

NSW

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(266)

JOHN DOYLE:PLB

289 2804

UNION PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS INFORMATION FOR  
N.S.W. PRISON STAFF.

INTRODUCTION:

On the 17 April, 1990 I commenced a three months secondment to the Prison AIDS Project. My brief from the P.O.V.B. State Executive, with the onset of integration of HIV/AIDS inmates into the mainstream prison population, was to put together and implement a safety and education package for N.S.W. prison staff.

17 April - 16 July 1990

OBJECTIVES:

- (1) to provide officers with accurate and up to date information on HIV/AIDS;
- (2) to increase officers awareness of HIV/AIDS to a level where myths, prejudices and unnecessary fears are reduced;
- (3) To familiarise officers with infection control guidelines;
- (4) to instill in officers the need for safer work practices.

STRATEGIES:

- (1) safety package researched, costed, submitted for approval and purchased, (funded by AIDS Project);
- (2) HIV/AIDS Information Seminars organised and held at all institutions;
- (3) staff concerns addressed by one of the consultant doctors and myself;
- (4) the safety package introduced and explained to staff;
- (5) follow-up informal visits to the institutions were undertaken so that more staff could be seen and evaluations made.

OUTLINE OF SAFETY PACKAGE:

- (1) Small hand held mirrors would assist officers to carry out cell searches with safety and help to prevent the danger of needle stick injuries;
- (2) Sharps Containers may be carried by officers on cell searches for the safe removal of any discovered syringes or tattooing equipment;

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- (3) Powdered Bleach for use in a bloodspill situation, will kill the HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis virus. Bleach used in powdered form will contain the bloodspill, making it easier to clean up than if a diluted bleach were used.

I have stressed at all seminars that all officers should not disturb a crime scene and that bleach should not be used at a crime scene until all investigations have been completed.

- (4) Hibicol Antiseptic Handwash. This very effective means of infection control is in use in the hospitals, especially the Newcastle AIDS Ward, where it was demonstrated and recommended to me by Doctor David Sutherland. The alcohol in this substance will sting any cuts on the hands that officers might not be aware of and these cuts can then be covered with Occlusive (waterproof) Dressings thus setting up a barrier to infection. *\* Not funded yet. Approved. Dept. will fund.*

- (5) Airstrip Occlusive Dressings are impermeable to all body fluids and will keep infections out of cuts and abrasions.

- (6) Contaminated Waste Bags for the safe removal and disposal of contaminated waste, reducing the infection risks for both the prison community and the community at large.

- (7) Disposable Protection Kits to safeguard officers in an inmate self-mutilation situation where there is the potential for bloodsplashes to the eyes or mouth. These kits contain gloves, gowns, face masks etc.

SECURITY IMPLICATIONS:

Hibicol to be located at main gates only, and that the bleach be locked securely in workplace cabinets.

STAFF CONCERNS:

- (1) needle stick injuries;
- (2) assault with infected syringe or hostage situation;
- (3) not being made aware of identity of infected inmates;
- (4) assault by an infected inmate;
- (5) assault on infected inmate by other inmates.

STATISTICS:

All institutions visited,

Exception: Oberon, snowbound  
Parklea - difficulties with doctors  
Schedule (will visit in near future)

Number of custodial staff approximately 2,092.

Total number of staff addressed 825.

DIFFICULTIES:

Actual number of staff on duty out of total strength.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

I got an excellent response from the institutions. I base this judgement on,

- (1) the range of questions asked at the seminars;
- (2) the informal talks I later had with officers of all ranks;
- (3) the co-operation shown to me by the Superintendents;
- (4) the willingness of the Superintendents to implement the safety package in the institutions.

CONCLUSION:

Employers, Unions and employees have a responsibility to have adequate infection control guidelines and accident prevention procedures. Education Programmes for officers regarding infection control must be an integral component of the implementation of these guidelines.

It is in the Department's interest to minimise industrial disruption in the gaols, to ensure that staff do not get infected and that adequate training and education about HIV/AIDS is provided to all staff.

Ongoing education and re-iteration in the use of universal precautions, safer work practices and infection control procedures is the best means of alleviating officer's fears and anxieties about their risk of occupational exposure to infectious diseases.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In order to assist both the Department and the P.O.V.B., and to keep myself up to date on HIV/AIDS related issues I propose:

- (1) that once a month I attend the Prisons AIDS Project staff meetings;

(2) that I be seconded to the AIDS Project for one week every three months, to visit institutions to maintain contact with O.H. & S. Committees and to keep officers informed, especially in light of proposed integration of HIV/AIDS infected inmates and blood testing.



John Doyle,  
P.O.V.B. Representative  
Prisons AIDS Project.

16 July, 1990.

(3) Training

cc. Mr. Angus Graham,  
Director General.

Ms. Louisa Scagliotti,  
Manager,  
Prisons AIDS Project.

