

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service invites you to webinar three of

UNLOCKING VICTORIAN JUSTICE

The Harms of Solitary Confinement

Wednesday 11 August 2021, 5pm - 6pm

Registration Link: tinyurl.com/UVJHoSC

What is solitary confinement, and how, when and why is it usually used?

Is there a right to healthcare in prisons, and what sort of care is provided in practice? What do we know about the mental health of people in custody, mental health services in custody, and mental health outcomes after release from custody?

What did the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody say about solitary confinement, and what have been the recent experiences of individuals and families? What are the impacts of systemic racism?

These are all important questions, and **VALS invites you to join our panel for this critical discussion.** A webinar not to be missed, our panellists will discuss how this harmful practice is deployed in different contexts, including in New Zealand and in Western Australian prisons, particularly in relation to people with disabilities.



Professor Stuart Kinner

Group Leader,
Justice Health,
Centre for
Adolescent Health,
MCRI
Panellist



Dr Sharon Shalev

Research
Associate, Centre
for Criminology,
University of
Oxford
Panellist



Megan Williams

Research Lead
and Assistant
Director, National
Centre for Cultural
Competence
Panellist



Kriti Sharma

Lead
#BreakTheChains
Campaigner,
Human Rights
Watch
Panellist



Andreea Lachs

Head of Policy,
Communications
and Strategy
Panel Moderator



**Victorian Aboriginal
Legal Service**

You can find out more about the work of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service here vals.org.au, and support our work here vals.org.au/donate.

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land that our office is located on.

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Professor Stuart Kinner

Group Leader, Justice Health, Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Panellist

Professor Stuart Kinner is Head of the Justice Health Unit at The University of Melbourne, and Head of the Justice Health Group at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. He holds Honorary appointments at Monash University, The University of Queensland, and Griffith University, and in 2019 was a Visiting Professor at The University of British Columbia in Canada. He is experienced in longitudinal studies, multi-sectoral data linkage, randomised controlled trials, program evaluation, policy analysis, systematic review, and meta-analysis. He has produced >250 publications (including 176 peer-reviewed papers) and attracted >\$26 million in research and consulting funds, mostly from nationally competitive schemes. His work has influenced policy reform in the youth justice, corrections, mental health, alcohol and other drug, and disability sectors. Stuart chairs Australia's National Youth Justice Health Advisory Group, and the WHO Health in Prisons Programme Technical Expert Group. He serves on a number of state, national, and international committees including the WHO Steering Group on Prisons Health, the Worldwide Prison Health Research & Engagement Network (WEPHREN) Steering Committee, the Australian Child Rights Taskforce, and the Victorian Department of Justice Human Research Ethics Committee.



Dr Sharon Shalev

Research Associate Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford & Director @SolitaryConfinement.org, Panellist

Dr Sharon Shalev is an international expert on the uses and consequences of solitary confinement and other restrictive practices. Her work has influenced the development of international standards in this field. She has advised governmental, NGO and professional bodies including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organisation, as well as NPMs, on solitary confinement practices. Sharon is Research Associate at the Centre for Criminology at Oxford University and at the Mannheim Centre for Criminology at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She manages the informational website www.solitaryconfinement.org and has published widely on the subject, including the influential Sourcebook on Solitary Confinement - a guide for practitioners on the health effects of solitary confinement and the legal framework and international human rights standards regulating its use; a prize-winning book on the US 'Supermax' prisons; and independent expert reports on solitary confinement practices in England and Wales and in New Zealand. She regularly visits prisons and other places of detention.

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Megan Williams

Research Lead and Assistant Director, National Centre for Cultural Competence, Panellist

Megan Williams is Wiradjuri and has worked for two decades advocating for the use of Aboriginal people's knowledges in program design and evaluation, research, ethics and university curriculum, especially to improve health services for people in prison and post-release. She is the Research Lead at the University of Sydney's National Centre for Cultural Competence, a long term collaborator of Mibbinbah health promotion organisation, and board member of Deadly Connections. For program evaluation Megan uses her Ngaa-bi-nya (said naarbinya) Aboriginal framework and is active in research translation about justice health through health media organisation Croakey.org.



Kriti Sharma

Lead #BreakTheChains Campaigner, Panellist

Kriti Sharma leads the global #BreakTheChains campaign and investigates human rights violations against people with disabilities globally for Human Rights Watch. Her research and advocacy focuses on abuses against prisoners with disabilities in Australia, abuses against people with psychosocial disabilities in Indonesia and Kenya, the neglect of people with disabilities in the crisis in the Central African Republic, and institutionalization and violence against women and girls with disabilities. Kriti holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and a BA in International & Comparative Politics, History & Social Sciences with a minor in International Law from the American University of Paris.



Andreea Lachs

Head of Policy, Communications and Strategy at VALS, Panel Moderator

Andreea Lachs is the Head of Policy, Communications and Strategy at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service. She completed her Churchill Fellowship in 2019 on culturally appropriate OPGAT implementation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and has previously volunteered as a humanitarian observer with the Australian Red Cross, monitoring immigration detention facilities in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Nauru.