

BEHIND BARS: KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND MOBILIZATION IN TRICKY SETTINGS

**Presentation to
Canadian Knowledge Transfer and Exchange Community of Practice
Toronto Chapter**

22nd January 2015

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Behind Bars - contextual background

	Western Australia	Australia
Total Number of Prisoners in 2014	5,242	33,791
Number of Indigenous Prisoners	2,079 (39.7%)	9,264 (27.4%)
Number of Prisoners with Prior Incarceration	3,220 (61.4%)	19,780 (58.5%)

Rehabilitation programs in Australian prisons:

- Often based on programs developed or evaluated in USA, without evidence re how transferable these are to Australian context (Currie et al. 2012, Ogloff 2002)
- Often implemented without evaluating effectiveness
(eg the *WA Skills Training for Aggression Control* program offered to around 450 violent offenders/year for several years before any evaluation conducted, then continued despite 'cautious' results)

How did this research come about?

DRUMBEAT

(Discovering Relationships Using Music - Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes, and Thoughts)

- Evidence-based intervention developed by **Holyoake** (Drug and Alcohol not-for-profit agency)
- **program aim** is to improve mental, social and emotional wellbeing within high risk populations
- incorporates both **experiential and cognitive based therapies** addressing factors influencing **mental health**, including **emotional regulation, communication skills, self-esteem, resilience and social relationships**
- began as a youth and schools based intervention but has since been run in a variety of community settings and population groups around Australia.
- recently expanded to US, with a training course in Toronto in April!



How did this research come about?

- previously assisted Holyoake with evaluation of DRUMBEAT in schools
- **Closing the Gap** in Indigenous wellbeing in Australia a major priority – incarceration rates much higher
- Some indication to Holyoake that correctional services may consider offering the DRUMBEAT program if can show “evidence that it works”
- Close the Gap funds obtained by Holyoake to trial in prisons with focus on Aboriginal prisoners

Justice and closing the gap: the prison target Aboriginal Australia needs

FEB 13, 2014 12:50PM | [EMAIL](#) | [PRINT](#)

Over-representation of Indigenous Australians in prison a catastrophe, says Mick Gooda, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

By Jessica Kidd
Updated 5 Dec 2014, 3:34pm

What happens in a DRUMBEAT program?

- The program incorporates themes, discussion and drumming analogies to self expression, communication, emotions and feelings, self-worth problem solving, confidence and teamwork.
- The facilitator encourages participants to explore a range of issues through drawing analogies from what is happening in the drum circle.

The series of DRUMBEAT programs (n=22) were run in participating prisons as either as a ten week program (one session per week) or a five week program (two sessions per week).

Each DRUMBEAT program was facilitated by two trained Holyoake facilitators



Research and Evaluation Aims

- 1) To investigate the **effectiveness and impact** of the DRUMBEAT program in assisting **prisoners** to improve their mental wellbeing and resilience
- 2) To examine how well the specific research measures and methods worked in evaluating an **intervention in a prison setting**

Retrospective aim

To explore barriers and enablers to research and KM in correctional services sector!



The challenge we were set



7 different prisons with different staff & protocols

22 DRUMBEAT programs be delivered and evaluated

9 months

1 / 7 of 3 research staff

\$25 000

1 overly cautious Dept of Corrective Services



Research and Knowledge Mobilization in 'tricky settings'

