM principles and practice and explore their application in individual settings
- to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences to enhance non-clinical care and support for those with chronic hepatitis C

Delegate profile: who should attend
The workshop will provide a valuable professional development opportunity for the viral hepatitis workforce in both community-based and government settings, and will particularly target:
- health promotion, education, care and support workers, and managers in the hepatitis C sector
- community-based and government health-service-based staff working with populations disproportionately affected by hepatitis C
- researchers, clinicians and policy makers in areas relevant to hepatitis C care and support
- staff new to the hepatitis C sector

Facilitator
Norman Booker Independent consultant

Keynote speakers
Roy Batterham  Senior Research Fellow, Public Health Innovation Unit, Population Health Strategic Research Centre, Deakin University Faculty of Health
Roy has worked in case management and rehabilitation of people living with disability, care coordination in general practice, community-based chronic disease management, and internet-based interventions for depression or anxiety.

Helen McNeill  CEO, Hepatitis Victoria
Helen has 15 years experience in designing, facilitating and evaluating self-management programs for different chronic disease groups.

Professor Carla Treloar  Deputy Director and Head, Hepatitis C Program, National Centre in HIV Social Research

Confirmed guest speakers
Natalie Beckett  Aboriginal Hep C Access Coordinator, HARP Unit, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Area District
Julie Cassidy  C-teen and Heard speaker, Hepatitis NSW
Sione Crawford  Director, Community Programs & Services, NSW Users and AIDS Association
Justine Doidge  C-teen and Heard speaker, Hepatitis NSW
Louisa Walsh  Hep C: Take Control Program Coordinator, Hepatitis Victoria