Editorial

It’s been a busy 2014 with projects attached to the CBG moving towards completion and others commencing. A highlight of projects commencing is welcoming onboard two new team investigators to the IOHR-CBG. As such, a warm welcome goes out to Brooke Heard and Lei Zhang (p.6).

Many interesting research projects continue among a dedicated team of investigators covering a variety of areas critical to the health and wellbeing of Indigenous offenders including, alcohol and other drug use, social support post-prison, prison alternatives, social capital and treatment, juvenile justice pathways, violence, and blood-borne viruses. The next IOHR-CBG annual team meeting will be in Sydney on 26 November 2014 and provides an opportunity for CBG members to share findings of the projects. It is also a good opportunity, of course, to share the insights and challenges of conducting research into areas that can advance the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who come into contact with the criminal justice system, including their families and communities. All the best – Paul Simpson

Indigenous Offender Health web resource

For those working or interested in Indigenous offender health.

Website: Indigenous Offender Health web resource

Twitter: @AIHOffenders and @IOHR-CBG
Exploring Justice Reinvestment as a theory and research methodology: Community Development approach

Justice Reinvestment (JR) focuses on diverting public funds from the construction of incarceration facilities, and reinvesting those funds in social and health programs that offer the potential for lowering both crime and incarceration rates.

In November 2012 IOHR-CBG members Jill Guthrie, Mick Dodson, Tony Butler and Michael Levy, among others, were awarded an Australian Research Council grant to work with the NSW town of Cowra. The research is community-driven and explores the theory and research methodology of JR as a way of reducing the incarceration of juveniles. The research invites the entire Cowra community to participate – not just the Indigenous community – thus enabling whole-of-community responses to juvenile justice issues.

Mr. Len Kanowski of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies talks with senior students about what works for young people in Cowra

Being community-driven, the research involves a great deal of interaction with various sector stakeholders and individuals within the town. The first was in December 2012 with a courtesy visit to Cowra to let key people know what was envisaged as part of the research process. In March 2013 all Chief Investigators on the project visited Cowra. The purpose of this was to build relationships between the town and the research group.

ANU ethics approval was received on 14th March to conduct stakeholder forums and the research team made another visit to Cowra in April to plan how these stakeholder forums might be conducted. On 30 May, the research team made another visit to Cowra for the first stakeholder forum, which was a great success with representatives from health, education, the judiciary, the police, social and welfare services and Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities attending and reaching agreement on how to recruit young people into the research.

Utilising participatory action research with key informants and stakeholder groups and all levels of government, the study integrates administrative data with focus groups and semi-structured
interviews to explore whether JR as a policy option can re-orientate responses to young people offending. Researchers visited Cowra during Youth Week to begin the first round of interviews and focus groups. They completed a number of interviews with both young people and service providers. The researchers returned to Cowra again in late May and June to conduct further interviews and to hear the views of Cowra Business Council members.

Justice Reinvestment has rarely been adopted as either a research methodology or a policy response in Australia. While gaining traction in the United States and other parts of the world, the concept of Justice Reinvestment is relatively unknown in Australia. This research will therefore provide much needed information on the antecedents of crime, as well as information about successful social services and programs that help to divert young people away from contact with the justice system. – Corinne Walsh

Investigating factors associated with blood borne viruses among Indigenous prison entrants

IOHR-CBG member Dina Saulo examined the prevalence and risk factors for acquisition of hepatitis B and hepatitis C for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who enter prison. Dina analysed data from the National Prison Entrant Blood Borne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey (NPEBBVS). Her results indicated that hepatitis C antibody (HCVAb) prevalence was high among both Indigenous (32%) and non-Indigenous prison entrants (29%). When stratified by injecting drug use, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous prison entrant groups whose members had a history of injecting drug use saw prevalence of HCVAb at 51-63%. Risk factors associated with HCVAb were: female sex, injecting drug use and age over 30 years. Prior incarceration and living in an urban area before prison were associated with HCVAb in Indigenous prisoners. Hepatitis B core antibody (Anti-HBc) prevalence was higher among Indigenous (29%) compared to non-Indigenous (16%) prison entrants. Among Indigenous inmates Anti-HBc positivity was associated with being from a rural and remote area (less services area) and aged above 29 years. Of all prison entrants, 36% had no evidence of HBV immunity according to serological testing. These findings and interpretations are currently being drafted into a manuscript for journal publication.

