

Jeremy Hanson, CSC, MLA

Member for Molonglo

Shadow Minister for Health; Police; Indigenous Affairs; Veterans' Affairs; Corrections

Media Release

Monday 26 September 2011

PRISONERS NOT RECEIVING
TREATMENT FOR HEPATITIS C
AT ACT JAIL

Information obtained by the Canberra Liberals shows almost half of the ACT jail population are infected with Hepatitis C, with a third waiting for treatment. ACT Shadow Corrections Minister Jeremy Hanson said ACT Labor should dedicate its resources to fixing the jail's immediate blood borne disease issue before even looking at the possibility of a needle exchange.

"As at 22 August this year, there were 33 prisoners waiting for assessment for the Hepatitis C treatment program, and eight prisoners who had been assessed as suitable for treatment and were waiting for admission to the program," Mr Hanson said.

"It seems logical to get the basics right before even thinking about a needle exchange which almost everyone but the Chief Minister disagrees with.

"Katy Gallagher last week assured the Assembly that she will „continue to advocate for the best options to manage blood-borne virus transmission within a correctional setting."

"Her failure to provide adequate treatment to prisoners already infected makes a mockery of this supposed commitment," Mr Hanson concluded.