



## Editorial

Welcome to another issue of the IOHR-CBG newsletter. The biannual newsletter aims to share and promote the progress and achievements of IOHR-CBG members and associated offender health news and events.

An important development for the team since the last newsletter has been the success of a NHMRC CRE funding application, led by Tony Butler (see p-4). The funding establishes the *Australian Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Offender Health* and will help ensure ongoing capacity building for IOHR-CBG team investigators beyond the current IOHR-CBG project. Other highlights include seeing three new research projects commence this year; projects looking at problematic alcohol use among offenders (p-2), social capital and hepatitis C treatment (p-3) and a Justice Reinvestment exploratory case study (p-3). The annual team meeting convening in Perth very shortly and the IOHR-CBG symposium late November in Cairns will provide good opportunities to showcase these projects as well as the other various projects of investigators. All the best – *Paul Simpson*

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## Indigenous Offender Health web resource

For those working or interested in Indigenous offender health.

**Website:** [Indigenous Offender Health web resource](http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/population-groups/offender-health) or  
<http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/population-groups/offender-health>

**Twitter:** @AIHOffenders  
@IOHR-CBG

## Projects updates

### ARC Discovery project on Justice Reinvestment commences

Work has begun on a three-year Australian Research Council grant exploring the potential use of 'Justice Reinvestment' in a NSW regional town. Led by National Centre for Indigenous Studies researcher (NCIS) and IOHR-CBG member Jill Guthrie, along with other IOHR-CBG members Mick Dodson, Michael Levy, Tony Butler and Phyll Dance, this exploratory case study aims to identify the conditions, governance structures and cultural appropriateness of reinvesting resources otherwise spent on incarceration into health and social welfare services that could enhance juvenile and young offenders' ability to remain and realise their human potential in their community.

The project to date has begun active dialogue and relationship building with members of the community. The town was considered a good case study site due to its stable population, middle range crime profile and because the local economy does not directly benefit from a prison. Two stakeholder forums explored the issues of incarceration of its young people, as well as current systems of early intervention/prevention services for young people.

[Click here for Cowra Guardian news item on project](#)



NCIS and IOHR-CBG researchers meet Cowra Council representatives and the local Aboriginal Land Council in town in March. Back, left to right: Bill Fogarty, Cresside Fforde, Jill Guthrie, Pene Mathew, Kamalini Lokuge, Nioka Coe, Phyll Dance, Paul Devery and Tony Butler. Front left to right: Diyan Coe, Mick Dodson, Michael Levy, Bill West.

### Hepatitis C treatment among male inmates in NSW: Determining social capital indicators for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men accessing treatment and quality of life post-treatment

There are approximately 260,000 people living with the Hepatitis C in Australia. The primary mode of transmission is through intravenous drug use. HCV is common among inmates, accounting for 30% of the male prison population in NSW. **Lise Lafferty's** PhD research seeks to identify social capital predictors of accessing treatment in custody and measure comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous inmates. Lise will also conduct an economic analysis of Hepatitis treatment to provide better understanding of the physical and social improvements gained following treatment.

## Dealing with the problematic use of alcohol and related other drug use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in the offender population

The NSW Inmate health survey reports that 74% of Indigenous men had drunk alcohol at levels harmful to their health in the 12 months prior to imprisonment and 73% of Indigenous men compared to 59% for non-Indigenous men reported being intoxicated at the time of the offence that led to their current term of imprisonment. Using a mixed method approach, Michael Doyle's PhD research is examining problematic alcohol and other drug use and its treatment among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in New South Wales prisons. Michael commenced his PhD earlier this year and is currently writing up the results of a systematic literature review. Data collection for sections of the quantitative analysis is underway, while planning and negotiations with Corrective Services NSW regarding access to interview people in prison for the qualitative section are progressing steadily. Research outcomes will be used to develop an intervention model.

### Other doctoral studies by team investigators

**Jocelyn Jones'** doctoral research exploring Juvenile Justice pathways in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is in its final year. Jocelyn also continues her work on the WA arm of the [Aboriginal Mothers in Prison project](#).

**Megan Williams'** also continues to make inroads towards the completion of her PhD research. Megan's research is looking at social support post-prison release among urban Aboriginal people. Megan has also commenced a fulltime position with [Muru Marri](#) Indigenous Health Unit, UNSW

## Assessing the public's views on imprisonment versus non-imprisonment alternatives for offenders using a Citizens' Jury approach

The research reference group for the Citizens' Jury\* (CJ) project had its inaugural meeting. The group consists of: Brendan Church (CEO, Aboriginal Justice Centre, ACT), Tammy Solonec (Director, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples), Susan Helyar (Director, ACT Council of Social Services), John McKenzie (Chief Legal Officer, Aboriginal Legal Service, NSW/ACT), and Sarah Mumme (Policy Officer Vulnerable People, Western Australian Council of Social Services). The group provided important input regarding study methodology particularly in relation to the kinds of information and perspectives that will be given to jury members.

