Mission

“Be a centre of excellence in the areas of research; evaluation, education and advocacy related to the Health System and Criminal Justice System”
This is my first report as Chairperson of the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice Board. In December 2005, Professor Tony Adams retired both as a Chairperson of the Board and as a Board Member. I wish to extend the deepest gratitude to Professor Adams for his wisdom in nurturing the Centre’s formative years. The Board and I are humbled by the role that we now take on with Professor Adams departure.

The 2005/2006 year witnessed an increase in the work that the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice (the Centre) undertook. Members of the Centre continue to be sought after as presenters and conference participants, and the publication record of the Centre is growing. The teaching commitments that staff maintain, further the understanding of prisoner health among health worker trainees, and provide many opportunities for Justice Health staff to demonstrate their clinical expertise.

The preparations for full implementation of the tobacco intervention and the sexual health studies were well underway throughout the reporting period.

During the reporting period, we welcomed the new Professor of Nursing in Justice Health, Associate Professor Andrew Cashin. Professor Cashin has been a Nurse Practitioner in Adolescent Mental Health. In the short time that he has worked with the Centre he has injected a welcome level of enthusiasm and encouragement to clinician-initiated research.

A significant achievement during 2005/06 was the granting of approval by the Commissioner, Department of Corrective Services for the participation of an inmate on the Justice Health Human Research & Ethics Committee (HR&EC).

Membership by an inmate on the Committee allows Justice Health to exceed the requirements that are outlined in the National Health & Medical Research Council “National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans”. The National Statement requires that “... persons in dependent or unequal relationships” actively participate in the research endeavour. The CHRCJ Board and HR&EC have a large degree of cross-membership, highlighting the level of commitment that so many people have to the area of prisoner health research.

In terms of identifying research considerations that pertain to Aboriginal people, Ms Shireen Malamoo has played an important role in highlighting these issues between Justice Health and the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council.

The Centre has entered into membership with the Sax Institute. The Sax Institute is a unique organisation in Australia. The Institute builds partnerships between researchers and health policy and service delivery agencies for better health.

As did the previous Chairperson, Professor Tony Adams, it only remains for me to thank my fellow Board members for their ongoing commitment.

Together we will face 2006/07 with the highest expectations.

Neil Wykes
Chairperson, Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice Board.
Justice Health
Board of Management

The Board was established in 2002 and its role is to act as a research committee to advise the Centre on new research directions and proposals, and monitor existing projects. It met four times in 2005/06.

The Board’s terms of Reference are to:

- Encourage research activity throughout the fields of health and criminal justice
- Advise on research conducted within the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice
- Determine areas of priority for research conducted by the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice
- Monitor the progress of research
- Encourage publication in the fields of health and the criminal justice system
- Work closely with the Justice Health Human Research & Ethics Committee
- Advise on publication strategy
- Advise of funding opportunities for the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice.

Board members

Professor Tony Adams, Chairperson 2002 – 2005

Mr Neil Wykes, Board Member 2002 – 2006.

Dr Eileen Baldry, Board Member from December 2005.
Attended 3/3 meetings.

Associate Professor Sandra Egger, Board Member 2002 – 2006. Attended 2/4 meetings.


Professor Andrew Lloyd AM, Board Member 2002 – 2006.
Attended 3/4 meetings.

Ms Shireen Malamoo, Board Member 2002 – 2006.
Attended 4/4 meetings.

Dr Richard Matthews, Board Member 2002 – 2006.
Attended 0/4 meetings.

Dr Alex Wodak, Board Member 2002 – 2006.
Attended 2/4 meetings.

Ex-Officio members:

Associate Professor Andrew Cashin. Appointed in December 2005. Attended 3/3 meetings

Associate Professor Tony Butler. Attended 2/4 meetings

Professor David Greenberg. Attended 1/4 meetings

1 Ms Julie Babineau, Deputy Chief Executive Justice Health attended 4/4 meetings on behalf of Dr Richard Matthews.
Overview

The Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice (CHRCJ) is a division of Justice Health, a Statutory Health Authority under the Health Services Act 1997. Justice Health provides all corporate, human and financial support.

