



# THE Bulletin

676: November - December 2014



# HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Justice  
Corrective Services



# NEWS ROUNDUP

## SWEAT AND TEARS

IT was all sweat and tears for South Coast Correctional Centre staff who fought hard to secure third place in this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run Plane Pull at the Richmond RAAF Base. Led by Terry Oakes from the Immediate Action Team, they competed against emergency services and Defence Force personnel. The team pulled a 50 tonne RAAF Hercules aeroplane across 10 metres in 15.62 seconds. The Public Order and Riot Squad were 1.22 seconds faster and won. The annual charity event raises money for Special Olympics Australia which assists intellectually disabled people through sport. CSNSW staff Patrick Aboud, Angela Hein and Liz Dillon helped run the event.



## MARCHING STRONG

ASSISTANT Commissioner Kevin Corcoran (pictured) joined the NSW Governor and senior officers from NSW Police, NSW Ambulance, SES and the Australian Army on the White Ribbon walk from Randwick to Coogee in November. He walked alongside CSNSW officers Mick Frawley and Mark Ferguson from Long Bay, which produced t-shirts to raise money for the campaign to help stop violence against women.



## FOOTY FEVER

IT was a real team effort on Dubbo's Apex Oval when officers and overseers from Wellington Correctional Centre, and the Dubbo Court Escort and Security Unit teamed up to compete in the 2014 Police Rugby

Games. The CSNSW side toppled many country clubs including Tamworth's Oxley Cods, Goulburn's Bottle Cats and Central Hunter Hogs. But it was no match for the Ku-ring-gai Cows or the Western Warriors. The CSNSW team secured one of three gongs after playing seven intense games.




# S | T | O | P | C

## trial to help eliminate hep C

CSNSW has the opportunity to be a key player in a move to eliminate hepatitis C (hep C) from prisons. Researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) have started recruiting inmates at Lithgow and Goulburn Correctional Centres to participate in a trial of a new anti-viral treatment. It helps cure hep C in close to 100 per cent of cases.

The oral therapy is taken once daily for 12 weeks and has very few, if any, side effects. "It's an incredible improvement on current treatments."

The Surveillance and Treatment of Prisoners with Hepatitis C (SToP-C) project is a collaboration between UNSW, CSNSW, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, community organisations representing people with hep C, and the pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences.

Professor Dore and project coordinator Marianne Byrne offered CSNSW staff information sessions about the new hep C treatment to be used in the SToP-C project. Staff were advised about the significant benefits over current interferon-based therapy.

Principal Investigator Professor Greg Dore from UNSW's Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program said around 230,000 Australians are living with hep C. "The virus is spread via blood-to-blood contact commonly by injecting drugs or using unsterile tattoo equipment. There is no preventative vaccine," Prof Dore said.

"We'll start screening inmates at the two centres every six months. In late 2015, those with hep C will be offered the new treatment. They'll be closely monitored with regular health checks and blood tests," Professor Dore said.

"Hep C infection is very common among prisoners and unfortunately there is a lack of effective strategies to prevent its transmission. This new anti-viral therapy offers a real opportunity to stop the spread of hepatitis C in prisons."

"SToP-C is a way of treating and breaking the hep C cycle in jails. A reduction in hep C infections in prisons will also reduce the risk of staff being exposed to it. Harm minimisation is still required to prevent infection from other blood borne viruses such as hep B and HIV."

Following the initial phase, the study will be expanded to other centres. For further information please contact Marianne Byrne - tel 02 9385 9984 or by email at mbyrne@kirby.unsw.edu.au. CSNSW staff can also encourage inmates to speak with the SToP-C Study Nurse or the Nursing Unit Manager.

## GREAT EFFORT

CSNSW has been officially recognised for providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Staff from the Serious Offenders Review Council (SORC) Secretariat received two accolades at the Jobsupport Awards in Sydney. Michael Peken, who has maintained steady employment for the past 20 years including the last decade with CSNSW, picked up a gong. Michael works as an Administration Assistant with the SORC Secretariat. John Hobbs from the Secretariat collected a 10 year award on behalf of CSNSW. Jobsupport is Australia's largest disability employment service for people with moderate intellectual disabilities.



LEFT: Michael Peken with his colleagues