1. challenges

2. enablers

3. applications

Along the research journey

Uptake of findings and
implications for
practice and policy

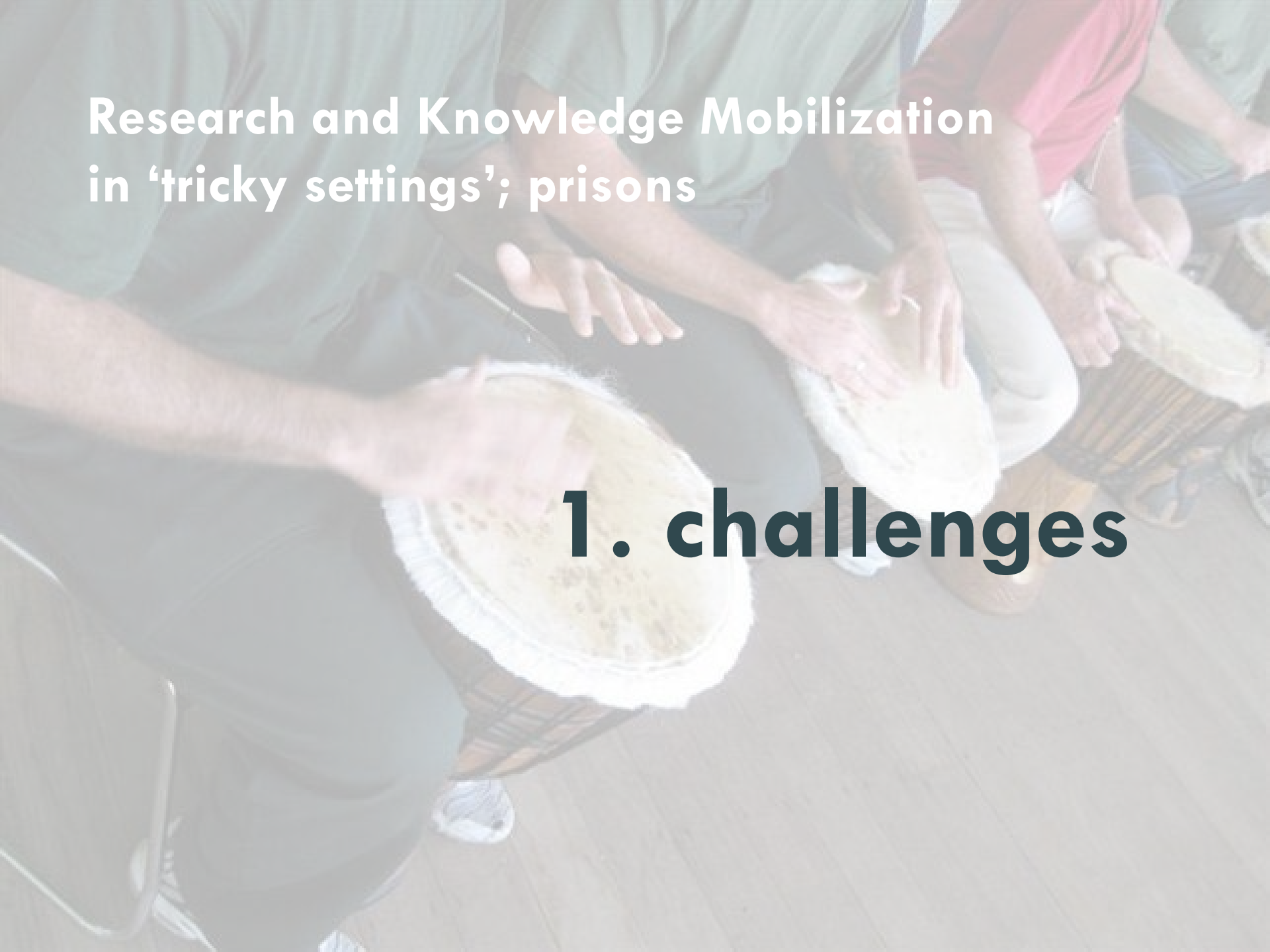
With grateful acknowledgement to:

my research colleagues - Dr Karen Martin, Jennifer Tasker, Catherine Coletsis.

the Holyoake DRUMBEAT team – Simon Faulkner, Geoff Parker, Vanessa Trengove, Brian Zoch

Holyoake and Healthway media consultant – Joanne Fowler

Prison staff who assisted in this project

A group of people are sitting on a light-colored wooden floor, playing djembe drums. They are wearing casual clothing, including t-shirts and shorts. The image is slightly faded, and the text is overlaid on top. The drums are made of wood with a light-colored head. The people are arranged in a line, and their hands are visible as they play the drums.