National Prison Entrant Blood Borne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey evaluation

The NPEBBVS is conducted triennially (every 3 years) and collects data on the prevalence and related characteristics of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, sexually transmissible infections, and risk behaviours among Australian prison entrants. Dina is conducting a formal evaluation of the NPEBBVS. Evaluation of surveillance systems is important to ensure the capturing and monitoring of conditions of public health importance are effective, efficient and meeting surveillance system objectives. As part of the evaluation she will describe the systems and processes of the NPEBBVS, identify the extent to which the NPEBBVS meets its objectives, and provide recommendations for future NPEBBVS.

The 2013 iteration of the NPEBBVS had been completed and it is hoped to publish the main report in the near future.
Dealing with problematic alcohol and related other drug use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in prison

The rate of Indigenous imprisonment in NSW (June, 2012) was 1,883.4 per 100,000 compared to 140.4 per 100,000 population for non-Indigenous people. Problematic alcohol and other drug (AoD) use and a lack of treatment services for such use have been identified as some of the leading contributing factors towards the high rate of Aboriginal imprisonment.

Michael Doyle’s PhD research is investigating AoD use among men entering prison and the behavioural treatment for AoD while in prison. The project consists of three studies: 1) systematic review of literature to identify and report on prison based AoD treatment research; 2) analysis of existing data on AoD use prior to prison by inmates in NSW; and 3) study of an AoD treatment program in a NSW prison. Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal experiences of AoD treatment will be reported together and comparatively. Michael is currently collecting data, interviewing inmates who are about to commence an AoD treatment program.

A research reference group has been formed who meet biannually to discuss research processes. Reference group members come from Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW, Babana Aboriginal Men’s Group, Corrective Services NSW, Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network, the University of Sydney, and the University of NSW. This reference group is being run conjointly with IOHR-CBG member, Lise Lafferty.

This project will address a gap in knowledge as much of the current research on AoD and offenders is focused on diversion from prison. The findings could lead to improved AoD treatment in prison, particularly for Aboriginal men.

Evaluating the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service Holistic Health Care Prison Model

The high rate of incarceration of Aboriginal people necessitated Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service in the ACT developing the Winnunga Holistic Health Care Prison Model in 2007. This was considered crucial, prior to the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) opening in 2009. The Model was published in Winnunga’s Phase 1 Report entitled You Do the Crime, You do the Time.

The Phase 2 Report: We’re Struggling in Here! concluded that the Model was relevant to the needs of the people in the AMC and their families. Following the Phase Report, Winnunga increased its Aboriginal Health Worker services at the AMC.

Winnunga’s partners in the Phase 1 Study included the former CRC for Aboriginal Health – now the Lowitja Institute. One of the intentions of the Phase 1 Study was the wider use of the Model in other jurisdictions. In May 2014, with the assistance of AMC staff and Aboriginal people who have been incarcerated in the AMC, Winnunga completed an evaluation of the Model. This has been developed for a proposed research translation workshop hosted by the Lowitja Institute to examine the possibility of the wider use of the Model’.

More information on Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service holistic health care for prison model [here](#)
Incident hepatitis C cases in a custodial setting

Dina is a part of a team of investigators from Melbourne University and the Kirby Institute conducting a study that will describe a case series of HCV infections that appear to have been acquired in one prison, and to consider what extent HCV transmission has been occurring between people incarcerated in the prison facility. A mixed methods approach has been taken, including a quantitative demographic and risk factors survey and qualitative interviews to give an inmate’s perspective on HCV incidence while in prison. Findings from this study will be used to inform potential harm reduction measures.

Views on imprisonment versus non-imprisonment alternatives - a Citizens Jury approach

In late 2012, IOHR-CBG members from the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (Jill Guthrie and Corinne Walsh), the Kirby Institute (Tony Butler, Paul Simpson and Michael Doyle) and Curtin University (Jocelyn Jones) were awarded a grant from the Lowitja Institute to examine the public’s views on alternatives to incarceration using Citizens Juries.

