EVALUATION OF THE AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

OUTLINE OF RESEARCH STUDIES.

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Study 1.

This study evaluates the primary aims of the AIDS Education Programme for prisoners.

1. To reach all N.S.W. prisoners with AIDS Education in the form of talks and group discussion seminars, presentation of AIDS videos and AIDS pamphlets.
2. To educate prisoners so that they have a basic knowledge of the risks of catching AIDS, and of how to avoid catching AIDS.
3. To educate prisoners, using group discussion, so that they would understand the AIDS policy issues of segregation vs integration, and compulsory versus voluntary testing.

The study is a cross-sectional study of six N.S.W. Gaols with random samples of roughly 10-15% of the prisoner population. Prisoners were interviewed to assess level of exposure to AIDS, level of knowledge about AIDS, and opinions about strategies to help stop the spread of AIDS, before and after the first six months of AIDS Education.

Progress: All pre and post data has been collected, and coded. All reports have been written for the pre-data, including one report for each gaol under study, and a report on all gaols for the Corrective Services Commission (Report No. 2).

The post data has been analysed, and a full report comparing all gaols comparing pre and post data is completed (Report No.9).

Study 2.

This study was planned to assess the same aims as above for custodial staff.

Progress: Limited resources meant that pre-data had to be collected using questionnaires, and this method proved unsatisfactory, with a sampling rate of only 20%. A report was written (Report No. 1), but this study has since been abandoned. No post-data was collected.
Therefore, no cross-sectional data is available to assess the level of exposure to AIDS Education from a representative sample of custodial officers. However, studies 7, 8 and 9 will evaluate the use of various AIDS Education materials and specific programmes for officers.

Study 3

Evaluation of the role of the Programme Organisers of each gaol who were chosen and trained to "initiate, organise and implement" AIDS Education for custodial staff and prisoners in their gaol.

All Programme Organisers will be questioned about their role, their achievements in this role and the difficulties they have encountered.

Progress: Questionnaires were collected from 17 Programme Organisers over Christmas, 1988. The data was analysed and written up as part of the final report for Study 1 (Report No. 9)

Study 4

Evaluation of the Induction Programme for prisoners being received to the Metropolitan Remand Centre.

AIDS related information is being given to new prisoners at this crucial point of entry to the prison system. Most are remandees, and many would be experiencing their first time in gaol.

The study interviews prisoners about the reception procedure, and assesses the level of knowledge about AIDS and attitudes for prisoners being received before the induction programme began and at intervals after the induction programme has begun.

Progress: Pre-programme interviews completed. Two rounds of post-interviews have been completed. The data is currently being analysed and written up (Report No. 10).

Study 5

Evaluation of the use of AIDS Pamphlets for prisoners. Pamphlets have now been found to be the most effective way of at least reaching a large percentage of prisoners. Different pamphlets will be assessed for their appeal to prisoners, and their effectiveness in educating prisoners about AIDS risks, and ways to avoid AIDS.

This is a descriptive study which will examine the appeal and effectiveness of different pamphlets in appropriate target groups of offenders. Such target groups are: offenders on probation or parole, offenders in prison, offenders on work-release, offenders in periodic detention, and offenders of all types with an ethnic background. These groups were chosen because the information about the ways to avoid catching AIDS and the types of pamphlets that would be appealing, may differ in these groups.
Progress: Interviewing and data collection were completed in November, 1988. A report has been completed (Report No. 7).

Study 6

Evaluation of an AIDS Video, written, performed and produced by a group of eleven prisoners from Bathurst Gaol. This video was made in February to May, 1988 and will be run for prisoners after the video has been approved for release.

Assessment of the impact of the video will be made, by interviewing a random sample of prisoners after the screening of the video. Ideally, this would be done at Bathurst Gaol, where the knowledge and attitudes of prisoners before and after the video could be assessed.

Progress: Interviews with a random sample of Bathurst prisoners before introduction of the video have been completed, and a report written for feedback to the Bathurst Gaol Management Team. Post interviews did not go ahead because the video was never made available for AIDS education.

Instead, interviews were conducted with the eleven inmates who had produced the video and who had also completed an AIDS peer education training course at Bathurst Gaol. A report has been completed which provides some evaluation of both the AIDS course, and of these prisoners' subsequent role as peer educators (Report No. 8).

Study 7

Evaluation of the use of the British video, "AIDS INSIDE", with Australian custodial staff.

