



# The Consortium for **Social and Policy Research** on **HIV, Hepatitis C** and **Related Diseases**

## **Workshop 14:** Prisons and blood-borne viruses: old challenges, new solutions

Friday 25 November 2005 Dockside @ Cockle Bay

### **Aims of the workshop**

#### **Following the workshop, delegates will have:**

- ▶ an increased understanding of the epidemiology of blood-borne viruses in Australian prisons
- ▶ a greater understanding of harm minimisation, of the scope of harm minimisation in the Australian prison context, of impediments to its application in Australian prisons and of proposed initiatives to address these impediments
- ▶ developed a dialogue with other health and custodial professionals on harm minimisation in Australian prisons
- ▶ identified the social research needs of harm minimisation in Australian prisons.

### **Introduction to the workshop and its framework**

Blood-borne virus prevention, and support and treatment for those infected with blood-borne viruses, are recognised issues for inmate populations. These issues are compounded by the high level of injecting drug use among those receiving custodial sentences. Growing evidence supports the introduction of harm minimisation services in custodial settings. However, there are significant challenges to these innovations.

This workshop will provide an overview of the current context of services in custodial settings and of the challenges to harm minimisation innovations. It will include a thought-provoking keynote presentation from Mr Rick Lines who will speak about his experience of reform in Irish prisons. This forum should provide a place for the major players in this field to further the discussion and address future strategies of benefit to custodial staff, inmates and their families.

### **Delegate profile: Who should attend?**

The workshop has been designed for senior managers of state departments of corrective services, juvenile justice, prisoner support services, employee unions and research centres.

### **Cost**

There is a registration fee of \$55.00 (including GST) per participant.

**Note:** You may be eligible for funding to attend from the NSW Health Workforce Development Program (WDP). Funding covers registration fees and, where appropriate, travel and accommodation costs. Check the guidelines for applying for a WDP Grant in the *WDP Training Directory* or at [www.wdp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wdp.nsw.gov.au)

### **Registration**

To register, please email Rod McDonald at [rodney.mcdonald@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rodney.mcdonald@unsw.edu.au). Please include in the email your name, job title, the name of your organisation, its postal address and your contact phone number (work and mobile).

**Please note:** There are strictly limited numbers and delegates will be selected on a first-come-first-serve basis, given that they meet the requirements of the delegate profile above.

**Registrations close on 11 November 2005.**

### **Guest speakers**

#### **Rick Lines, Executive Director, Irish Penal Reform Trust**

Rick Lines is one of Ireland's leading voices on prisoners' rights and prison policy reform. A Canadian citizen, Mr Lines is the Executive Director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust in Dublin. Since 1993 he has been working in prisoners' rights advocacy and policy with numerous non-governmental organisations and is recognised internationally for his expertise in HIV/AIDS and drug policy in prisons.

Mr Lines has travelled to more than a dozen countries working on HIV/AIDS and prison projects. He has been a member of several advisory committees of the Correctional Service of Canada and has served as a technical advisor on HIV/AIDS to both the Romanian and Bulgarian ministries of justice. In 2005 he acted as team leader in drafting global policy on HIV prevention in prisons for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna.

Mr Lines has spoken internationally before many audiences including the Canadian Parliamentary Subcommittee on AIDS, the US Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization's European Network on Health in Prisons and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. His publications include *Prison needle exchange: Lessons from a comprehensive review of international evidence and experience* (2004), *Pros & cons: A guide to creating successful community-based HIV/AIDS programs for prisoners* (2002) and *A call for action: HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C in Irish prisons* (2002).

Mr Lines holds a Masters degree in sociology from York University in Toronto and is currently pursuing a Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

### **Other speakers include:**

<b>Luke Grant</b>	Department of Corrective Services
<b>Gino Vumbaca</b>	Executive Officer, Australian National Council on Drugs
<b>Dr Tony Butler</b>	Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice
<b>Ms Alison Churchill</b>	Chief Executive Officer, CRC Justice Support
<b>Ms Ariane Minc</b>	CRC Justice Support

### **Proudly brought to you by The Consortium members**

**The National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR);** AIDS Council of NSW (ACON); **People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) Inc.;** Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC); **Hepatitis C Council of NSW. Supported by** WDP, AH&MRC, NUAA, Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice and the Dockside Group. **Funded by** NSW Health.

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