In recent years there has been increasing interest in involving communities in decision making through various forms of ‘deliberative democracy’, of which Citizens’ Juries are one such approach. Citizens Juries involve bringing together a randomly selected group of citizens, providing them with good information on the issue at hand, and asking them as members of the citizenry about their preferences for policy options or resource allocation. This research is crucial because of the continuing high representation of Indigenous people, mostly juveniles, in the Australian prison population and the financial and social cost of incarceration for the community.

Our research team sought to gain the views of the Australian community about strategies to deal with offenders. Citizens Juries were held in Sydney, Canberra and in Perth. Expressions of interest were sought from 900 randomly selected people. Fifteen people from each city were selected to participate in the Citizens’ Juries. The Citizens’ juries included men and women, older and younger people and people of different cultural backgrounds and socio-economic statuses.

One of the key findings from the Citizens’ Jury events was that citizens believed that excessive investment in prisons has become an unnecessary burden on the public purse. Jurors were also supportive of alternatives to incarceration, including investment in holistic, early intervention and prevention strategies. Justice Reinvestment strategies, which redirect government spending from incarceration to crime prevention and offender rehabilitation, received broad in-principle support among Sydney and Perth participants. Jurors were also keenly aware of the need for victims of crime to feel that their experiences are included in the justice system.

The findings from the Citizens Juries were presented to senior policymakers earlier this year. The researchers wished to ascertain whether policy makers might be influenced by the knowledge of what an informed citizenry believes should occur in relation to Incarceration policies. The policymakers were largely supportive of the Citizens’ Jury findings. Policy makers also flagged the need for more concrete information about what JR might look like in an Australian policy context.
The role of violence in the offending behaviours of Aboriginal mothers in prison

Aboriginal female prisoners are more likely to be both victims and perpetrators of violent offences than non-Aboriginal female prisoners. It is well-documented that women’s experiences of victimisation have been linked to their pathways into prison (for both adult and juvenile women). What is less well examined is Aboriginal women’s own use of violence and the part it plays in the unacceptably high incarceration rates of Aboriginal women. IOHR-CBG members Mandy Wilson and Jocelyn Jones will investigate the use of violence among a sample of incarcerated Aboriginal mothers in Western Australian and New South Wales prisons. The study will document and analyse women’s understandings and experiences of violence, alcohol and other drug use, and the impact of these on their pathways to prison.

News

Welcome new IOHR-CBG members

A very warm welcome goes out to Brooke Heard and Lei Zhang who have joined the IOHR-CBG.

Brooke is currently in her last year of a Bachelor of Social Science Degree at the University of Newcastle majoring in Community Welfare and Human Services. She is a member of Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council and her family ties are with Wonnarua and Darug People. She has held various positions including working with people with an acquired brain injury and a research call centre at Hunter New England Population Health. Brooke will be working on a pilot study based in Newcastle as a research assistant. Led by IOHR-CBG member Peter Schofield, the study investigates an online intervention for substance abuse and depression in young men presenting to emergency departments with mild traumatic brain injury (TBI). Peter Schofield and Tony Butler have previously reported that 82% of incarcerated men have suffered a TBI of some level of severity in the past.

Lei completed his Bachelor and Masters in Mathematics at the University of Sydney and PhD in Medicine in the University of New South Wales in Microbiology. Lei accepted a postdoctoral position offer at Humboldt University, Berlin and researched on topics of bioinformatics. In 2008, he enrolled in a Master of Public Health and completed it in 2009. He has experience conducting HIV epidemiological studies in China and Southeast Asia and consulting experience for the World Bank and UNAIDS. Lei’s position will be responsible for conducting statistical analysis and modelling of existing offender health relevant datasets and development of publications with a focus on developing
publications relevant to the Indigenous offender health field.

IOHR-CBG symposium held in Cairns

In November an IOHR-CBG symposium was held as part of the National Indigenous Health Conference in Cairns. Members showcased various research projects that they have been working on. Megan Williams (Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, UNSW) presented on a multi-stage research perspective linking the health promotional work undertaken by the Mad Bastards Working Group and Mibbinbah Men’s spaces to her PhD research on social support post-prison release in an urban Aboriginal population. Dina Saulo (NCEPH, ANU & Kirby Institute, UNSW) spoke on hepatitis C and hepatitis B prevalence among Indigenous and non-Indigenous inmates. Nerelle Poroch (Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service) reflected on the implications stemming from the Winnunga study into the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT Alexender Maconochie Centre and the needs of their families.

