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# Improving health outcomes for Queensland prisoners

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Service Improvement

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Deliver

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## Summary

Health Consumers Queensland, (HCQ) were engaged by Queensland Health (QH) to provide a consumer perspective on the provision of health services in Queensland correctional centres. In 2018, HCQ conducted consultation with prisoners in seven correctional centres to inform the Offender Health Services Review Report in October 2018. In 2021, the Office for Prisoner Health and

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Wellbeing (OPHW) engaged Health Consumers Queensland to revisit the same seven correctional centres to learn from prisoners what has changed and what needs to be improved.

A total of 112 prisoners were consulted in 19 group sessions during March to May 2021. Each consultation was for up to an hour, during which Prisoner Advisory Committee (PAC) members were given an opportunity to express their views about their experiences with prisoner health services, with a focus on access and delivery, and to provide suggestions about what could be done to improve services. The consultations were conducted face-to-face. Only a notepad and biro were allowed to record the prisoner's feedback.

## Key dates

Jan 2021

## Implementation sites

Brisbane Women's, Wolston, Brisbane, Woodford, Numinbah, Maryborough and Townsville Men's and Women's Correctional Centres

## Partnerships

Health Consumers Queensland. Queensland Health, Queensland Correctional Services

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## **Aim**

HCQ conducted consultation with prisoners in seven correctional centres to inform the Offender Health Services Review Report in October 2018. In 2021, the Office for Prisoner Health and Wellbeing engaged Health Consumers Queensland to revisit the same seven correctional centres to learn from prisoners what has changed and what needs to be improved in regard to health services provided by Queensland Health.

## **Benefits**

- prisoners feel heard, have opportunity to Give Feedback (Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights).
- provides OPHW and Queensland Corrective Services key issues of concern for prisoners
- training supports both health staff and QCS staff understanding of prisoner concerns and rights to healthcare from an international, national and state perspective

## **Background**

Prisoners are the end users of health services provided to meet their health needs. They are patients and consumers and they have the same rights to healthcare services as those patients in the community.

## **Solutions Implemented**

- A Consultation Summary Report was presented to the Queensland Prisoner Health and Wellbeing Leadership Group in May 2021.
- Raw data reports were prepared and delivered to the OPHW for dissemination to the HHS CEO's, Forensic Mental Health and Office of the Chief Dentist for action.
- An infographic of the key themes and actions to be undertaken through the OPHW has been

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produced and is to be distributed to the PACs to close the feedback loop and know they have been heard.

- Prisoner Healthcare Rights and consumer engagement training being provided to both Prison Health staff and Queensland Corrective Services staff.

## **Evaluation and Results**

112 prisoner patients consulted face-to-face Prisoners understood the constrained environment in which health staff are working, and the impact COVID-19 restrictions have had on service delivery in correctional centres. They identified an on-going need for continuous service improvements and requested an increased focus on preventative healthcare services. Six key themes emerged, and a number of suggestions were made under each theme.

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