



# **Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice**

**The First Annual Report**

**2003/2004**

## **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Professor Tony Adams, Interim Chairman 2002 – 2003: Chairman 2003 – 2004. Attended 4 / 4 meetings.

Professor Sandra Egger, Interim Board Member 2002 – 2003: Board Member 2003 – 2004. Attended 3 / 4 meetings.

Associate Professor Michael Levy, Director CHRCJ, Interim Board Member 2002 – 2003: Board Secretary 2003 – 2004. Attended 4 / 4 meetings.

Professor Andrew Lloyd AM, Interim Board Member 2002 – 2003: Board Member 2003 – 2004. Attended 4 / 4 meetings.

Ms Shireen Malamoo, Interim Board Member 2002 – 2003: Board Member 2003 – 2004. Attended 1 / 4 meetings.

Dr Richard Matthews, Chief Executive Officer Justice Health, Interim Board Member 2002 – 2003: Board Member 2003 – 2004. Attended 2 / 4 meetings.

Dr Alex Wodak, Interim Board Member 2002 – 2003: Board Member 2003 – 2004. Attended 3 / 4 meetings.

Mr Neil Wykes, Interim Board Member 2002 – 2003: Board Member 2003 – 2004. Attended 4 / 4 meetings.

## **STAFF**

Associate Professor Michael Levy, Director

Dr Tony Butler, Manager Research

Associate Professor Donna Waters, Professor of Nursing

Ms Josephine Belcher, Research Officer

Ms Azar Karaminia, NHMRC Scholar

Associate Professor Niyi Awofeso, Surveillance Officer

Ms Galia Guirguis, Administrative Officer

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since my last report to the Annual General Meeting in December 2003 it is pleasing to note that the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice (formally created at that Annual General Meeting) is now a dynamic organisation with a reasonably secure budget.

Thanks to the infrastructure support from Justice Health and success in gaining significant grants the Centre Director is able to plan a program of research activities with confidence.

In addition the Centre now has a home to call its own with sufficient space for both regular staff and visiting scholars.

As the Acting Director Professor Michael Levy indicates in his report, the Centre already has an impressive output of research and has had a high success rate with its NHMRC grant applications.

Postgraduate students are being attached to the Centre in increasing numbers, and the Acting Director and the Manager of Research Tony Butler are in much demand from both national and international organisation for their advice and involvement.

Thus as we had hoped, the Centre is becoming better known as the Australian focal point for health research in criminal justice. With the recent publication of the Centre's 2004 – 2006 Research Plan, and the proposed research seminar to be auspiced by the Centre in February 2005, there is no doubt that the reputation of the Centre will grow rapidly.

The Board is a little disappointed that the positions of Centre Director and Manager of Research have not yet been advertised. We trust that this will be done in the very near future.

The Board is encouraging the development of Memorandums of Understanding with several universities along the lines of that being finalised with the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney. These will broaden and strengthen academic interest and involvement in research in Justice Health to the mutual benefit of all parties.

I wish to pay tribute to the determination and enthusiasm of Michael Levy and Tony Butler who have driven the activities of the whole Centre these least 12 months. Their contribution has been outstanding.

Finally let me thank Galia Guirguis for her excellent secretarial and administrative support, and my colleagues on the Board for their ongoing enthusiasm and commitment.

Professor Tony Adams  
Chairman, CHRCJ Board

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

It is with great pleasure that I report on the establishment of the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice. This first annual report is for the period 1 July 2003 - 30 June 2004.

The **Mission** of the CHRCJ is to be a centre of excellence in the areas of research, evaluation, education and advocacy related to the Health and Criminal Justice systems.

Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice was formally established in February 2004, 12 months after the concept of a designated research centre was floated in a Capacity Building Infrastructure Grant application. An Interim Board was appointed at that time, and at the 4 December 2003 meeting the Interim Board stood down and the first Board of Management elected.

