

Breaking into prison: introducing peer-based harm reduction to the Tasmanian Prison Environment.

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Incarcerated Australians have a higher rate of harmful outcomes from injecting drug use than the general population. Harm reduction efforts, programs and approaches remain elusive for people who use and inject drugs in custody.

Unfunded Tasmanian Drug User Organisation, the Tasmanian Users Health and Support League, supported by the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, proposed a series of peer-based harm reduction workshops to be delivered to people incarcerated at Ron Barwick's men's prison. The proposal was granted with the suggested inclusion of a blood borne virus educator from the Tasmanian Council on AIDS Hepatitis and Related Diseases.

The Drug User Organisations have co-designed an opt-in, peer-based harm reduction course. Jo Murphy, President of the Tasmanian-based organisation, has lived and treated hepatitis C and has experience as a positive speaker. She is leading the hep C components of the course as a hepatitis C peer. Remaining modules will be co-delivered by Emily Ebdon, Campaign and Capacity Lead at the Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug User's League, who is also a drug using peer. The content included in the program offered includes information and context of drug policy, laws, human rights, understanding harm reduction, vein care, drug overdose and naloxone, injecting-related injury and harm reduction and other support services. The HIV topic will be covered by a blood borne virus educator from the Tasmanian AIDS Council.

The *Sex, Drugs and BBVs* series of workshops will commence in March 2025, running weekly until the end of April. An evaluation report will be written on completion of the course. If prison bleach distribution would be better than nothing, peer-based harm reduction, infiltrating prison will be far better than bleach.