

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 9 of the Palliative Care in Prisons (PiP) Project Newsletter.

Since our last Newsletter, the PiP Project has been granted a two-year extension from the Commonwealth Department of Health, until 30 June 2025. A revised Project Activity Workplan and Budget has been submitted to the Department of Health for approval to reflect the extended timeline deliverables. The extension to Project Activities will have no additional Department of Health funding.

We have also received three more milestone ethical approvals: from the Queensland Public Health Act, the Northern Territory Correctional Services, and the Forensic & Scientific Services Human Ethics Committee Queensland. The team is proceeding towards governance (site-specific) approvals in South Australia, Queensland and Victoria to begin collecting data in the coming months. We are also submitting site-specific approvals in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania.

We are pleased to announce two new investigators from Western Australia (Dr Jocelyn Jones and Mr Robert Shaw) have joined the PiP Project Investigator team. Jocelyn, Wadjuk, Nyoongar, is a Senior Research Fellow and program leader at Curtin University, and was profiled in our last Project newsletter (Issue 8, December 2022). Robert is a lecturer and PhD candidate in the Centre of Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University specialising in Indigenous languages, cultural studies, and education. Robert is a descendent of the Malgana Yamatji Nation and brings a wealth of experience and learning to the PiP Project, including the coordination of Prison Education within the Greenough Regional Prison, WA. You can read more about Robert in his profile below.

We would also like to welcome Ms Josie Newton, Wiradjuri, who has recently joined UTS and has commenced her Master of Indigenous Research, exploring Aboriginal cultural knowledges about passing on and how these are related to palliative care practices in the prison context. Josie is working with Professor Megan Williams across a number of activities for the PiP Project including facilitation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group and interviews with Aboriginal Elders, Leaders and caregivers in NSW. You can read more about Josie on page 2.

Finally, the PiP Project Team wishes to thank Ms Josie Cullen, Project Officer for the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (NSW) Clinical Improvement Unit, for the invaluable guidance and advice she has provided since PiP Project inception. We acknowledge Josie's important contribution and wish her all the very best for the future.

We very much look forward to moving into the data collection phase of the PiP Project and in sharing progress of data collection in Victoria and South Australia.

Kind regards, Jane Phillips

PROJECT PARTNER BIOGRAPHIES

ROBERT SHAW

B AsianSt (Hons I), GradDipEd, Cert IV Health Science, MEd

Robert is an Academic within The Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Curtin University. He is a descendant of the Traditional Owners of the Malgana Yamaji peoples of Mid-West Western Australia. He has been involved in education for more than two decades and is a long-term professional educator and researcher, having taught in a variety of fields, specialising in Indigenous Education, Cultural Studies and languages, in addition to Finance and Business-related subjects.

His experience includes classroom teaching, TAFE, Prison and Adult Education, University lecturing and tutoring, Educational Consultancy, Accounting, Auditing and Financial Advisory, in addition to working in the health field, both clinical and hospital settings. His duties in the education sphere have included, research, teaching, lecturing and tutoring, Unit and Course Coordination, curriculum design and evaluation, assessment planning, design, implementation, and evaluation.

Robert has been a teacher/tutor and Prison Education Coordinator within the WA Justice system and teaches within the Curtin University Prison Outreach Pilot Program for the Greenough Regional Prison. Robert's experience with the Prison Justice system has reinforced his thoughts around prisoner well-being and social justice and has cemented the need for the Justice system to implement programs that allow inmates to be able to live with dignity and compassion in their final year(s) of life, which resonates his interest in such important initiatives as the Palliative Care in Prisons (PiP) Project.

Robert has research interests in Indigenous Languages, Indigenous Education, First Nations Incarceration, Philosophy, Religion and Spirituality, Languages and Language Acquisition, Health and Traditional Medicines.



JOSIE NEWTON

GradDip Indigenous Health Promotion (Social and Emotional Wellbeing)

Josie Newton is a member of the Wiradjuri Nation, her family's footprint in the Burrangong region of central western NSW. Starting her health career in nursing, Josie has held senior administrative roles in government and nongovernment organisations, and the higher education sector.

Josie also has experience working in Aboriginal Affairs, with the peak NSW body for Aboriginal health the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council, and within the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation sector. She is a member of several advisory groups in NSW and is a lay member of the NSW Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Ethics Committee.

Josie says knowing her story, being aware of the barriers that prevent people accessing equitable health care and the impact of social injustice, drives her to continue to contribute towards breaking down those barriers and advocate for First Nation Peoples' justice and rights.