Fifteen custodial staff were shown the video, followed by discussion, as part of the MOD 3 Training Programme for First Class Prison Officers. The study will evaluate the appeal and effectiveness of the video given in this situation, and assesses the level of knowledge and attitudes about AIDS before and after the training session.

We are also currently evaluating AIDS education lectures and videos given to newly recruited prison officers during their initial training. Two classes of prison officers will be chosen for study, and their knowledge and attitudes about AIDS will be assessed during and after the course.

Progress: All fifteen custodial staff in the training programme completed questionnaires and returned them before the AIDS Education session began. Post interviews were complete one to two months later, with a successful follow-up of fourteen of these officers. A report has been written (Report No. 6).

For the two classes of newly recruited prison officers, evaluation questionnaires have been collected from their Week 1 seminar, and a second questionnaire from the Week 7 seminar. A random sample of officers from each class has been sent follow up questionnaires.
Study 8

Evaluation of AIDS Education Programme for custodial staff at Bathurst Gaol.

This study was designed to evaluate the aims which were first meant to be evaluated in Study 2. It was decided that AIDS Education for custodial staff needed to be evaluated with representative sampling and interview methodology, in at least one goal. Bathurst Gaol was chosen for study since this gaol had been the focus of much energy from the Programme Organisers, and was seen as a gaol to trial education programmes.

The study will assess the level of exposure, knowledge and attitudes to AIDS Education at two time intervals. At each time, different AIDS Education material will have been presented to the staff, so these can be compared.

Progress: A random sample of custodial staff was interviewed on the 17th and 18th of May, and a report has been written (Report No. 5).

Study 9

This study complements Study 5 for prisoners with an evaluation of the use of pamphlets for custodial staff. Different pamphlets will be assessed for their appeal to custodial staff, and their effectiveness in educating custodial staff about AIDS risks, and ways to avoid AIDS.

This is a descriptive study which will examine the appeal and effectiveness of different pamphlets in appropriate target groups of staff. Such target groups are: staff in maximum, medium and minimum security institutions, staff of different rank and duties, and probation and parole staff. These groups were chosen because the information about the ways to avoid catching AIDS and the types of pamphlets that would be appealing, may differ in these groups.

Progress: Resources could not be made available for this study to commence in 1988 or 1989.

Study 10

This study involves assessment of the level of "risky behaviour" of prisoners, where risky behaviour is behaviour which puts a person at risk of catching the AIDS virus (needle sharing, unsafe sexual practices).

This study measures the level of exposure to AIDS education, knowledge, and attitudes about AIDS comparable to Study 1. The level of "risky behaviour" (needle sharing, condom use, withdrawal during, or abstinence from, anal sex...) is extremely difficult to measure in the prison context, but would be attempted in this study.

With intensive pilot work to design some measure of risky behaviour, the data from this study could be used to analyse the relationship between knowledge, attitudes and behaviour, and test the underlying assumption of the Education Programme. That is: that educating prisoners
about AIDS will help to change their behaviour, and therefore reduce the spread of the virus.

Progress: Another cross-sectional sample of prisoners (similar to that of Study 1), were interviewed over December, 1988 to March, 1989. Data is currently being analysed and a report on the drug use and sexual behaviour of prisoners is being written (Report No. 11). Analyses of the relationship between knowledge, attitudes and behaviour will only be conducted if the behaviour data proves to be suitable for statistical analyses.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title of Report</th>
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<tr>
<td>August, 1987</td>
<td>Conolly, L</td>
<td>Evaluation of the AIDS Education Programme: Progress Report 1, Results of Questionnaire 1. Prison Officers' Knowledge and Attitudes about AIDS prior to Education.</td>
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<td>May, 1988</td>
<td>Lum, G and Conolly, L</td>
<td>Evaluation of the AIDS Education Programme: Comments on recent interviews with Bathurst Officers.</td>
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<td>July, 1988</td>
<td>Lum, G</td>
<td>An Evaluation of the AIDS Session held on 8th of March 1988 as part of the Mod 3 Course.</td>
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<td>10. In progress</td>
<td>Conolly, L</td>
<td>An evaluation of the AIDS Education Programme for new receptions to the Metropolitan Remand Centre.</td>
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<td>11. In progress</td>
<td>Potter, F</td>
<td>AIDS and the drug use and sexual behaviour of prisoners: Are they at risk?</td>
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* These last two reports are also available, although not part of the research programme.