Research and Knowledge Mobilization in 'tricky settings'; prisons

1. challenges

Challenges.... Ideally would involve target group and prison staff from the very outset of research

And identify all relevant people to 'get on board'!

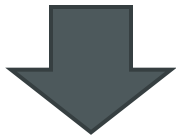
“prison staff input is desirable as operational staff have the most contact with offenders, the most day to day interaction, are privy to anecdotal and off the cuff remarks from offenders re what courses they find useful etc This is really the best way to get the information from those ‘on the ground’ and to design the program so that it is attractive to offenders.” staff, Prison X

“The difficulty for me was that when first contacted about this it appeared that we didn’t actually have correct approval and clearance filtered down to the prison for it to commence”.
staff, Prison X

But, we were brought in to help evaluate just as program about to commence... + lack of direction re who ‘the right people were’

Challenges.... Impediments to critical trust building and confidentiality with research participants

In addition to University ethics approval and associated study consent forms, had to comply with Dept Corrective Services requirements



Implications for

- Prison Counselling Services
- Participants
- Researcher rel'ship with participants
- Participation rates
- Workload!

Program Participant Consent Form

TO BE READ ALOUD

Research Title: DRUMBEAT Evaluation

	Yes ✓
I have read the information sheet. I have been able to ask questions about the project.	✓
I know that I do not have to talk to the research person and I that I can stop talking at any time	✓
I know this interview and questionnaire is for research only and will not make any difference to my release or any other part of my sentence.	✓
I know that what I say may be used as part of a report but that my name will not be in any report. My answers and anything I say will not have my name next to it.	✓
I give permission for the research team to be provided with details about my prison sentence including my charge, the number of times I have been in prison, the length or prison term and incidence reports.	✓
I know that if I say something about hurting myself or someone else the researcher will need to tell a staff member.	✓
I understand if I discuss crimes that I have committed, but have not been charged or convicted for, that the researcher will need to report this.	✓
I understand that if I talk about something that threatens the security or good order of the prison the researcher will need to report this	✓
I know that if I have any questions or worries about this research I can contact the designated contact person on the information sheet or using the ACCESS system.	✓

Challenges... Unintended consequences of research on program participation

In accordance with new DCS risk management protocols, researchers required to notify the prison of any concerns about the mental wellbeing of study participants

- participants are advised that *“If any of your answers indicate you are at risk of emotional distress, we must provide your name to support services in your prison”*.

- We had to assign ‘cut points’ on Kessler scale for referral



At one prison, this led to the referral of two prisoners to a psychiatrist - neither returned to future DRUMBEAT sessions

DRUMBEAT facilitators and staff at several prisons expressed concerned that the referral protocols may inadvertently affect prisoner wellbeing if –

- it results in discontinuing the program, or
- damages trust established between program facilitators and participants

Moreover, the DRUMBEAT program itself was regarded as a valuable form of mental health support, providing CBT in a culturally secure and safe group setting

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successfully lobby
textual case by

As a result we successfully lobbied for a more flexible contextual case by case assessment

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 damages trust established between program
 facilitators and participants

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Challenges... just because you have 'approval doesn't mean it will happen as planned!

Things we had approval to do that were thwarted in practice

- Comparison group and wait list control group
- Recordings of interviews for transcript generation
- Collection of behavioural incident data



Hence, need for pragmatism and being able to 'let go' of some research intentions – and dialogue with program and prison staff re how far to persist – and which battles to pick!

