

# PALLIATIVE CARE IN PRISONS PROJECT

UTS: IMPACCT

## Message from Project Lead

PROFESSOR JANE PHILLIPS



Welcome to 2021! As we start the new year I would like to thank you for your invaluable support of the National Palliative Care in Prisons Project. Whilst 2020 was certainly challenging, we have been able to establish and progress the Palliative Care in Prisons (PiP) Project.

Since appointing the PiP Project team and forming the various working groups, we have completed a comprehensive review of the literature looking at global barriers and facilitators to providing person-centred, evidence based and culturally safe palliative care in prisons.

A/Prof Megan Williams has guided the development of 'Wambinya', the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Strategy, described in this Newsletter, and we have submitted the first of our many ethics applications. We are now working to finalise the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN) committee ethics application for submission in April 2021. Securing NSW ethics will be a major milestone, enabling us to begin the gap analysis and to progress to securing ethics in the coming months in the other States and Territories.

On a final note, I have recently moved to take up a new role at Queensland University of Technology. While now based in Brisbane, I will continue to lead the project team in Sydney who will remain working from the University of Technology Sydney.

I look forward to continuing working with you in 2021 to progress this important national initiative.

Kind regards,

Jane Phillips

## PiP Project Literature Review

Our review of existing peer-reviewed literature has progressed significantly since our last newsletter, and a full draft has been submitted to the Commonwealth.

Common themes that emerged include: attitudes to death, dying and palliative care; the perceptions and needs of different stakeholders such as Correctional clinicians, Correctional officers and people in prison; barriers to productive therapeutic relationships and the impact of the prison environment on the provision of palliative care.

We look forward to sharing the final review with you in the near future.

If you need to contact the UTS project team at IMPACCT, please email :

[PalCarePrisons@uts.edu.au](mailto:PalCarePrisons@uts.edu.au)

# PROJECT UPDATES



## Update on 'Wambinya' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Strategy

*“Ngadhu nginyalgir gawaymbanhadhu”  
Welcome all, in the language of the Wiradjuri people*

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Strategy Working Group led by A/Prof Megan Williams, has developed Wambinya: Palliative Care in Prison Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement strategy.

Wambinya means ‘support’ in the language of the Wiradjuri people, the paternal language of A/Prof Megan Williams. This national engagement strategy details how the team will consult and embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspective into the PiP Project.

The next stage of Wambinya will be the formation of the National Aboriginal Leadership Group with a membership of diverse community stakeholders to advise the Community Engagement Strategy Working Group. If there are people within your networks who you think may be interested in being a part of the Aboriginal Leadership Group please contact A/Prof Megan Williams via the project email.

## PROJECT PARTNER BIOGRAPHIES

### KATHERINE CLARK

Katherine Clark (MB BS MMed PhD FRACP FACHPM) is the current Clinical Director of the Northern Sydney Local Health District Supportive and Palliative Care Network.

Prior to this, she was the Medical Director of Palliative Care Services at Calvary Mater Newcastle (CMN). Her other current appointments include: Conjoint Professor, Northern Clinical School, University of Sydney; Conjoint Professor, University of Technology Sydney; Clinical Advisor, Palliative Care Outcomes Collaborative, University of Wollongong;

Conjoint Professor, University of Wollongong.

Although Katy’s substantive role is clinical and administrative, her other interests include enhancing the evidence base that supports the best care of people with distressing symptoms at the end of life and quality care of the dying.



### ALAN SCARBOROUGH

Alan is the Director of the South Australian Prison Health Service. He is a credentialed mental health nurse and is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing at Flinders University of South Australia. He has previously been the Director of Nursing Strategy Support and Transformation with the Central Adelaide Local Health Network where he provided nursing leadership in the areas of research, education and professional development, informatics, workforce reform and clinical redesign.



In the decade immediately prior to this role, Alan was the Director of Nursing for mental health services where he oversaw the delivery of mental and general health and disability services across the network.

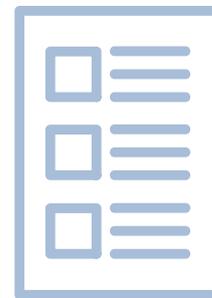
Alan brings mental health expertise to the provision of healthcare for people in prison, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and those with acute and enduring mental illness.

Alan was an early supporter of the PiP Project, and has been an engaged and active project partner. Alan is retiring in April, and we wish him all the best for this new chapter.

# Useful Resources

Our colleagues from Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (the Network) in New South Wales have recently been profiled in a SBS World News story titled “What it’s like to be diagnosed with cancer in prison.”

In this profile piece, SBS News interviews a Network cancer care specialist and a person recently diagnosed and treated for cancer in a NSW correctional facility. The story explores the challenges of receiving a cancer diagnosis and having treatment in a correctional facility. Also highlighted was the work being done to boost cancer awareness among those in custody.



ARTICLE

## CareSearch



[PubMed search filter](#)



[PiP Project Blog](#)

CareSearch ([www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au)) is the palliative care knowledge network. Funded by the Australian Government, CareSearch is designed to provide palliative care information, evidence and resources for patients, their family, carers, and health professionals. CareSearch has developed a comprehensive PubMed search filter to make it easy for busy clinicians to find the most up to date palliative care evidence, including the provision of care to people in prison with palliative care needs. Click on the links to access resources from CareSearch.

CareSearch highlights current issues in Australian palliative care, and includes a a blog series on recent projects and initiatives. The PiP Project was profiled in December 2020, as part of a series on National Palliative Care Projects Grant recipients.

# PROJECT LEAD

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## SPHERE

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Working together for good health and wellbeing

Please email any questions or comments to

[PalCarePrisons@uts.edu.au](mailto:PalCarePrisons@uts.edu.au)

## NEXT MEETINGS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY  
WORKING GROUP

Wednesday 21 April 2021  
14:00-15:00 (AEST)



CORRECTIONAL/JUSTICE HEALTH  
SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Wednesday 5 May 2021  
14:00-15:00 (AEST)



NATIONAL CONSORTIA PROJECT  
ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday 2 June 2021  
14:00-15:30 (AEST)



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