The Centre was established in 2002 and since this time has continued to develop along four streams:


2. Increasing the research capacity of Justice Health through encouragement of staff to engage in research

3. Submission of grant applications (e.g. National Health & Medical Research Council, philanthropic trusts, and industry funding agencies)

4. Teaching - nursing and medical, through undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate courses and placements

The Centre continues to participate on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Prisoner Health.

Key Achievements and Outcomes

- 20 articles were accepted for publication (full list in Appendices)
- Five submissions for research funding were successful
- Three large scale projects led by the Centre commenced during 2005/06: the Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners Study, a randomised control trial of a multi-component intervention for smoking cessation, and the National Prisoner Health Indicator Project
- The Research Plan 2004 - 2006 Remarkable People continued to be implemented, and a discussion paper was developed supporting a new strategic plan for the period 2006 – 2010
- A visit was organised to the Parklea Correctional Centre for Professor Sally Redman (Director, Sax Institute) and Professor Anthony Zwi (Director, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of NSW). Following the visit, the Centre was invited to apply for membership of the Sax Institute which was successful
- In November 2005 the Centre co-hosted, with the National Centre for HIV Social Research, a workshop on blood borne viruses for Correctional Officers. Mr Rick Lines from the Irish Prison Reform Trust was the keynote speaker. Over 50 people attended the workshop
- The Centre has continued to support the partnership between Justice Health and the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AHMRC) by having input into key documents
- During the year the work of the Centre was introduced to Professor Chris Cunneen, the first cross-faculty Chair in Criminology at the University of New South Wales. That meeting led to a joint submission to the Criminology Research Council, to further the work of children of prisoners
- The Centre has supervised four research students during 2005/06.
Sexual Health & Attitudes of Australian Prisoners (SHAAP)

The survey commenced in June 2006. Taverner Research has been chosen to conduct the 2,400 computer-assisted telephone interviews for the study. The feasibility of telephone interviewing with inmates has been established in a small pilot study. Taverner Research is a fully independent Australian owned company that conducts quality research projects.

The qualitative component of the SHAAP Study is being conducted by co-investigators at the National Centre in HIV Social Research. This component involves conducting 50 in-depth interviews with current and ex-inmates exploring issues related to sex in the prison setting.

Multi-component Smoking Cessation Randomised Control Trial

Cigarette smoking is a major public health problem in Australia, with an estimated 19,000 premature deaths caused by tobacco use. Smoking tobacco is a major risk factor for coronary heart disease, stroke and cancer. It poses the greatest burden on the health of Australians; estimates suggest it is responsible for about 12% of the total burden of disease in males and 7% in females. Around 80% of prisoners smoke compared with 20% in the community, hence the need for effective interventions.

This study is a randomised control trial of a multi-component intervention involving brief-cognitive behavioural therapy + nicotine replacement therapy + Nortriptyline (or placebo). The project will be run in both NSW and Queensland.

Ethics Committees of both Justice Health and the Department of Corrective Services have approved the study.

Causes of Mortality Among Prisoners

This project commenced in March 2003. The aim is to examine causes of death among 85,203 prisoners and ex-prisoners through data linkage to the Australian National Death Index (ANDI). As a first step, a pilot study to test the accuracy of the ANDI was conducted. The results of the pilot study found a sensitivity of 88.4% and specificity of 99.7%; a paper describing the validation was published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. A paper describing the overall mortality results has been accepted by the International Journal of Epidemiology. Two other papers have also been submitted for publication: one describing the predictors of mortality, and the other examining deaths among recently released prisoners.

The Young People in Custody and Young People on Community Orders Health Surveys

These two large population based surveys describe the physical health, mental health, and cognitive ability of juvenile offenders in custody and those on community orders. The latter group comprise the vast majority of clients of the Department of Juvenile Justice. The key findings report for the Young People on Community Orders Health Survey was released in August 2006. The comprehensive report for this survey is planned for 2006/2007.

Mothers and Gestation in Custody (MAGIC)

This study is planned in two parts:
1. New South Wales data-linkage study for women who experienced a pregnancy while incarcerated, and
2. A national study looking at the ‘lived experience’ of pregnant women in prison.

Funding has been granted by the National Health & Medical Research Council to undertake the study.

Hepatitis Treatment Outcomes

This study involves a review of 372 medical records to identify the predictors for eligibility for access to Hepatitis C treatment within Justice health.