Mandy Wilson (National Drug and Research Institute, Curtin University) reported on data from the Aboriginal mothers in prison project specifically, the role of violence in the offending behaviours of women. Paul Simpson (Kirby Institute, UNSW) presented preliminary findings from a Lowitja funded project ‘Assessing the public’s views to incarceration versus non-incarceration alternatives using Citizens’ Juries’. Tony Butler (Kirby Institute, UNSW) spoke about the possible role of Medicare in facilitating work with prisoners particularly around Aboriginal health checks, and accessing second opinions. Tony also reported on the exploratory case study into Justice Reinvestment led by Jill Guthrie. Lise Lafferty (Kirby Institute, UNSW) presented on issues in determining social capital indicators for accessing treatment among prisoners, and Stuart Kinner (University of Melbourne) presented data from a record linkage study looking at unique patterns of substance-related mortality among Indigenous ex-prisoners.


NHMRC scholarship awarded to Lise Lafferty

Congratulations to Lise Lafferty who has been awarded a National Health and Medical Research Council Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Research Postgraduate Scholarship. Lise’s research focuses on identifying and measuring the social capital of inmates with hepatitis C. A cross-cultural analysis will be conducted to identify any differences in the social capital among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men in custody with HCV. The study aims to identify any social capital indicators which might predict a person’s decision to seek HCV treatment whilst in custody.
This new understanding will allow policymakers to develop policies which target the creation of social capital specific to accessing HCV treatment.

Time to get soft on crime?

Policies and rhetoric surrounding the war on drugs, zero tolerance, mandatory sentencing and three strikes law came under scrutiny in a panel session titled *time to get soft on crime* at the last Festival of Dangerous Ideas in Sydney. The session was attended by IOHR-CBG members Megan Williams and Paul Simpson. Panel members included: Erwin James, a convicted murderer and Guardian journalist; Peter Moskos, former Baltimore Police Department officer and now Assistant Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at City University of New York; and David Simon, a journalist, author, and television writer and producer best known as the creator of HBO series *The Wire* and *Treme*. David also spent twelve years on the crime beat for the Baltimore Sun. Despite a lack of voice for issues affecting Indigenous Australians on the panel, audience members questioned the panel about much needed diversion programs for young Indigenous people.

Engaging Our Mob

An ‘Engaging Our Mob’ training workshop was held during the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS) Research Retreat in September 2013. The workshop aimed to enhance Higher Degree Research scholars’ understanding of the ethics and contexts of communicating and collaborating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

During the workshop, IOHR-CBG member and NCIS Director Mick Dodson, along with Gary Foley, shared their cultural and academic knowledge and experiences around engaging respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

Workshop participants, including IOHR-CBG member Lise Lafferty, valued the knowledge sharing around effective and respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The workshop and panel discussion also provided an important platform for new and existing researchers to learn more about working effectively and respectfully with Indigenous communities.

The next NCIS Research Retreat will be held Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 October 2014.

Enquiries & RSVP: Please email the NCIS HDR Program Manager, Dr Asmi Wood on
Asmi.Wood@anu.edu.au or 02 6125 8141. The event is free and places are limited. More information: http://ncis.anu.edu.au/events/retreat.php

Lise Lafferty, Veronica Fynn, Diana Andersen, Gary Foley, Myles Mitchell, Sidha Pandian, Gary Toone, Magali McDuffie at NCIS Research Retreat

Indigenous offender health web resource update
Website: Indigenous Offender Health web resource

There were 139 new entries for the Offender Health website between January and June 2014, including 86 publications, 29 news items and 16 new programs/projects. With so much new information, the website is worth visiting if you have not done so recently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry type</th>
<th>Number of new entries Jan-Jun 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisations</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs &amp; projects</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News items</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and events</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New publication entries

Violence risk assessment in Australian Aboriginal offender populations: a review of the literature by Shepherd SM, et al. (2014) [Click here]

