

# Together We Are Strong



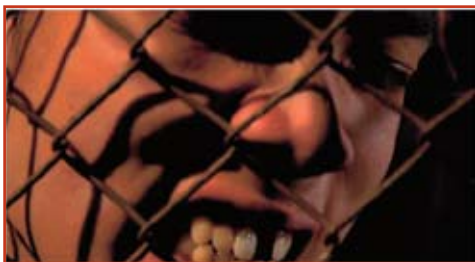
## Notes for facilitators

These notes can help you to use 'Together We Are Strong' in a training session on hepatitis C.

## background and audience



This short animated film is designed to be shown in custodial settings, post-release programs and related community settings. It acknowledges the reality of drug use in prisons and the complex issues around the sharing of equipment, both in prison and on release.



The film was created by Vietnamese-Australian prisoners working with professional artists, cultural workers and drug and alcohol support workers. It features a Vietnamese voiceover using the prisoners' own voices.

## discussion questions



The following questions can help you initiate discussion on the film's key messages.

1. What does it mean when the film calls hepatitis a 'blood-to-blood' virus?



Check that participants understand how hepatitis gets passed on when blood is shared. Refer to the Facts about Hepatitis C sheet for more information.

2. How can hepatitis C get passed on through tattooing?

Use this question to discuss how hepatitis C can live for a long time in tattooing needles and other equipment that come into contact with blood, such as razors or toothbrushes.

3. Can you get hepatitis C through sex?

Explain that the risk of contracting hepatitis C through sex is low; there needs to be blood present from both parties (eg a cut in the penis and a tear in the vagina or anus). You can also discuss other sexually transmissible infections.



4. Do you think it is likely that you can avoid getting hepatitis C in prison? What could you do to protect yourself?

The reality of prison life is that injecting equipment is shared between many prisoners and the likelihood of getting hepatitis C is quite high. Even if a person already has hepatitis C, they are still at risk of contracting other strains. The only way for people to protect themselves is to avoid injecting drugs or getting tattooed. Explore risks and options with the group.



5. Is it your responsibility to protect others when you get out of prison?

The film takes the view that people have a responsibility to their community that is greater and more significant than their personal desires. The main character feels that he is obeying his father's wishes by making sure he does not transmit the virus. Explore this theme with the group.

6. Do you know what a needle and syringe program is?

Check participants' understanding of these programs and (if showing the film in a post-release setting) let them know where to find needle exchange facilities.



# Together We Are Strong



## film credits

**Creative Directors**

Liss Gabb and Rick Randall

**Animators**

Lindsay Cox and Justin Foo

**Sound Design**

Juliet Hill

**Composer**

Marcus Kellow

**Flute**

Joseph Tran

**Makeup**

Lise Kaufman

**Cultural Consultant / Prison Support Worker**

Thuy Bui

**Actors**

Tien Le

David Lim

Tony Lay

Anthony "Lamaroc" Lawang

Long Nguyen

Chris Lewis

Matt Wilson

**Thanks to:**

Anonymous Yellow

Nuffsaid Records

Refer to the **Facts about Hepatitis C sheet** on this DVD.

Contact Hepatitis C Victoria on **1800 703 003** or visit [www.hepcvic.org.au](http://www.hepcvic.org.au)