Hepatitis Incidence and Transmission Study

Recruitment of Hepatitis C negative inmates is progressing well. 12-month follow-ups will commence soon.

Impulsivity

There is considerable evidence that an association exits between poor impulse control and violent crime. Impulsivity has been shown to be associated with reduced tone in neural pathways within the brain for which serotonin is the principal neurotransmitter. In a number of studies of
impulsive aggressive individuals, the administration of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) has been associated with reduced aggression, impulsivity and depression. A pilot study is currently being planned to examine the feasibility of using an SSRI to treat those with histories of violence who screen positive for impulsivity.

National Prisoner Health Indicator Project
The aim of this project is to develop a set of health indicators for Australian prisoners to enable benchmarking between the States and Territories. It will also help to raise the profile of prisoner health at the national level and assist in planning health services for prisoners. The first part of the project is being undertaken by the CHRCJ and involves a national audit of health information and health data collections relating to prisoner health. Following this stage of the project, the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare will define a set of health indicators which need to be collected by each State and Territory.

Vitamin D Study - Muscles & Skeletons in Custody (MUSIC) (proposed)
The study would identify physiological markers for Vitamin D metabolism in two groups of prisoners – a control group with reasonable access to sunlight and another group of prisoners with restricted access to sunlight. The tests that may be included in the study protocol are blood chemistry, Dual Energy X-ray Absorbtometry (DEXA), and quantitative computed tomography (QCT) or ultrasound. The study will be conducted in collaboration with researchers at the University of Sydney.

Children of Prisoners (proposed)
This project expands on previous work modelling the number of children of prisoners in New South Wales and nationally, and the geographic distribution of parent – prisoners in New South Wales. The proposed study will look at ethical, legal and logistic issues that would be faced by future researchers if effective interventions for “Children of Prisoners” were to be identified.

Conference Presentations
- A/Professor Michael Levy was keynote speaker at the New Zealand Public Health Association Conference in Wellington and the Victorian Annual Police Medical Conference.
- O’Driscoll, C and Samuels, A – Combining Clinical and Actuarial Risk Assessment in a Maximum Secure Forensic Setting in NSW. Hate and it’s Offspring. Presented at Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Section of Forensic Psychiatry, Gold Coast, August 2005.
Overview
The Justice Health Nursing Professorial Unit was formed in 2000 in partnership with the University of Technology, Sydney Faculty of Nursing Midwifery and Health. The Unit is staffed by a Professor of Nursing, and a Research Nurse with part time secretarial support. The Unit has developed in the domains of:

1. Building service capacity through support of clinician initiated research in which clinicians are an active part of the research team.
2. Teaching in the area of Justice and Mental Health.
3. Promotion of Justice Health through conference presentations, publication in professional journals and active engagement in professional associations and colleges.

Key Achievements in 2005/06
• Six articles published and one in press
• Four Justice Health Human Research and Ethics Committee (HREC) approved research projects commenced; two of which are in partnership with, and approved by, the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) Ethics Committee
• Three quality projects commenced
• Two invited conference presentations
• Continuing professional relationship with the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
• Continuing professional relationship with the Australian Nurse Practitioners Association at the level of National President and construction and sponsorship of website
• Continuation on editorial board of the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing
• Teaching and presentation in the areas of mental health and research at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and the University of Newcastle
• Presentations on mental health and Justice Health within Justice Health and Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service.

ONGOING PROJECT SUMMARIES

Lithgow Exercise Programme Evaluation
A randomised control trial to evaluate the Lithgow Physical Activity Program. This program is a joint initiative between DCS and Justice Health. The Justice Health HREC and the DCS Ethics Committee approved the project. The data has been collected and analysis begun. The research team is Warren Stevens (DCS), Diane Muldoon, Keri Davidson, Emily Potter and Andrew Cashin.

Mothering at a Distance
This is a project to evaluate the mothering at a distance program conducted in the women’s correctional centres. The programme is a joint Tresilian, DCS and Justice Health project. Justice Health HREC, DCS Ethics Committee, and the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Ethics Committee approved the project. The program is currently running at Emu Plains Correctional Centre.