Challenges... Even good results may not carry favour with bureaucracy

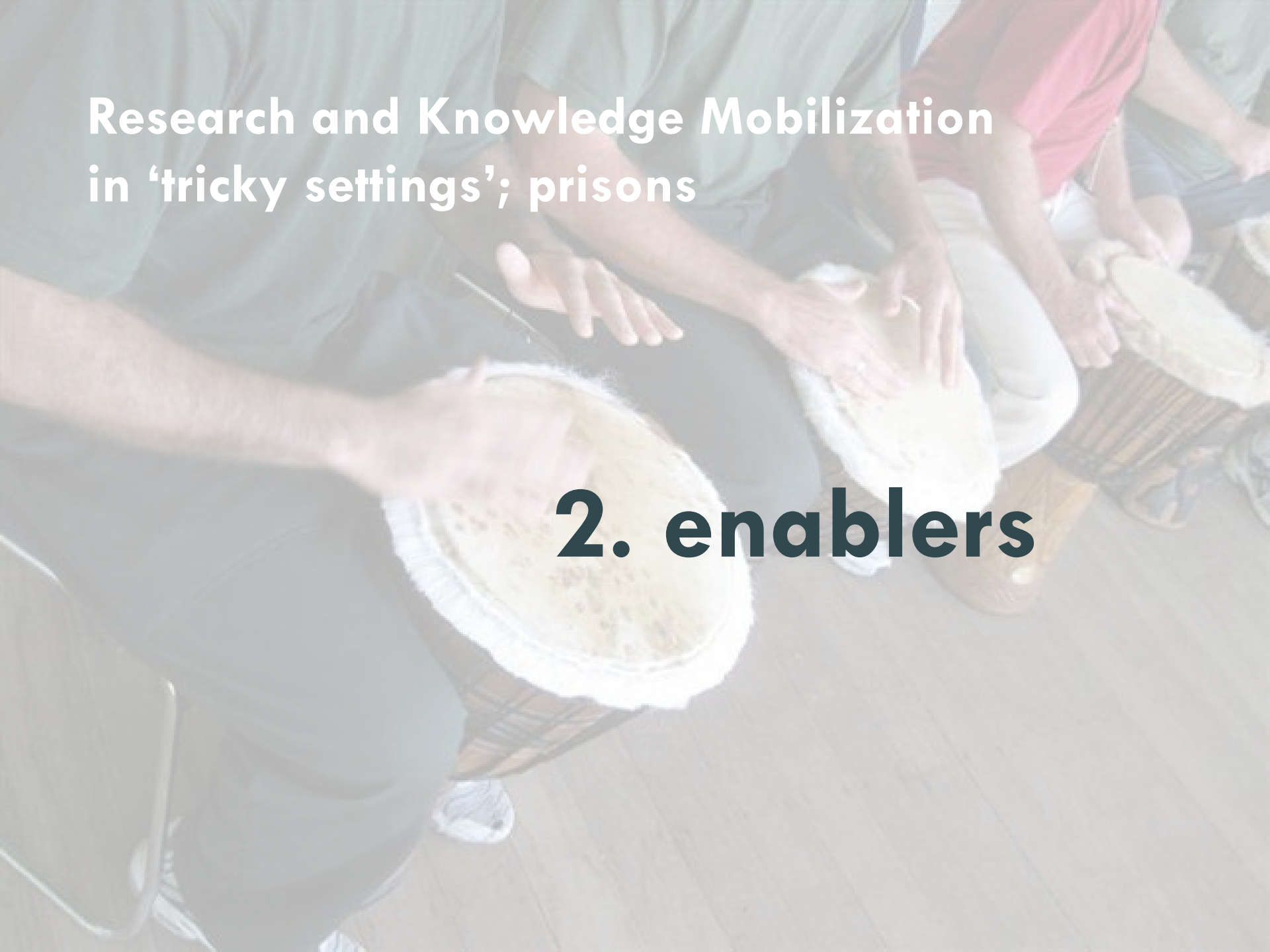
“The fact that the research achieved very positive results, led to a Catch 22/no-win situation when we tried to publicise it. If the research had shown the program was a failure, then getting permission from the Department to promote it in the news media might have been easier, but then would have been pointless of course.

