

PALLIATIVE CARE IN PRISONS PROJECT

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in partnership with
UTS: IMPACCT



Message from Project Lead

PROFESSOR JANE PHILLIPS

Welcome to Issue 10 of the Palliative Care in Prisons (PiP) Project Newsletter.

Since our last Newsletter, there have been quite a few Project developments. Firstly, the Commonwealth has granted the Project an extension until 30 June 2025, which is very welcomed news and will enable us to complete the project as planned.

Unfortunately, at the end of June 2023, we farewelled and thanked Kim Offner, Sally Fielding and Isabel Schaefer, who all stepped down to pursue other opportunities. They did a fabulous job during the start-up phase and were instrumental in navigating the complex ethics and governance processes in each jurisdiction which have consumed an inordinate amount of time and effort. Navigating these different jurisdictional and governance systems has highlighted the urgent need for a streamlined and harmonised approach to site-specific agreements, but that is another story.

In September 2023 we welcomed [Monique Hooper](#) as the Project Coordinator role, so it is great to have her on board to drive the development and implementation of the capacity-building strategies in partnership with jurisdictional correction and justice health services over the next 18 months and to sheppard the last of the jurisdictional governance submissions, in WA, QLD, Victoria and Tasmania. In early July, after three letters we secured approval from the Minister to seek Correctional and Justice Health approval to collect the medical record data in Victoria.

We have also been able to collect the prison data in SA and WA, and the hospital data collection is underway in SA. The qualitative interviews led by Dr Stacey Panazzo in Victoria, and Isabelle Schaefer in NSW are well underway, while A/Prof Michelle DiGiacomo, continues to interview interested family members.

It was great to hold the [National Co-design Workshop](#) on the 12th of September in Sydney and start to explore what each jurisdiction wishes to consider to strengthen palliative care in 2024. I look forward to seeing you soon in the upcoming [working.group.meetings](#).

Kind regards,

Jane Phillips

PROJECT PARTNER BIOGRAPHIES

MONIQUE HOOPER

RN MNP IPN PhD Candidate

Monique holds a strong connection to her Aboriginal heritage, particularly Lower Southern Arrernte, Arabuna, and Larrakia. With extensive experience in areas such as Primary Health Care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Chronic disease, and Women's Health across Southeast Queensland, Monique brings valuable expertise as a registered Nurse Practitioner. She is assisting in the National Palliative Care in Prisons Project and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy. Monique's research aims to enhance the capabilities of justice health professionals in delivering palliative health care, building upon the project's existing focus.



CO-DESIGN CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

A co-design workshop with key jurisdictional correction and justice health services personnel from across Australia was held in Sydney on the 12th of September 2023. The co-design approach assisted us in determining jurisdictional priorities, barriers and facilitators and provided a deeper understanding of stakeholders' experiences receiving and delivering services [1]. This approach allows for a collaborative prioritisation of improvements, including a systems and perspectives approach with careful attention to governance and process [2]. The workshop identified opportunities to enhance the palliative care capacity of correctional staff and justice health professionals.

Thirteen recommendations were made, including education for correctional personnel and justice health professionals, collaboration between correctional and justice health organisations, and the establishment of communities of practice for palliative care and aging. The goal is to continually improve services through stakeholder input and appropriate governance processes. The implementation of online spaced learning, palliative clinical placement, interdisciplinary palliative care champions, collaborative service delivery, cultural pathways and quality improvement initiatives will play a key role in strengthening palliative care provision in Australian prisons. In this issue we will profile [two of the six capacity building strategies](#). The full report of co-design capacity building workshop available on [PiP](#) website shortly.

PROGRAM OF EXPERIENCE IN THE PALLIATIVE APPROACH (PEPA) & INDIGENOUS PROGRAM OF EXPERIENCE IN THE PALLIATIVE APPROACH (IPEPA)

Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) & Indigenous Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (IPEPA), part of the Australian Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative, is funded by the Australian Government. It aims to enhance healthcare professionals' palliative care delivery through clinical placements and workshops. I/PEPA offers 2-5 day supervised placements in specialist care services and reverse placements where specialists come to your workplace [3].

These opportunities are available across Australia for healthcare workers in various roles and specialties. They help increase confidence, knowledge, and skills in palliative care through funded clinical placements, integrating learning into workplaces, and building support networks [3].

I/PEPA placements help professionals develop skills and confidence in caring for those with life-limiting illnesses. Participants gain a clear understanding of palliative care principles, identify patient needs, understand their role in managing common issues, recognize their knowledge base, and learn coping strategies for personal challenges [3].

For more information on workshops, placements, and host sites, visit [PEPA](#).

EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES (ECHO)

ECHO is a channel whereby specialist mentors can share best practices with local clinicians to reduce variation in care and improve outcomes through an established network between front-line healthcare professionals and multi-disciplinary team of specialists [4]. Typically, the model includes a curriculum of regularly scheduled "ECHO clinics" of case-based discussion about a real patient situation and a short didactic presentation. ECHO clinics combine brief didactic with case-based learning from specialists with embedded case material [4].

The ECHO model was first launched in 2003 to support primary care providers in rural and prison settings in managing patients infected by the Hepatitis C virus. Evidence shows the ECHO Model increases healthcare professionals' perceived knowledge and confidence in their ability to perform new behaviours in practice [5].

1. Agency For Clinical Innovation, A Guide to Build Co-design Capability, N. Government, Editor. 2019: Chatswood NSW.

2. Greenhalgh, T., et al., Achieving Research Impact Through Co-creation in Community-Based Health Services: Literature Review and Case Study. The Milbank Quarterly, 2016. 94(2): p. 392-429.

3. PEPA. What is PEPA? . 2023 [cited 2023; Available from: <https://pepaeducation.com/about-pepa/>.

4. Andrea, F., Project ECHO: Building capacity to manage complex conditions in rural, remote and underserved areas. Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine, 2019. 24: p. 1.

5. Chicoine, G., et al., Effectiveness and experiences of the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) Model in developing competencies among healthcare professionals: a mixed methods systematic review protocol. Systematic Reviews, 2021. 10: p. 1-16.

JOURNAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The importance of developing palliative care quality indicators for the prison setting: why now, and next steps.

Schaefer et al (2023)

[Link](#)

Ethical considerations regarding mental disorder and medical assistance in dying (MAiD) in prison population.

Simpson et al (2022)

[Link](#)

Prisoners experience of health self-management: A qualitative study.

Avieli, H (2023)

[Link](#)

Education About Specialty Palliative Care Among Non-Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review.

Smith et al (2023)

[Link](#)

Ethical considerations regarding mental disorder and medical assistance in dying (MAiD) in prison population. Simpson et al (2022)

[Link](#)

Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin

[Link](#)

Education About Specialty Palliative Care Among Non-Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review.

Smith et al (2023)

[Link](#)

PODCAST: Clinical ECHO by Palliative Care ECHO Update Hospice UK & Association of Palliative Medicine.

Spotify (2023)

[Link](#)

PROJECT LEAD

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PALLIATIVE CARE
IN PRISONS PROJECT

In partnership with:

SPHERE

Sydney Partnership for
Health, Education,
Research and Enterprise



Maridulu Budyari Gumal

Working together for good health and wellbeing

NEXT MEETINGS

Correctional/ Justice Health
Services Working Group

Wednesday 15 November 2023
11:30-12:30 AEST



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Community
Engagement Strategy Working
Group

Wednesday 15 November 2023
10:00-11:00 AEST



National Consortia Project
Advisory Group

Tuesday 14 November 2023
10:00-11:00 AEST



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