Predictive validity of the AUDIT for hazardous alcohol consumption in recently released prisoners by Thomas E, et al. (2014) [Click here]

Improving forensic mental health care for Aboriginal Australians: Challenges and opportunities by Durey A, et al. (2014) [Click here]

Justice reinvestment in Australia by Wood W. (2014) [Click here]
Prisoner health services in Australia 2012. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 
Click here

Law and justice: prevention and early intervention programs for Indigenous youth. Canberra: 
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Australian Institute of Family Studies 
Click here

(see VOLUME C for JUSTICE) Click here

Indigenous people’s experience of multiple legal problems and multiple disadvantage - a working paper by Wei Z & McDonald HM (2014) Click here

Recent IOHR-CBG outputs & activities:

Offender health publications, reports, articles

Gisev, N, Gibson A, Larney S, Kimber J, Williams, M, Clifford A, Doyle M, Burns L, Butler T, 
Weatherburn DJ, Degenhard L. (2014). Offending, custody and opioid substitution therapy 
treatment utilisation among opioid-dependent people in contact with the criminal justice system: 
Click here

Click here

May 2014. Retrieved 3 June 2014. ONLINE CONTENT. 
Click here

Comment, 31 May 2014.

Home, Back to Community from Custodial Care: Learnings from the first year pilot project 
evaluation of three sites around Australia. Muru Marri, School of Public Health and Community 
Medicine, UNSW Australia, Sydney.

Jones, J. & Wilson, M. ‘Trauma of making a jailbird of mum’, The West Australian, 25 September 

Jones, J. & Wilson, M. ‘Family breakdowns causing repeat imprisonment of Aboriginal mums, 
Click here

health. J Aust Polit Econ, 73. 
Click here


Conferences, seminars, committees, grant submissions and other capacity building activities of team investigators


Jones, J. & Wilson, M. (2014). AOD use among Aboriginal mothers in prison, National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee Conference, Melbourne, 4-6 July


Jones, J. (2014). Ombudsman Western Australia: Advisory Panel Member


Jones, J. & Wilson, M. Radio interview focusing on findings from The Social and Cultural Resilience and Emotional Well-being of Aboriginal Mothers in Prison, Noongar Radio, Perth, 7 August.


Lafferty, L. (2013+). (Founding) Committee Member of the Kirby Institute Postgrad Seminar Series (KI-PSS)


Williams, M. (2013-14). Returning Home, Back to Community from Custodial Care – Muru Marri team evaluation of three emerging models of care from a Department of Health and Ageing pilot program in three sites across Australia


Williams, M. (2013-14). Critical Friends Circle for UNSW post-graduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies students – Muru Marri working group.


Williams, M. Healing Foundation grant application - Collective healing for members of the Stolen Generations – (with Blignault, I., Jackson Pulver, L. Haswell, M., Fitzpatrick, S. Arkles, R.)


Wilson, M. (2014). Invited member of the Youth Justice Board, Department of Corrective Services, Perth.


### Upcoming conferences, events ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IOHR-CBG Annual Team Meeting – Sydney</td>
<td>26 Nov, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian and New Zealand addiction conference – Surfers Paradise</td>
<td>4 - 6 Mar, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual event that discusses and supports current and emerging research and projects by IOHR-CBG investigators and other Indigenous offender health researchers.

The New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research is organising this conference, which showcases high quality Australian and international research in the areas of policing, offender rehabilitation, situational crime prevention, corrections, early-intervention and criminal justice administration. The event is aimed at both researchers and policy makers.

Abstract submissions close Sunday 14 September 2014. More information: [here](#)

The conference will address the treatment and recovery of alcohol, other drugs (AOD) and behavioural addictions. The focus of the conference will be on different types of addiction, prevention, assessment, treatment and recovery. The co-occurrence and prevalence of mental health and AOD use will also be addressed.

The conference will cover:
- drug policy
- prevention research and policy
- AOD advertising and marketing research
- Indigenous AOD issues in the prison population
- rural addiction issues
- older persons AOD use

More information: [here](#)

Any events, news, corrections, addendums, broken links etc. please email Paul: psimpson@kirby.unsw.edu.au