Offender Health Services

Improvement | Transparency | Patient Safety | Clinician Leadership | Innovation

Across eight Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Health provides offender health services (including oral and specialist mental health services) to nine publicly operated high security correctional centres and six low security correctional centres. It also provides specialist mental health and oral health services in two privately operated high security correctional centres.

A 40 per cent increase in prisoner numbers (6,074 to 8,504) and a 32 per cent increase in Queensland's imprisonment rate between June 2013 and 2017 has placed these services under significant pressure.

Devolution of offender health service delivery in 2012 without any retained system-level governance has resulted in limited system-level strategic response to these challenges. In light of this, the Queensland Health Director-General has initiated a project to review Offender Health Services across the state. The project will be in two phases.

Phase 1 – Establish a Steering Committee of key stakeholders to oversee an independent review of Offender Health Services and to guide the development of a proposed Action Plan.

Phase 2 – Implementation of an agreed Action Plan for future service sustainability, quality and system governance.

An Offender Health Services Steering Committee Alliance ((OHSSCA) pronounced Oscar) will be established and chaired by Dr John Wakefield. OHSSCA will include a range of key stakeholders representing Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Corrective Services, unions, consumer organisations and oversight bodies such as the Office of the Health Ombudsman.

Queensland prisoner numbers increased 40%* between **June 2013 and 2017** *(6,074 to 8,504)

The volume of **FTE HHS clinical staff** dedicated to **offender health services** increased **32.9%*** between **2013-14 and 2016-17** *(130.2 to 173 FTE)

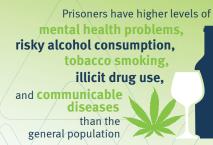Queensland Health expenditure on **offender health services** increased **58%*** between **2013-14 and 2016-17** *($27 m to $42.7 m)

The typical **Queensland prisoner is primarily male (92%)** with a **median age of 33.2** years

People from an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait island background** comprise approximately **1/3** of the **prisoner population** in **Queensland**

Prisoners have higher levels of **mental health problems, risky alcohol consumption, tobacco smoking, illicit drug use,** and **communicable diseases** than the general population

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