But as the research showed the program was a success, they did not want it promoted in the media. We were told by Head of communications and adviser to the Minister that if people found out the program was such a success then would expect it to be run in all WA prisons and the Dept. didn't have the money for that.”

(Holyoake and Healthway media consultant)

**Research and Knowledge Mobilization
in 'tricky settings'; prisons**

2. enablers



Enablers... Investing time in relationship building

- One of the challenges in traditional research funding is that there is rarely a \$ allocation for the important stuff of relationship building
- Similarly for low budget commissioned research for not for profit organisations!
hence at least half our time ended up being pro-bono

“It is not enough to just say relationships are important; we must prove it by investing time in them.”

Rick Warren

‘time spent worthwhile’..... extra visits to prisons.... meeting participants prior to inviting to participate in interviews.... Attending their end of program performances when we could.... Getting onerous approvals to take our research assistants out to meet the program crew and some participants..... friendly email exchanges with prison staff whose support was critical.....

Enablers... involving the program facilitators in the research process

- Training and involving in the survey administration phase
- Teaching to compute baseline Kessler score to detect any participants considered at 'high risk'
- consulting re potential improvements to survey layout and wording
- seeking advice regarding issues that arose
- Input to draft report – did report make sense, how could it be made more useful for stakeholders?



One of the only faces I am allowed to show you!

And vice versa... **supporting program facilitators in their roles**

From helping to carry the drums... providing morning tea for 'survey break'... joining in with groups to help break the ice... attending final performances as audience and moral support....

It meant a lot to the guys that you came along to their performance
(DRUMBEAT facilitator)



Enablers... getting alongside and joining in

“We appreciated your commitment to experience the program yourselves, rather than remain at a distance.

Although many researchers would advocate that distance in obtaining an objective perspective – we believe it was a strength of the research analysis given the experiential nature of the intervention, and gave your assessment a deeper understanding from which to present findings.”

(DRUMBEAT Manager)



Enablers... Patience and persistence

“Research into alternative interventions face significant hurdles from DCS staff and regulation. The research projects I have been involved in have been beset by interference and power plays on behalf of DCS staff that have been greatly discouraging”

Excerpt from Holyoake submission to WA enquiry into prison effectiveness 2014

“I thought you both exercised endless patience which was the only professional approach to take if you wanted to conduct further work in this setting.”
(Holyoake and Healthway Media consultant)

“We appreciated the patience with which you dealt with the often harrowing logistical difficulties of a prison research project...”
(DRUMBEAT Manager)

Enablers Retaining a sense of humour

Drugs seem to get in, **but** when we tried to take in a plate of cut up fruit for prisoners, the DRUMBEAT facilitator was interrogated for attempting to bring in non-approved substance!



Police drug-test visitors to WA prison

AAP • DECEMBER 11, 2014 5:55PM

WA prisons awash with drugs; Corrective Service Minister Joe Francis feels 'vindicated'

By Graeme Powell

Updated 8 Apr 2014, 9:33am


WA prisoner allegedly tried to import three kilograms of drugs | photos

By Brendan Foster and Aleisha Orr Jan. 14, 2015, 3:29 p.m.

Jail drug dealers and rorts exposed

EXCLUSIVE Gary Adshead and Grant Taylor

April 8, 2014, 2:35 am

 Share


Enablers.... Responsive and sensitive to prison context and demands on staff



You were both accessible, quick to respond and mindful of the type of difficulties involved in programs for offenders. (transitional manager)

We learnt to work around:

- Staff and prisoner timetables
- Cancellations due to prison lock down
- Being rounded up for 'muster'
- Room relocations
- Participant unavailability due to solitary confinement
- +
- tried to ease burden of research on staff
- passed on positive feedback re staff

A group of people are sitting on a light-colored wooden floor, playing large, round, light-colored drums. The drums have a textured, possibly woven or beaded, surface. The people are wearing casual clothing, including t-shirts and shorts. The image is slightly faded, giving it a soft, artistic feel. The text is overlaid on the top left and bottom right of the image.

