

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Name</b>        | Rebecca Winter   |
| <b>Title</b>       | Injecting drug related harms among prisoners and ex-prisoners in Queensland, Australia   |
| <b>Supervisors</b> | Prof Stuart Kinner<br>Prof Mark Stoové<br>Prof Margaret Hellard  |
| <b>Summary</b>     | <p>Globally, illicit and injecting drug users (IDU) are over-represented in correctional settings. In Australia, around two-thirds of prisoners report illicit drug use in the year prior to imprisonment and an estimated 45% have a history of IDU. Prisoners experience high rates of co-occurring health and socioeconomic disadvantage including unemployment, housing instability, mental health disorders, infectious and chronic disease and other disparities. Among those with a history of IDU, these factors may increase the likelihood of relapse to drug use following release from prison. In addition, the difficulties of community integration after release from prison, and the challenges posed by return to drug using networks, may exacerbate the risk of relapse.</p> <p>Incarceration is often considered an opportunity for rehabilitation; however incarceration may increase the risk of relapse to IDU and compound pre-existing health and social problems. While, for some, health improves in prison, the reality is these benefits appear not to be sustained after release, such that the net effect of incarceration is often health-depleting. There is increasingly compelling evidence that improving health outcomes for ex-prisoners has considerable individual and societal benefits, yet currently little is done to maintain or build upon service provision once prisoners return to the community. As a result, high rates of morbidity among ex-prisoners persist, perpetuating the cycle of recidivism.</p> <p>The research presented in this thesis aimed to document key adverse health and social outcomes among people who inject drugs (PWID) and experience incarceration, and consider how this may inform policy and service responses. The primary data were from two separate studies. Chapter four reports on evaluation results of a nurse-led intervention to improve blood-borne virus and sexually transmitted infections testing and vaccination in prisons. Chapters five to seven utilise data from a prospective cohort study of ex-prisoners to explore the timing and correlates of IDU and related health and social harms following release from prison.</p> <p>The research documents a rapid return to IDU following release from prison accompanied by an acute period of risk for non-fatal overdose. In the longer term, resumption of IDU following release was shown to double the hazard of reincarceration. An effective, low cost measure to improve the health of prisoners demonstrated that in-prison interventions have the</p> |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
|                            | <p>potential to improve the health of prisoners prior to release.</p> <p>A recurring theme from the results of this thesis was that the months following release from prison is a highly vulnerable period for poor health and social outcomes. These findings reinforce the crucial role support and intervention can play in order to prevent or minimise drug use and associated harm. In the typical absence of comprehensive services and continuity of care, poor health and social outcomes are common. The research described in this thesis highlights that drug-related health and social harms among ex-prisoners with a history of IDU are a corollary of prolific social disadvantage and current criminal justice responses to drug use. This work provides a way forward to consider the type and timing of responses to people who inject drugs prior to, during, and after contact with the criminal justice system.</p>   |
| <p><b>Publications</b></p> | <p><b>Winter, R.,</b> Stoové, M., Agius, P., Hellard, M, Kinner, S. Injecting drug use is an independent risk factor for reincarceration after release from prison: a prospective cohort study. Under review at <i>Drug &amp; Alcohol Review</i>.</p> <p><b>Winter, R.,</b> Young, J, Stoové, M., Agius, P., Hellard, M, Kinner, S. (2016). Resumption of injecting drug use following release from prison in Australia. <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i>. Electronic before print version published online 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Available at: <a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0376871616308845">http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0376871616308845</a>.</p> <p><b>Winter, R,</b> White, B, Kinner, SA, Stoové, M, Guy, R, Hellard, M. (2016). A nurse-led intervention improved blood-borne virus testing and vaccination in Victorian prisons. <i>Australian &amp; New Zealand Journal of Public Health</i> (accepted for publication 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016).</p> <p><b>Winter, R.,</b> and Hellard, M. Drug use in prisoners and viral hepatitis. In Kinner, SA and Rich, J (Eds). <i>Drug use in prisoners: Epidemiology, implications and policy responses</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, (accepted February 2016).</p> <p>Kinner, S., <b>Winter, R.,</b> Saxton, K. (2015) A longitudinal study of health outcomes for people released from prison in Fiji: the HIP-Fiji project. <i>Australian Psychiatry</i>, 23(6): suppl 17-21.</p> <p>Kirwan, A., Quinn, B., <b>Winter, R.,</b> Kinner, S., Dietze, P., Stoové, M. (2015). Correlates of property crime in a cohort of recently released prisoners with a history of injecting drug use. <i>Harm Reduction Journal</i>, 12:23. Available online at <a href="http://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12954-015-0057-y">http://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12954-015-0057-y</a>.</p> <p><b>Winter, R.,</b> Stoové, M., Degenhardt, L., Hellard, M., Spelman, T., Jenkinson, R., McCarthy, D., Kinner, S. (2015). Incidence and predictors of non-fatal overdose after release from prison among people who inject drugs in Queensland, Australia. <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i>, 153: 43-49.</p> <p><b>Winter, R.,</b> Fraser, S., Booker, N., Treloar, C. (2013). Authenticity and</p> |

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | <p>diversity: enhancing Australian hepatitis C prevention messages. <i>Contemporary Drug Problems</i>, 40(4): 505-529.</p> <p>Moore, E., <b>Winter, R.</b>, Indig, D., Greenberg, D., Kinner, S. (2013). Non-fatal overdose among prisoners with a history of injecting drug use in two Australian states. <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i>, 133(1): 45-51.</p> <p><b>Winter, R.</b>, Dietze, P., Hellard, M., Robinson, P., Aitken, C. (2013). Hepatitis B virus exposure and vaccination in a cohort of people who inject drugs: What impact has targeted free vaccination had? <i>Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology</i>, 28(2): 314-322.</p> |
| <b>Completion Date</b> | 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2016  |