**Transcript**

***Jack Wallace – Viral Hepatitis Social Research program***

The research that I’m doing at ARCSHS is really to reduce the impact of viral hepatitis on the community but also to individuals who are infected with the viruses. So that’s both chronic Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. And I suppose my background and my rationale for doing this kind of work relates to my experience with HIV where, in terms of the national response in Australia to HIV, people with the infection were inherently included in all aspects of the development and implementation of the response to the virus and that meant we got a really, really successful response to HIV and I think that’s one of the lessons that we can learn for Hepatitis C and in responding to chronic Hepatitis B.

So, one, yeah my key outcome really would be that people who are infected with the virus actually know and understand the impact of the infection, how they can respond effectively, what, you know the information that they need to respond effectively and to also negotiate through the healthcare system. Many of the people with chronic Hepatitis B particularly, come from the, Asia, have been born in Asia and so they’re coming to Australia.

The Australian health care system can be pretty opaque sometimes. It can be difficult to negotiate and what the work that I do is to try and identify how people with chronic Hepatitis B respond to the infection so that we can build an effective public health response to people infected with the viruses.