Mr. Dick Palmer,  
Chairman,  
P.O.V.B.

Segregation Policy : 1985, 1986, 1987

Integration: Minister : <sup>Mid</sup> 1988 after Yabsley  
came in

: Department : 1988

: ~~U~~ Unori : 1989 February

FOR THE ATTENTION OF O.H. & S. COMMITTEES.

List of supplies on issue for the safer management of HIV+ inmates:

Mirrors for searching (approx. 4 per Wing)  
Powered Bleach Sachets (1 per Officer, sprinkle dry onto  
blood spills)  
Sharps Containers (approx 6 per Wing)  
Hibicol Antiseptic Handwash  
Airstrip Occlusive Dressings (waterproof)  
Contaminated Waste Bags  
Disposable Protection Kits

Where to obtain these items:

Mirrors, Bleach and Sharps Containers available through  
John Doyle P.O.V.B. Representative AIDS Project. Phone  
(02)289.1452/1468/1463.

Hibicol, Occlusive Dressings, Contaminated Waste Bags and  
Disposable Protection Kits, available through Central  
Stores, Long Bay,  
Phone (02) 289.2430. *GEORGE STOUT.*  
*2085*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That a cabinet for infection control equipment be provided in Wings and work locations;
2. That this cabinet be secured with a Jackson lock so that all staff have access to it;
3. That this cabinet contain the following:
  - (a) A mop and bucket;
  - (b) Milton Tablets or household bleach;
  - (c) Mirrors;
  - (d) Sharps Containers;
  - (e) Contaminated Waste Bags;
  - (f) Disposable Protection Kits.
4. That this cabinet be clearly marked so that staff are aware of its contents;
5. That officers be made aware that they should NOT use this bleach for blood spills at a crime scene until all investigations have been completed;
7. That Hibicol Antiseptic Handwash and Airstrip Occlusive Dressings be made available at the main gate to the institution so that prior to commencing duty officers could use the dispenser and cover any cuts with Occlusive Dressings thereby reducing the risk of infection;

8. That due to the alcohol content in Hibicol, it NOT be located within the institution;
9. Ensure that all officers have had their Hep B shots and that they are aware of how to obtain these (through Superintendents).

If you have any difficulty obtaining the initial issue, please contact me.

Although my secondment to the AIDS Project ends in July, I will be available after this date as a P.O.V.B. consultant to the AIDS Project should you or any staff member need any advice, don't hesitate to contact me.

John Doyle,  
P.O.V.B. Representative,  
Prison AIDS Project.

23 May, 1990.

(Ph: (02)289.1454/1463/1468  
(Until 17 July, 1990)

After July at the S.P.P.  
289.2894/2802

1. Peter Turton,  
A/Director,  
Prison Operations.
2. Peter Byrnes,  
Manager,  
O.H. & S. Unit.

VISITED	ADDRESSED	AT INSTITUTION	ADDRESSED	31 <sup>ST</sup> SEEN	DOCTOR.
BE. RIMA	10	27	22		P. BRUCE
MULLAWA/DAWN PL.	40	159	72		P. BRUCE
MEU.	10				P. BRUCE
RECEPTION PR.	40	158	75		NIL
GLEN INNES	12	20	20		P. BRUCE
BROKEN HILL	7	7	7		D. SUTHERLAND
CESSNOCK	40	144	64		D. SUTHERLAND
MAITLAND	40	98	60		
MULLAWA	12	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
GOULBURN	70	180	90		P. BRUCE
BERRIMA	6	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT		
REMAND CTR.	40	144	58		P. BRUCE
RECPT. PR.	15	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
RECPT. PR.	20	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
M.T.C.	20	91	30		P. BRUCE
S/WATER P.D.C.	3	3	3		NIL.
COOMA	18	36	18		P. BRUCE
MANUS	18	24	18		NIL
GOULBURN	20	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
BERRIMA	6	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT		
ST. HELLERS	10	24	10		NIL
L.B.P.H.	35	111			P. BRUCE
GRAFTON	24	68			NIL.
GLEN INNES	8	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
MAITLAND	20	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT		
CESSNOCK	24	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT		
ASSESSMENT PR.	40	134	52		P. BRUCE
REMAND CTR.	18	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT		
S.P.P.	12	72	23		NIL
BATHURST	22	136	BATHURST SNOW BOUND ON THIS DATE. A LOT OF STAFF UNABLE TO ATTEND		NIL
KIRKCONNEL	10	16	10		NIL
MULLAWA	10	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
SILVERWATER	50	73	35		NIL
EMU PLAINS	12	36	12		NIL
S.P.P.	11	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
M.T.C.	10	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT.		
ASSESSMENT	12	INFORMAL	FOLLOW UP VISIT		
PARRAMATTA.	50	163	50		NIL
DARKLEA		171			