The Long Bay Prison Hospital Nurse Wellbeing Study
This is a study in the Long Bay Prison Hospital of nurse wellbeing. Two snapshots of wellbeing through the use of the Maslach Burnout scale and Minnesota Job Satisfaction scale were planned to be sampled 12 months apart. The first sample has been collected. A 12 month practice development program is underway and the next sample will be drawn on its completion. Justice Health HREC approved the project. The project team is Michelle Eason, Angela Thorpe, Coleman O’Driscoll, Michael Macpherson, Erica Balance and Andrew Cashin.

The Long Bay Prison Hospital Cultural Change Project
This is an ethnographic study of cultural migration in the Long Bay Prison Hospital nursing culture over a 12 month period that correlates with a targeted practice development program. The first sample of interviews, observations and examination of cultural artefacts has been completed. Justice Health HREC approved the project. The project team is Michelle Eason, Angela Thorpe, Coleman O’Driscoll, Michael Macpherson, Erica Balance and Andrew Cashin.
QUALITY PROJECTS

The Justice Health Mentoring Programme
This is the project evaluation of the Justice Health Mentoring Program. The Justice Health Mentoring Program is a new initiative in which managers were matched to a senior mentor for a 12-month period. A series of measures, including of a 360 degree tool developed for the project (the CAGE), were implemented pre-program and will be completed post-program. The evaluation team includes Catherine Wong, Garry Gordon, Emily Potter and Andrew Cashin.

The Justice Health, DCS and UTS Aged Care Nursing Professorial Unit Hostel Project
A series of measures have been selected in consultation with the UTS Professor of Aged Care, Lynn Chenoweth and Dr Yun Hee J eon from the UTS Aged Care Professorial Unit to screen potential hostel candidates who fall within the parameters as defined by the Hostel Committee. The tools focus on the person’s quality of life and wellbeing. The admission criteria include: male inmates aged 65 years and over (for Aboriginal inmates aged 50 years and over); and at least one year to serve to earliest date of release. The tools will be administered to the total population who meet the criteria and again at six months post-placement for those in the hostel and a matched group. An exhaustive literature review has been completed in relation to aged care hostels in prisons to inform the project.

The Hepatitis C Remedial Education Programme Goulburn
This project evaluates a remedial education program on Hepatitis C conducted by Aleta Stevenson and Lee Trevethan in the High Support Unit at Goulburn. Pre and post testing has been completed on knowledge and comprehension. This evaluation will be repeated three months after the program’s delivery, to evaluate retention and behaviour change maintenance.
# Ongoing Projects 2005/06