Following the Sydney Citizens' Jury (CJ) pilot, coordination of the Canberra and Perth CJs are now complete and will be conducted late September and early October. The findings of the Sydney, Canberra and Perth CJs will be summarized and presented to 21 key policy makers in order to assess the extent to which the CJ results might influence their decision making.

We welcome Dr **Stephen Mugford** and **Corinne Walsh** to the CJ project. Stephen has come on board as the new CJ facilitator. Corinne will be providing research assistance for the project and is based at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies with CJ project and IOHR-CBR member **Jill Guthrie**. Corinne is also providing research assistance to the ARC project, led by Jill, exploring the potential use of Justice Reinvestment in a NSW regional town (see p-2).

The CJ project team also includes IOHR-CBG members **Jill Guthrie**, **Tony Butler**, **Jocelyn Jones**, **Paul Simpson** and **Michael Doyle**. The project is funded by the Lowitja Institute.



*Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health*

### \*Citizen's Juries:

Citizens' Juries are about assessing the public's views on certain issues. They involve bringing together a randomly selected group of citizens, giving them good information on the issues to hand and asking them, as representatives of the community, about their preferences for certain policy options or priorities for resource allocation. As far as we are aware CJs have not been used before in Australia in the offender health area.

## News

### Funding awarded for Australian Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Offender Health

Led by Tony Butler, the Australian Centre of Research Excellence in Offender Health was awarded a \$2.5 million NHMRC CRE grant. The assessors noted that the CRE will address a documented area of need that has been neglected and is particularly relevant to Aboriginal health, and will generate new knowledge and lead to improved health outcomes for very disadvantaged people in Australia and internationally.

The CRE will pursue two research themes in line with national priority areas in mental health and infectious diseases, reflecting the burden of diseases posed by these areas on the offender population. It will provide new knowledge and address policy-relevant questions relating to violence, alcohol use, Aboriginal health, disease burden, the threat posed by infectious diseases, and diversion away from prison and into treatment.

The CRE will provide important ongoing capacity building and early career opportunities for IOHR-CBG team investigators.

### Higher Degree Research scholarship awarded

Congratulations to Michael Doyle who has been awarded a University of New South Wales Higher Degree Research Indigenous Scholarship.

### Indigenous offender health review: 2013 update released

The update of the Review of Indigenous offender health was completed in June 2013, with content updates much more comprehensive than initially planned because of effective partnerships with The Kirby Institute through IOHR-CBG coordinator **Paul Simpson**. This updated review will add considerably to knowledge about the health of Indigenous offenders and will be heavily promoted by Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet to educate website users. A plain language version of this revised review has commenced and will provide practical knowledge to an audience who may otherwise not have access to this information. [Click here for 2013 review](#)

–Drawn from Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet Offender Health Progress report, 2013.

### IOHR-CBG submission to the Senate inquiry into justice reinvestment

A submission to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitution Affairs Inquiry into the value of a Justice Reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia was made by **Jill Guthrie** on behalf of the IOHR-CBG, the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS) and researchers on an ARC project 'Reducing Indigenous incarceration using Justice Reinvestment: an exploratory case study'. To view the submission and recommendations [click here](#).

### 2013 National Prison Entrants bloodborne virus and risk behavior survey

The *National prison entrants bloodborne virus and risk behaviour survey* is conducted every three years and provides ongoing information on the prevalence of bloodborne viruses, sexually transmissible infections, and health risk behaviours in Australian prison entrants. Headed by IOHR-CBG member and The Kirby Institute's [Justice Health Research Program](#) head **Tony Butler**, the 2013 survey is planned to be conducted in October-November.

[Click here for more info & access 2010 report](#)

## New Lowitja Institute Link person

**Michael Doyle** is the new Link Person between the Lowitja Institute and UNSW (one of Lowitja's 14 [Essential Participants](#)). Michael will be the first point of contact for the Lowitja Institute information for UNSW and IOHR-CBG members. Michael takes over the role from previous Link person **Megan Williams**.

## Indigenous offender health web resource update Website: [Indigenous Offender Health web resource](#)

There were 132 new entries for the Offender Health website between January and June 2013. Seventy two of these were publications, 26 news items and 15 new programs/projects, so worth visiting if you have not recently.