During the period 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004, the Board met four times on the following dates:

1. 2 July 2003
2. 18 September 2003
3. 4 December 2003, (Annual General Meeting)
4. 4 March 2004

The Centre has rapidly assumed four streams to its operations:

1. Analysis and reporting of existing data sets (e.g. 2001 Inmate Health Survey, 2002 Mental Health Survey).
2. Increasing the research capacity of Justice Health
3. Preparation of Grant Applications (e.g. National Health Medical Research Council, industry funding agencies).
4. Teaching – both nursing and medical, under graduate, graduate and post graduate.

The research plan 2004 – 2006 *Remarkable People* was finalised. Within that plan the commitment was made to develop a research agenda focused on the interaction between the Criminal Justice and the Health systems.

The first steps towards a memorandum of understanding between the CHRCJ and the University of Sydney were taken. The Board continues to refine the document into the New Year. Once this is concluded, other territory institution will be approached.

Two workshops (Bathurst and John Morony clinics) were held with senior clinical staff from seven clinical areas, with the intended purpose of raising awareness of research in clinical service development.

A broad range of teaching activities was coordinated through the CHRCJ. The Custodial Medicine course (Monash University) attracted 15 Medical Practitioners from across the country. A number of higher degree (PhD, Masters) are supervised or co-supervised through the CHRCJ.

One high profile Symposium was held – in association with the Faculty of Law University of NSW, a symposium highlighting the contribution of the Nagle Royal Commissioner 26 years on was held in NSW Parliament House: the Hon. Justice Nagle was in attendance.

Centre staff have achieved notable success in publishing in national and international peer reviewed Journals. These are listed later in the report.

The Centre is acknowledged as a national authority on prisoner health studies. The future is very positive, and the centre staff accept wholeheartedly their responsibility to this very special population and the community.

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS HEALTH SERVICE<sup>1</sup>**

The CHRCJ is fully funded by Justice Health, a Statutory Health Authority under the *Health Services Act 1997*.

Justice Health provides all assistance with human resources and financial management.

The Director, CHRCJ is an Executive member of Justice Health, and the Chief Executive Officer, Justice Health, is a Board Member of the CHRCJ Board of Management.

Justice Health and the CHRCJ have a Memorandum of Understanding, and an Intellectual Property Agreement.

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

The CHRCJ has not entered into any formal arrangements with other institutions. A Memorandum of Understanding between the CHRCJ and the School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney, is being examined by the CHRCJ Board, for possible ratification in the coming year.

Senior staff of the CHRCJ hold conjoint appointments with the University of Sydney (Associate Professor Michael Levy), the University of New South Wales (Dr Tony Butler, Associate Professor Niyi Awofeso), and the University of Technology (Professor of Correctional Nursing – vacant).

Associate Professor Michael Levy  
Director, CHRCJ

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<sup>1</sup> From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004, Corrections Health Service became Justice Health. The new name better reflects our role in developing and providing healthcare to adult and adolescent clients in custody, the Community and the Courts

# RESEARCH

## CURRENT PROJECTS

PARTNERS	RESEARCHERS	STATUS	FUNDING STATUS
CHRCJ National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research Department of Corrective Services.	Azar Kariminia Tony Butler Matthew Law John Kaldor Simon Corben Michael Levy	First paper on sensitivity and specificity submitted to American Journal of Epidemiology.	NHMRC \$65,000 per year for 3 years (2003 – 2005).
Hunter Area Health Service Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research	Peter Schofield Tony Butler Stephanie Hollis	- Data collection complete. Commence community control group in July. - Next step is to screen those leaving the prison system for symptoms associated with head injury & re- offending.	1. CHS provided \$90,000 start-up funding in 2002. 2. \$22,819 sought from Law and Justice Foundation in March 2004 (decision end of July) 3. \$20,000 sought from NSW Mental Health Branch (April 2004) 4. \$91,325 from Ian Potter Foundation.
CHRCJ	Tony Butler	Report completed. Funding received from AIDS/ID Branch to mine infectious diseases data.	\$90,000 received from AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch for data mining project
CHRCJ University of NSW St Vincent's Hospital	Robyn Richmond Alex Wodak Tony Butler Kay Wilhelm	Pilot study completed. Writing up results.	1. NMHRC application submitted - \$541,000 over 3 years. 2. National Heart Foundation application submitted - \$60,000 over two years.
Juvenile Justice CHRCJ	Mark Allerton Una Champion Tony Butler Dianna Kenny	Young People in Custody Health Survey. Summary report completed.	

