

I am a Hepatitis C patient. Since the moment I was diagnosed I had no help from our Health system. I could not get an appointment. I could not get proper information or advice from anyone. Hospitals knocked back my phone calls. My GP begged for an appointment for me – she had been ignored for a very long time.

I was on my own. I was depressed. I felt betrayed.

Just like other hundreds of thousands of people with Hepatitis C in Australia.

I was walking around with one of the most contagious diseases and no one cared. Health system failed me just like it failed 230,000 other people hundreds of whom will die this year.

So far it has been none of your concern but rather a number game. What's changed now? Penny dropped or is it just another cheap show of a "we care" kind?

Even though I find it extremely hard to believe you can do anything substantial about this problem (simply because it's extremely convenient not to even notice it) I still dare to offer my advice:

1. Approve Sofosbuvir for PBS. All developed countries did. Even some third world countries did.
2. If you cannot pay for Sofosbuvir, let people borrow money in a form of a low interest loan.
3. Encourage free anonymous Hepatitis C antibody blood testing for people at work.
4. Run a television and radio "Get Tested!" advertising campaign encouraging people to get tested for Hepatitis C.
5. Provide paid disability leave for people during therapy for ones with severe side effects.
6. Provide subsidised post-therapy rehabilitation programs to help people recover after treatment.

You do this – you have my vote.

Then you can multiply it by 230,000.

Meanwhile I am undergoing therapy right now. No thanks to Australian health system.