Josie has a Grad Dip in Indigenous Health Promotion: Social and Emotional Wellbeing, and is currently enrolled in a Masters in Indigenous Health (Research) with the University of Technology Sydney.



CALL OUT FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP IN PRISON-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE

TRANSITIONAL NURSE PRACTITIONER KATHRYN LYNCH

As the Transitional Nurse Practitioner in Palliative Care at Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN) NSW, I am part of a small multidisciplinary team of clinicians including a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, dietitian and social worker. Our team is seeking interest from other clinicians who support patients who are incarcerated through any stage of their palliative care or end of life journey.

We are very keen to hear of other Correctional/Justice Health service models and to learn from the experiences of other clinicians. We would also like to share what we have learnt over the past 3 years in designing a model of palliative care for JH&FMHN in NSW.

If there is enough interest a special interest group could be formed, but less formal engagement would also be warmly welcomed. If you are interested or know of anyone who would like to share stories, ideas, suggestions, or questions please contact me at kathryn.lynch@health.nsw.gov.au

UPDATE: FAMILY INTERVIEWS

A/PROF MICHELLE DIGIACOMO

Family members are an important but often hidden population when people think about palliative care for people in prison. The PiP Project is seeking to interview the family members of people in prison with palliative care needs who have died in order to understand their perceptions and experiences of care, and inform the development of the National Framework for the Provision of Palliative Care in Australian Prisons. Participants can be from any Australian state or territory.



In NSW, due to the ethical considerations associated with interviewing the family members of people in prison, we have faced some challenges in receiving approval to do this. The greatest challenge we faced was designing a recruitment strategy that would allow us to send study information directly to family members of people in prison who had advanced disease, while protecting their identities and ensuring that they would not feel distressed or obliged to participate.

Upon suggestion from the Correctional/Justice Health Services Working Group, the PiP Project team contacted the Forensic Medicine Social Work Service, which operates as part of the NSW Coroner's Court. This service provides support to families during the inquest process after the death of a family member and the coronial investigation. After negotiating with the Forensic Medicine Social Work Service, the Office of the Coroner and the reviewing HREC committee, we were then allowed to provide the study information in unaddressed envelopes for the Social Work Service to address and send to the family members of people in prison with palliative care needs who have died.

These interviews have now started, and have provided valuable information for the Project. We look forward to sharing these findings with you as the interviews continue. Recruitment is continuing in all states and territories and we welcome further participants. Please share these contact details for anyone interested in participating in these family interviews michelle.digiaco@uts.edu.au or find study information to distribute [here](#).

JOURNAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

A thematic analysis of hospital medical records of patients with advanced illness experiencing incarceration in the last 3 months of life
Le Gautier et al (2023)

This article reports on a retrospective qualitative medical record review for people in prison who died in hospital to explore the patterns of palliative and end of life care provision for hospitalised patients experiencing incarceration. [Link](#)

What Works for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men? A Systematic Review of the Literature

Menges et al (2023)

In this systematic review, the authors identify interventions, programs and activities that were successful in improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal men. [Link](#)

Intersectional insights into racism and health: not just a question of identity

Shannon et al (2022)

This paper uses an intersectional lens to examine systems of oppression and the close ties to health, particularly historical racism, and the lingering effects of colonialism, and institutionalised racial discrimination. [Link](#)

Exploring the Experiences of the Consent Process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Having Cardiac Surgery and Participating in Medical Research: A Study Protocol

Coombes et al (2023)

This article presents a study protocol exploring the experiences of Aboriginal people providing informed consent for cardiac surgery and research, and their clinicians. The aim is to explore the need for culturally safe design in gaining informed consent, and the benefits of informed consent resources. [Link](#)

Scoping the Potential of a Noongar Re-entry Peer Navigator Model

J Anderson (2023)

Informed by a review of existing literature, this article explores the conceptual development of the Noongar re-entry peer navigator model, in which a Noongar Peer Navigator assist Noongar people who are incarcerated to successfully transition back into the community. [Link](#)



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PALLIATIVE CARE
IN PRISONS PROJECT

In partnership with:

SPHERE

Sydney Partnership for
Health, Education,
Research and Enterprise



Maridulu Budyari Gumat
Working together for good health and wellbeing

NEXT MEETINGS

Correctional/ Justice Health
Services Working Group

Wednesday 24 May
14:30-15:30 AEST



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Community
Engagement Strategy
Working Group

Wednesday 31 May 2023
14:00-15:00 AEST



National Consortia Project
Advisory Group

Wednesday 21 June 2023
13:30-15:00 AEST



This project is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health: Public Health and Chronic Disease Program, as part of the National Palliative Care Projects initiative.