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University of Sydney Juvenile Justice CHRCJ	Mark Allerton Una Champion Tony Butler Dianna Kenny Chris Lennings	Young People in Community Health Survey.	1. ARC Linkage Grant awarded in 2002; \$1.3 million over 3 years. CHS to provide \$60,000 cash and \$60,000 in-kind per year.
CHRCJ NSW Health University of NSW	Tony Butler Azar Kariminia Jammuna Bond Lee Trevethan	Injury Surveillance Pilot phase completed.  Paper accepted by Aust. J. of Health Promotion.	
CHRCJ National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research Queensland Corrections Western Australian Corrections Tasmanian Corrections	Tony Butler Sue Hailstone Leng Boonwaat Tony Falconer Trish Ginley Vanessa Reid	Completed in June 2004.  Data entry underway	\$70,000 awarded from NSW Health, AIDS / Infectious Diseases Branch.
Newcastle University	Anna Egressey Steve Allnut Tony Butler	Writing up thesis and preparing paper for publication.	
CHRCJ University of Sydney University of NSW	Linn Gjersing John Capelhorn Tony Butler	Attitude to Methadone (Corrections Health Service Staff).	

## PUBLICATIONS

AREA OF INTEREST	TITLE	AUTHORS	STATUS
Chief Health Officer's Report	Prisoners' Health	Tony Butler Behnoosh Khalaj	Published
Hepatitis C	Incidence of hepatitis C in the NSW prisoner population	Tony Butler Azar Kariminia Michael Levy John Kaldor	Accepted by European Journal of Epidemiology.
Mortality	Sensitivity and specificity of National Death Index	Azar Kariminia Matthew Law Tony Butler Simon Corben	Submitted to International Journal of Epidemiology.
Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis (Mantoux positivity)	Michael Levy Tony Butler Julian Zhoa	Submitted to Lung Disease & Tuberculosis
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare "Australia's Health"	Chapter on prisoners' health	Tony Butler Michael Levy Tony Falconer Frankie Boardman	Published
Social impact of incarceration	Attachment histories of NSW prisoners	Simon Quilty Tim Keogh Tony Butler Kath MacFarlane Joanne Panglasse	Accepted by Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
Injury surveillance in the NSW prison system		Azar Kariminia Tony Butler Jammuna Bond Lee Trevethan	Published by the Australian Health Promotion Journal

AREA OF INTEREST	TITLE	AUTHORS	STATUS
Royal Australian College of Physicians	Drug Policy	Mary Osborn Alex Wodak Tony Butler	Published
General health status of prisoners (2001 Inmate Health Survey)		Tony Butler Azar Kariminia Michael Levy Michelle Murphy	Published by the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
Cardiovascular risk factors		Rennie D'Souza Tony Butler Nick Petrovsky	Accepted by the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
Hearing health		Eric LePage Norelle Murray Tony Butler	Submitted to the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
Mental health	Mental health status of the prisoner population.	Tony Butler Stephen Allnut David Cain Dale Owens Chris Muller	Submitted to the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry
Mental Health	Physical health status of mentally ill prisoners (2001 Inmate Health Survey)	Tony Butler Steve Allnut Tony Butler Baohui Yang	Submitted to the Medical Journal of Australia
Infectious Diseases	Clearance of Hepatitis C Viremia	Jeff Post Paul Haber Andrew Lloyd John Kaldor Michael Levy	Published by Journal of Infectious Diseases
Families of Prisoners	Children of Prisoners: a growing public health problem	Simon Quilty Michael Levy Kirsten Howard Alex Barratt Tony Butler	Published by the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health