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Research Partners</th>
<th>Researchers</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter Forensic Head Injury Project</td>
<td>Hunter New England Area Health Service</td>
<td>Peter Schofield Tony Butler Stephanie Hollis Nadine Smith</td>
<td>Inmate and community data collection complete. Validation of information completed. One paper has been published in Brain Injury, the official research journal of the International Brain Injury Association.</td>
<td>Justice Health provided $90,000 seed funding in 2002. Continued funding from J ustice Health in 2003 &amp; 2004. $50,000 received from the Ian Potter Foundation in October 2004.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners (SHAAP)</td>
<td>National Centre for HIV Social Research University of NSW (UNSW) Sydney Sexual Health Centre La Trobe University NSW Department of Corrective Services (DCS) Queensland Depart. of Corrective Services</td>
<td>Tony Butler Juliet Richters Basil Donovan Anthony Smith Luke Grant</td>
<td>Telephone interviewing of participants underway in NSW. Qualitative in-depth interview study component commenced in NSW.</td>
<td>NHMRC grant application Successful 2005-2007. $611,000 over three years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoking Cessation Using Nortryptiline and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy</td>
<td>UNSW St Vincent’s Hospital Department of Corrective Services (Queensland) WA Department of Justice</td>
<td>Robyn Richmond Tony Butler Alex Wodak Kay Wilhelm</td>
<td>Planning underway for main study in NSW, QLD &amp; WA. Ethics approval obtained from J ustice Health &amp; UNSW. Department of Corrective Services Ethics Committee approval pending. Currently recruiting Project Officer.</td>
<td>National Medical and Health Research Council (NMHRC) funding - $541,000 2005-2007. Western Australian (WA) arm of study to be funded by WA Department of Health.</td>
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<td><strong>ONGOING PROJECTS 2005/06</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Offenders in the Community Health Survey</td>
<td>Sydney University Department of J uvenile J ustice</td>
<td>Dianna Kenny, Chris Lennings, Mark Allerton, Tony Butler, Una Champion</td>
<td>Key Findings Report released in 2006. Comprehensive report being written.</td>
<td>Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant awarded in 2002; $1.3 million over 3 years. J ustice Health provided $60,000 cash and $60,000 in-kind per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Prison Injury Surveillance System</td>
<td>University of NSW National Injury Surveillance Unit (University of Adelaide)</td>
<td>Tony Butler, Azar Kariminia, James Harrison</td>
<td>Over 3,000 injuries recorded to date Data analysis and report writing.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC)</td>
<td>National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research University of NSW Sydney University</td>
<td>Greg Dore, Andrew Lloyd, Paul Haber, Michael Levy</td>
<td>Ethics approval granted by J ustice Health. Awaiting Department of Corrective Services approval.</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health (United States) funding of multicentred trial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C Clinical Outcomes Review</td>
<td>J ustice Health Hepatitis Group</td>
<td>Andrew Lloyd, Michael Levy, Leng Boonwaat, Paul Haber</td>
<td>To be completed in March 2007.</td>
<td>UNSW/Centre for Health Research in Criminal J ustice funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J uvenile J ustice Correctional Centre Release Treatment Scheme (CCRTS)</td>
<td>Department of J uvenile J ustice</td>
<td>Paul van den Dolder, Pegge Deverill, Gavin Lackey, Michael Levy, Cathrine Lynch</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing Impulsivity in Repeat Violent Offenders Using a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI)</td>
<td>Hunter New England Area Health Service University of Newcastle Sydney University University of NSW Justice Health Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Attorney-General’s Department</td>
<td>Tony Butler, Peter Schofield, Vaughan Carr, Catherine D’Este, Robyn Tate, Phil Mitchell, Steve Allnutt, Don Weatherburn</td>
<td>NHMRC application for intervention study completed and submitted.</td>
<td>$50,00 received from NSW Health for pilot study Pilot planned for 2007.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers &amp; Gestation In Custody (MAGIC) Study</td>
<td>All other State and Territory correctional services University NSW</td>
<td>Michael Levy, Jenny Law, Elisabeth Sullivan, Sally Tracy</td>
<td>Research proposal awaiting review.</td>
<td>$299,000 funding awarded by National Health &amp; Medical Research Council for 2007-2009.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced Court Diversion</td>
<td>Sydney University</td>
<td>Susan Hayes, Michael Levy</td>
<td>Research proposal awaiting review.</td>
<td>$105,000 funding awarded by Australian Research Council for 2007-2008.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin D Metabolism in Long-Term Prisoners</td>
<td>Sydney University</td>
<td>Michael Levy, Rebecca Mason, Markus Sie</td>
<td>Preliminary discussion.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with Mental Health Disorders and Cognitive Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System</td>
<td>University of NSW NSW Department of Corrective Services NSW Council for Intellectual Disability</td>
<td>Eileen Baldry, Ian Webster, Tony Butler, Simon Eyland, Jim Simpson</td>
<td>Due to commence in early 2007.</td>
<td>$186,000 awarded by Australian Research Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality Among Opioid Dependent Persons in Pharmacotherapy 1985-2006</td>
<td>National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre National Centre in HIV Epidemiology &amp; Clinical Research (NCHCR) University of Queensland</td>
<td>Louisa Degenhardt, Amy Gibson, Matthew Law, Wayne Hall, Tony Butler</td>
<td>Planning stage.</td>
<td>$144,500 awarded by National Health and Medical Research Council.</td>
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### Completed Projects 2005/06

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<tr>
<td>Smoking Cessation Using Bupropion (Zyban) and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy</td>
<td>University of NSW St Vincent's Hospital</td>
<td>Pilot study completed. Paper submitted to the journal of European Addiction Research.</td>
<td>Study funded by the National Heart Foundation. In-kind support from Justice Health.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Published Articles

Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice publications


Levy M. Behind Bars: Sexual Health in Australian Prisons. Chapter in Sexual Health: an Australian Perspective. IP Communications. Melbourne 2005


Professorial Unit publications


Forensic Mental Health publications


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