

History of the Hepatitis Foundation

The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand has completed many major screening, vaccination and research programmes in NZ, the Pacific Islands and Vietnam during its 30-year history.

- 1970s/80s** Through the 70s and early 80s studies were done on hepatitis B.
- 1984** The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand was created. We carried out the Kawerau Seroprevalence Study, testing 93 percent of the town's population for hepatitis B. The results showed the hepatitis B virus was highly endemic. Young children who had hepatitis B appeared to be the main source of infection.
- 1985** A world-first low-dose hepatitis B vaccination programme of Kawerau children was funded by the community. More than 1800 (95 percent) of susceptible Kawerau children up to age 12 were vaccinated. The success of this programme led to the decision to vaccinate all children across NZ. The government agreed to vaccinate babies born to mothers with hepatitis.
- 1989** New Zealand was the first sovereign nation to introduce universal hepatitis B vaccination for all children.
- 1990** The Hepatitis Foundation continued providing screening and vaccination in New Zealand as well as in high-risk communities overseas, such as the Pacific and Vietnam.
- 1999-2002** Over four years, the largest national hepatitis B screening programme ever conducted took place in NZ. We screened 177,292 New Zealanders, with 11,936 of those identified as having chronic hepatitis B.
- 2000** We established the free national long-term monitoring programme. The programme continues today, successfully following up and monitoring more than 16,000 people with chronic hepatitis B and more than 1,500 people with chronic hepatitis C.
- 2012** A hepatitis C pilot was launched in the Bay of Plenty and greater Wellington area. The aim of the pilot is to improve health outcomes of people living with hepatitis C by increasing the number of people diagnosed, assessed, treated and offered support.

The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand

hepteam@hfnz.nz | 0800 33 20 10

PO Box 647, Whakatāne, New Zealand