<i>Entry type</i>	<i>Number of new entries Jan-Jun 2013</i>
Publications	72
Resources	1
Policies & strategies	6
Organisations	6
Programs & projects	15
News items	26
Conferences and events	6

## New offender health website publication entries

Allison, F and Cunneen, C (2013). **Indigenous Justice Agreements**. Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse (2013) [Click here](#)

Gooda, M., Priday, E., and McDermott, L (2013). **Looking beyond offenders to the needs of victims and communities** [online]. *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, 8(5): 13-17 [Click here](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013). **Prisoners in Australia, 2012**. (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoner characteristics included). [Click here](#)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2013). **The health of Australia's prisoners 20 12**. [Click here](#)

## Offender Health Web resource usage continues to rise

Use of the offender health web resource for the January-July 2013 period increased from the same period for the previous year; visits increased by 5.8% and page views increased by 14%. This increased usage indicates that more users are accessing the web resource and more webpages are being viewed, effectively disseminating information specific to the Indigenous offender population in Australia.

The launch of the IOHR-CBG newsletter, completed in March 2013, was a success. It coincided nicely with the new issue of the newsletter. The success of the newsletter can be seen by its inclusion in the top 10 most visited sections of the offender health web resource. Through sustained use of social media, especially with the release of new issues, this section should ideally continue to be a popular addition to the section and a good way to disseminate IOHR-CBG material to a wide audience. [Click here for IOHR-CBG newsletters](#)

- Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, Progress report, 2013

## Recent IOHR-CBG outputs & activities:

### Offender health publications, reports, articles

**Doyle M**, Fisher, C, Siggers S & **Butler T** (submitted). Alcohol and other drug interventions in Australian prisons for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*.

**Grace J**, Krom I, Maling C, **Butler T**, Midford R, **Simpson P** (2013). Review of Indigenous offender health (updated).

Perth: Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet. [Click here](#)

**Butler T**, Malacova E, Richters J, Yap L, Grant L, Richards A, Smith AMA, Donovan B (2013) Sexual behaviour and sexual health of Australian prisoners. *Sexual Health*; 10(1): 64-73. [Click here](#)

**Guthrie J** (2013). Senate inquiry into the value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia.

Canberra: National Centre for Indigenous Studies. [Click here](#)

**Simpson P & Doyle M** (2013). Indigenous prison rates are a national shame. The Drum, ABC. [Click here](#)

Van Dooren K, Claudio F, **Kinner S**, and **Williams M** (2012) Beyond Reintegration: a framework to understand health during the transition out of prison. *International Journal of Prisoner Health*, 7 4: 26-36.

[Click here for abstract](#)

### Conferences, seminars, committees, grant submissions and other capacity building activities

**Jill Guthrie** - PhD panel member for Michael Doyle (with Tony Butler & Anthony Shakeshaft).

**Jill Guthrie** - PhD panel member for Lise Lafferty (with Tony Butler & Georgina Chambers).

**Jill Guthrie** - Co supervisor (with Michael Levy) Amanda Steele (undertaking work on the survey questionnaire for Bimberi Young People in Custody Health Survey, to be implemented in 2014).

**Jill Guthrie** - Expert Panel member on ACT Trauma Recovery Centre Steering Group.

**Lise Lafferty** - 3 minute thesis competition – Faculty of Medicine, University of NSW.

**Lise Lafferty** - NHMRC Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Research Postgraduate Scholarship submission.

**Lise Lafferty** - National Centre for Indigenous Studies Higher Degree Research Retreat.

**Michael Doyle** – Tripartite partnership in mentoring Indigenous researchers. [Click here for info](#)

**Michael Doyle** – Lowitja Institute Link person for *Essential Participant* University of New South Wales.

**Dina Saulo** – Master of Applied Epidemiology research work:

- Evaluation of a Surveillance System: National Prison Entrants Blood Borne Virus and Risk behaviours Survey (Nov 2013)
- Data analysis: Hepatitis C Anti-body prevalence among prisoners (current)

- Data analysis: Sexual health attitudes of Australian prisoners Indigenous specific (current)
- Outbreak Investigation: Cluster of in-prison hepatitis C (HCV) seroconversion (current – Feb 2014)
- Epidemiological Study: HPV vaccine Impact in the Indigenous population (VIP-I) (June 2013 – Nov 2014).



