Project Title: Addressing criminal offending: What factors influence different people’s participation in and completion of prison behaviour change programs?

Code: SMS1

Host School / Institute: Sydney Medical School
Address: The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance use, Level 6, Jane Foss Russell building (G02), Camerdown Campus

Certificates & Clearances required: Yes *Working with children clearance

Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.

Primary Supervisor: Dr Emma Barrett
Phone: 02 8627 9001 Email: emma.barrett@sydney.edu.au

Co-Supervisor/team: Dr Marlee Bower, Postdoctorate Research Fellow, The Matilda Centre, Dr Nicola Newton, Assoc. Professor, The Matilda Centre (co-investigator)

Project Type: Data Analysis; Literature Review; Writing a peer-reviewed journal article

Project Category: Rehabilitation; Psychological programs

Skills / Attributes of a successful student:
The successful student will:
- Have a keen interest in psychological supports and services for vulnerable populations.
- Be an enthusiastic and diligent person with an attention to detail.
- have some practical experience with data, preferably using SPSS.
- have a willingness to explore new ideas and ask questions.
- A commitment to confidentiality around the project and data.

Project Keywords: Forensic; Mental Health; Offender Treatment

Project Description: The successful student will be working on an exciting new collaborative project between Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) and the Matilda Centre. As part of their strategy for reducing re-offending, CSNSW delivers the EQUIPS suite of programs to people in prison and in the community. This suite includes four distinct programs; EQUIPS Foundation, EQUIPS Aggression, EQUIPS Addiction and EQUIPS Domestic Abuse.

These programs provide targeted support for people to address behaviours that led them to offend in the first place. However, the success of these programs in reducing reoffending is dependent on a) all people who need the programs being successfully referred to them and b) that those who are referred to these programs actually complete them. There is also a question of how to best refer inmate populations who are particularly vulnerable to the issues targeted by these programs, including those who are Aboriginal.

The student will be working on a project investigating these questions:

Project aims: Project aims include managing and analysing quantitative data and using the results to contribute to a peer-review journal publication on findings.

Project outcomes: The successful student will learn and refine new research skills and experience what it’s like to conduct high-quality health research amongst a world-class research institute.