

## **DRUG USE AND OFFENDING PROFILES OF MALES AND FEMALES IN PRISON-BASED AOD PROGRAMS**

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**Introduction and Aims:** Caraniche is a specialist consulting firm that delivers a range of psychological services to the government, private and not-for-profit organisations. As part of their service, Caraniche provides evidence-based alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment to over 6000 prisoners each year across the Victorian public prison system. This presentation will provide an overview of the emerging drug use and offending trends amongst male and female prisoners undertaking Caraniche AOD programs over the past five years.

**Design and Methods:** The data reported in this presentation was collected through a standard clinical interview that all prisoners complete before entering AOD treatment programs.

**Results:** Between 2009 and 2014 there was a considerable increase in prisoners reporting methamphetamine use (approximately 30% increase for males and 25% increase for females), and a decrease in those reporting opiate use. Further, there was a decline in the proportion of prisoners reporting acquisitive offences, and an increase in those reporting violent offences (approximately 10% increase for both males and females).

**Discussion and Conclusions:** In previous years, the drug use and offence profile for male and female prisoners was distinct. However this difference is no longer so apparent. Both male and female prisoners now report methamphetamine to be their most significant drug of use, more so than any other drug, and violent offences are becoming more common. The implications and subsequent treatment considerations of this shift in drug use and offence type will be discussed.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** Caraniche prison-based drug and alcohol treatment services are funded by Justice Health.