

First issue of APRJ

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners of Country

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin nation on whose unceded lands we write these articles and we acknowledge Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Ancestors and Elders past, present and emerging.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are respectfully advised that these articles may, and this Website does, contain images and names of people who have passed away.

For those accessing and using these articles, the contents are of a highly sensitive nature and we ask you to be respectful of the cultural sensitivities of the living relatives and friends of those whose deaths are discussed.

If this article raises any concerns for you or someone you know, please contact your local doctors' health service; Lifeline on 13 11 14; or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 (in Australia).

If you are outside Australia, you may obtain help in your country by visiting Befrienders Worldwide at www.befrienders.org

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the Australian Prison Reform Journal (APRJ), a quarterly publication that shall examine all issues related to the reform of Australian Prisons and how people are treated after exiting from prison.

When we look at prisons around the world, Australian prisons are among the better ones, but there are numerous things that could be done better and at no greater cost overall (and often with considerable savings). For example, the incarceration rate in Australia could be lower; the death rates in custody could be lower; the recidivism rate could be dramatically decreased; people exiting prison could be reintegrated in society much more comprehensively; and the healthcare provided to prisoners could be improved, especially for prisoners with mental health issues.

It is appropriate that the first issue of APRJ falls on the 15th of April 2021, exactly 30 years since the landmark Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody delivered its findings. Our first issue is devoted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody (at least 475 deaths in those 30 years). There is also a short commentary on the extremely high rate of Indigenous incarceration. The articles in this issue shall be followed up in October by a statistical analysis of Indigenous prisoners.

Next quarterly issue, we will examine prisoner health and how improvements in health could lead to a reduction in the deaths in custody. We thank you for reading Australian Prison Reform Journal and would welcome your feedback or contributions at any time via our [Contact](#) page.