

## 2024 APSAD Abstract Submission (Oral presentation)

### Custodial Health Abstract

#### Title: National Prison Addiction Medicine Network

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**Background:** High numbers of people with drug dependence in Australian prisons, inconsistent management of drug dependence and withdrawal between jurisdictions, and poor post-release outcomes among people with drug dependence warrant coordinated intervention. The National Prison Addiction Medicine Network (NPAMN) was created in August 2023, to bring together stakeholders across the sector to develop consensus guidelines for the management of addiction in custodial settings and promote evidence-based best-practice healthcare for people in prison through a coordinated national approach.

**Description of intervention:** The NPAMN aims to create consensus guidelines around the following domains:

1. Withdrawal management, particularly in locations without a subacute ward;
2. Opioid agonist treatment provision, including continuation and initiation;
3. Provision of psychosocial interventions within custodial settings dealing with substance use and relapse prevention;
4. Management of co-occurring trauma/mental illness and dual diagnosis concerns
5. Management and screening of blood-borne viruses;
6. Harm reduction interventions including NSPs, take-home naloxone and peer-based mentoring; and
7. Discharge planning and transitioning patients from prison-based to community-based care.

**Implementation:** With administration support from Western Health and Burnet Institute, the NPAMN is currently completing consensus guidelines around opioid agonist treatment. The NPAMN membership includes jurisdictional custodial health representatives, clinicians, consumer representation, and academics, as well as members who can advocate for endorsement from relevant professional bodies, such as RACGP, RACP and RANZCP.

**Conclusion:** This is an example of a sector-led response to ongoing harms linked to inadequate continuity of care between prisons and the community. The NPAMN is collaborating to standardise care for people with drug dependence and advocate for better practices within their relevant jurisdictions.

**Disclosure of interest:** There are no relevant disclosures to be made.