



**MOSAIC SERVICES –
Supporting prisoners
living with a blood
borne virus**

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MOSAIC Services



Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge the Adelaide Plains Region as the traditional lands of the Kurna people and that I respect and support their spiritual, physical, economical, mental and emotional relationship with their country. Their inherent cultural and spiritual beliefs continue to sustain the living Kurna people today.



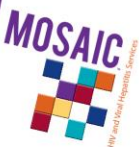
WHO ARE MOSAIC

- Team of 6 dedicated workers consisting of nurses / social workers / counsellors
- Providing counselling and case management support for people living with / affected by and at high risk of transmission of blood borne virus
- Based at 3 RASA locations and 2 prison sites
- Our work with clients is not time restrained
- The program is 16 years old and is funded by SA Health – BBV / STI department



WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS

- Department of Correctional Services (DCS)
- South Australian Prison Health Service (SAPHS) – MOSAIC is written into the SAPHS Model of Care
- Other government and non government agencies and programs, currently delivering services to prisoners
- Our services are aligned with the State and National Implementation & Action Plans for HIV / HBV / HCV and also written into the “South Australian Prisoner Blood Borne Virus Prevention Action Plan 2017 – 2020



WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS

- Vulnerable and highly stigmatised
- Traumatized
- Living with either diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health conditions
- Living with co-morbidities
- In need of support and rehabilitation
- Complex



Facts and Figures

- MOSAIC commenced services to Adelaide Women's Prison in April 2012 and currently deliver support one day a week
- MOSAIC commenced services to Mobilong Prison in March 2016 and currently deliver services one day every 3 weeks
- Up to 30/06/18 – MOSAIC has supported 224 prisoners, 146 women and 78 men
- 20% of all our client work is now prison related and the prison system is the biggest single referrer into the program.



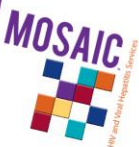
Facts and Figures continued..

- 60+ of the prisoners supported have been Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders
- 166 were living with Hepatitis C
- 42 were at high risk of transmission of blood borne virus whilst incarcerated
- 7 live with HIV
- 9 live with Chronic Hepatitis B



Services Provided

- Counselling – the availability of a safe space for talk therapy
- Information on testing and treating blood borne viruses
- Advocacy – letters provided for parole and home detention applications, MOSAIC is included in parole conditions for a number of clients and we also attend parole hearings. Letters are also provided for other requirements as and when needed, including housing
- Referrals to nursing staff / ALOs / CMCs (Housing) and social workers within the prison and to external providers, as required
- Close collaboration with SAPHS to ensure as many people living with Hepatitis C are given timely treatment and also, specific to AWP, to ensure that all women living with Hepatitis C are vaccinated for Hepatitis B



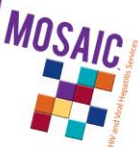
Challenges

- Moving around the prison
- Available space
- Reporting
- Remote access to our own secure recording system
- Barriers to providing regular service provision – lock downs / movements / count / released prisoners



What do we know about supporting prisoners

- Prisoners need support services
- Prisoners engage willingly with support services
- Support can increase prisoner self worth and self esteem
- Support provides opportunity for prisoners to reflect on their situation and consider more positive pathways through life
- Provides hope for a better long term future
- Support can help prisoners reconnect with important people in their lives
- Support can reduce the risk of recidivism (supporting the DCS target of 10 by 20)



Example A

Client A lived with Hepatitis C and endured 6 months Interferon treatment whilst incarcerated at AWP – Along with SAPHS, MOSAIC supported her throughout her treatment phase (she cleared the virus) and then transitioned with her when she was discharged. MOSAIC continued to support this client during her parole period, collaborating with Seeds of Affinity and DCS community parole officers. The client is now completing a Bachelor degree, no longer needs MOSAIC services support and the risk of recidivism is reduced to “no risk”



Example B

Client B first entered the criminal justice system at the age of 18, she is now in her 40s and has been in and out of prison 22 times. She was living with Hepatitis C for some time prior to receiving support. Her current discharge period has lasted over 3 years and is her longest time outside of the prison environment since the age of 18. MOSAIC connected this client with the Viral Hepatitis Nurses at the QEH, following release, and she has now cleared the virus. This client no longer talks about returning to prison “this would be easier than being out” – she has created a positive life for herself outside the prison environment and her risk of recidivism is continually reducing. Every day has been a challenge for her but support from numerous services has made all the difference.



Conclusion and Thanks

Supporting prisoners provides opportunities for them to improve their future decisions and to turn their lives around and our service being on site enables access to a particularly vulnerable population who would not normally have access to specialist counselling and case management services. Working collaboratively is key to providing holistic and thoughtful care and support.

Thanks go to:

- The MOSAIC team
- SAPHS – in particular Jo Peak, Lucy Howard, Susan O’Neill, all the Hep C Port Folio nurses at AWP and Mobilong and the extended nursing teams at both sites.
- DCS – Sandra Russell , Darian Shepherd-Bayley, Pete Halsall, Scott Willis, Lee MacDonald and John Strachan
- SA Health – BBV / STI department
- RASA Management and in particular our Manager of BBV Services – Enaam Oudih
- All of our collaborative partners

Thank you all for listening
ANY QUESTIONS????