NAIDOC celebrations at the Kirby Institute. Left to right: Tony Butler (Kirby Institute), John Kaldor (Kirby Institute), Megan Williams (Muru Marri), Martin Nakata (Nura Gili Director), Dina Saulo (Kirby Institute, National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health scholar, ANU), Michael Doyle (Kirby Institute), Simon Graham (Kirby Institute) & Rebecca Harcourt (Australian School of Business, UNSW).

**Dina Saulo** and **Michael Doyle** presented as part of the *National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebration* at the Kirby Institute on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Michael and Simon Graham spoke about their work at Kirby on Indigenous health. Dina gave a captivating talk on this year's NAIDOC theme: We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963. A report was also produced documenting the Indigenous health projects undertaken at the Kirby Institute. [Click here for 2013 report](#)



IOHR-CBG members relax and participate in some painting as part of NAIDOC celebrations at the Kirby Institute.

## Upcoming conferences, events

### IOHR-CBG Annual Team Meeting – Perth 4 October, 2013

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

### 7th Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) criminal justice conference – Melbourne 7-9 October, 2013

The conference seeks to engage delegates in discussion and debate around 'striking the balance' between providing community based treatment and support to offenders, whilst mitigating the risks posed by the offender to the community.

The conference invites delegates to:

- debate what works and what does not when it comes to successfully reintegrating people from custody to the community
- explore alternative and/or diversionary options to prison for some offenders
- develop a service delivery model built for improving outcomes for offender's with complex diagnoses and support needs
- build and support cross-sector partnerships in disability, drugs and alcohol, mental health and employment
- learn from leading voices in direct service provision, assessment, treatment and advocacy, who will present on evidence based best practices
- hear from experts in policy-making, research and academia present on data, trends and evaluations of services and programs and service user experiences.

More info: <http://www.conferenceworks.com.au/acso2013/>

### Dreaming up the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health - Sydney 5th Annual Symposium - Advances in Public Health and Health Services Research 11 October, 2013

The conference will showcase the most exciting elements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research from UNSW Medicine, including the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, The Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, The Kirby Institute and The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

Keynote and roundtable speakers include Professor Michelle Chino, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Ms Pat Anderson, Chairperson of the Lowitja Institute; Ms Dea Delaney Thiele, Population Health Unit, Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney and Mr Craig Dukes, Chief Executive Officer at Indigenous Allied Health Australia. Mr Clarence Slockee from the Mindjimbingbal clan from north coast, NSW, will talk about dance and bush tucker and how this keeps us well during the afternoon session.

The program will include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health related poster presentations and talks by academics and postgraduate students from the School and affiliated Centres, and conclude with a lively panel discussion on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Workforce titled 'Developing and growing to meet our current and future needs'.

More info: <http://sphcmresearchsymposium.unsw.edu.au/>

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Satellite ASHM Meeting: Bloodborne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections – Darwin**  
22 October, 2013

This satellite meeting to the Australasian HIV and Sexual Health (ASHM) Conference will provide a forum for participants from the clinical, research, education and policy domains to come together to discuss key issues facing the BBV/STI sector.

In particular input is being sought into:

- Katie Panaretto and Jason Agostino will lead a discussion around NACCHO's work in the development of STI and BBV indicators for the ACCH sector
- An evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the current 2010-2013 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Blood-Borne Virus and STI Strategy and the development of a brief to feed into the Department of Health and Ageing's review and update of the strategy.

For more information and to register: [www.ashm.org.au/courses](http://www.ashm.org.au/courses)

**IOHR-CBG symposium (at the National Indigenous Health Conference) – Cairns**  
27<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

IOHR-CBG members to present on their various projects and research in Indigenous offender health.

More info contact: [psimpson@kirby.unsw.edu.au](mailto:psimpson@kirby.unsw.edu.au)

**National Indigenous health conference - Cairns**  
25-27 November, 2013

The theme of the conference is Building bridges in Indigenous health. The conference is designed to bring together both government and non-government agencies who are working in the field of Indigenous health with the belief that working together can close the gap between the state of Indigenous health as compared to the health of mainstream Australians.

More info: <http://www.indigenoushealth.net/>

**Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIATSIS) national Indigenous studies conference – Canberra**  
26-28 March, 2014

The conference will bring together multi-disciplinary expertise from across the Indigenous studies sector, including researchers, policy makers, community members, academics, representative organisations, consultants, traditional owners and service providers. Whether your interest in the conference topic is from the perspective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, health, cultural heritage, arts, policy, sport, economics, language, anthropology, archives, IT or other equally relevant sectors, the conference presents a unique opportunity to communicate information about your research, projects and programs with a wide audience and to benefit from discussion around shared areas of interest.

More info: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/50YearsOn.html>

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