



Justice Action Report

The team at Justice Action will now send out a fortnightly report to ensure that all of our supporters are kept up to date with our latest news and projects. Please let us know if you can provide any assistance or advice, as it would be greatly appreciated.

Here's what we have been working on from **Monday 03/10/11 – Friday 14/10/11**

'COMPUTERS IN CELLS' PROPOSAL

- Justine, Will and Rosie worked on creating a lobbying document to allow NSW women prisoners access to computers in their cells.
- A research plan was created and research was gathered surrounding issues relating specifically to women and their need for computers in cells.

MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER LETTER

- Geoff prepared a final draft of an email to be sent to Non-Government Organisations concerning the distribution of the Mental Health Consumer letter.
- Non-Government Organisations were emailed and phoned regarding the distribution of the Mental Health Consumer letter.
- Approval granted for the Mental Health Consumer letter to be distributed within the Hunter New England Local Health District of NSW.
- Nicole worked on putting together a federal contact list for key mental health contacts.
- Michelle, a mental health consumer, visited Justice Action and shared her thoughts and experiences.

'NEEDLES AND SYRINGES' PROPOSAL

- Dani developed a section of the Justice Action website dedicated to the 'Needles and Syringes' project that she has been focusing on. <http://justiceaction.org.au/cms/prisons/health/needle-and-syringe-program>
- Adriana has conducted continued research on the project and Dani has looked into key reports surrounding the 'Needles and Syringes' debate.
- The development of a proposal for 'Needles and Syringes' in to ACT prison working directly with prisoners as a community.
- Geoff and Andrea drafted and sent out a media release concerning prisoner's voices on needle exchange.
- Contact made with 'Canberra Times' regarding their media release about needles and syringe programs within prisons.

SAEED DEZFOULI

- Rosie continued working on and completed the time-line of Justice Action's involvement with Saeed Dezfouli.
- Reports of the visit to Saeed at the forensic hospital have been uploaded to the Justice Action website. <http://justiceaction.org.au/cms/mental-health/campaigns/saeed-dezfouli/item/431-reports-first-visit-to-saeed/mhrt-hearing>

- Donna worked on Saeed's case of his education complaint to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and his upcoming Mental Health Review Tribunal hearing regarding his fitness to plead.
- Brett, Dani and Rosie went to the Forensic Hospital as they were invited by Justice Health and Saeed to attend the 'Justice Health Forensic Hospital Celebration Day' as part of mental health month, however were refused entry (along with other visitors) on unsatisfactory grounds.

PRISONER HISTORY PROJECT

- Dave continued working on the Australian prisoner history project and gathered additional sources for future research.
- Maria transported the draft project on to 'Wiki'.
- Edwin, Lizzie and Ian located and downloaded images and videos to add to the prisoner history project.
- Rosie collated the history of Justice Action to add to the project.
- Adriana inserted the images and videos, as well as the Justice Action history into the report.

DEATHS AFTER CUSTODY

- Ken prepared a draft email in response to ministerial explanation for their apparent inaction after the exposure of horrific statistics. Almost one quarter of ex-prisoners die within a year of release.

PAROLE

- Ken, Emma and Geoff have been negotiating with the parole board and SORC regarding requirements of course completion before considered for release with a subject case.

GREENS MEETING

- Rosie followed up on the meeting between the Justice Action team and NSW Greens MP John Kaye at Parliament House on Macquarie Street. Issues such as the distribution of the 'JUST US' newspaper and the Mental Health Consumer letter, the Callan Park social enterprises conference and the lack of visitation and community access for mental health consumers have been addressed.