**Research and Knowledge Mobilization
in 'tricky settings'; prisons**

3. Applications

But first... was the program effective??

Evidence from the qualitative and quantitative research indicated that **DRUMBEAT** facilitated...

- Improvements in **mental wellbeing** (post and at follow up)
- Increased **resilience**
- **Decreased psychological distress**

DRUMBEAT was **considered worthwhile** for prisoners, not only for program participants but also through **flow on effects** to other prisoners, and benefits observed by prison staff



Program Impact and Feedback

- prisoners felt **valued**, listened to and **respected** in a non-judgmental, non-threatening way.
- strong feelings of trust, **connectedness and friendship** developed

The success of DRUMBEAT as prison X was the interaction of prisoners with each other and the facilitators. They felt secure in telling their stories to the group and sharing their opinions. As the majority were from remote areas they are normally really shy and quiet in a group setting. The fact that they felt comfortable in opening was a positive step for the prisoners in their rehabilitation (prison staff member)

Applications.... results dissemination



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA




Evaluation Report
January 2014

Karen Martin, Lisa Wood, Jenny Tasker and Catherine Coletsis

Those on the research team acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Western Australia and pay their respects to them, their culture and Elders past and present.

Sent with compelling*
personalised cover letter to:

- 
- Senior management and Ministers Office – Corrective Services
 - Superintendents of all prisons
 - Holyoake senior management and DRUMBEAT team

** “The Department of Corrective Services is to be commended for enabling the DRUMBEAT program to be trialled and evaluated in WA prisons...”*

Applications.... Clear language summary dissemination

The Impact of Holyoake's DRUMBEAT Program on Prisoner Wellbeing in Western Australian Prisons

Karen Martin, Lisa Wood, Jenny Tasker and Catherine Coletsis

BACKGROUND

DRUMBEAT (Discovering Relationships Using Music - Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes, and Thoughts) is an evidence-based intervention developed by **Holyoake Institute** which aims to improve mental, social and emotional wellbeing within high risk populations. The program incorporates both **experiential and cognitive based therapies** addressing factors influencing **mental health**, including **emotional regulation, communication skills, self-esteem, resilience and social relationships**. The DRUMBEAT program began as a youth and schools based intervention but has since been run in a variety of community settings and population groups around Australia.

As part of the "Closing the Gap" initiative, Holyoake received funding from The Mental Health Commission (WA) and The Federal Department of Health to deliver the DRUMBEAT program in WA prisons, with a particular focus on imprisoned Aboriginal people. Overall, prisoners have **complex health needs** and **poorer mental health** compared with the general Australian population. In particular, there is a **higher prevalence** of mental health problems amongst **imprisoned Aboriginal people**¹. For **Aboriginal people** "the process of incarceration may only **compound the experiences of trauma, grief and loss** that are associated with mental health problems"².

EVALUATION SCOPE

Researchers from the School of Population Health at The University of Western Australia were commissioned to independently evaluate the impact of the DRUMBEAT programs delivered within seven prisons during 2012-2013.

EVALUATION AIMS

- **Primary aim:** To investigate the effectiveness of the DRUMBEAT program in assisting prisoners to improve their mental wellbeing and resilience, as well as more broadly looking at the impact of the program on participants in relation to interpersonal relationships, self-esteem, and interpersonal skills.
- **Secondary aim:** To examine how well the combination of questionnaires and specific research measures worked in evaluating an **intervention in a prison setting**, and the appropriateness of these for **Aboriginal populations**.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE DRUMBEAT PROGRAM?

Building on the therapeutic value of music, the program incorporates themes, discussion and drumming analogies to self expression, communication, emotions and feelings, self-worth problem solving, confidence and teamwork. The facilitator encourages participants to explore a range of issues through drawing analogies from what is happening in the drum circle.

The series of DRUMBEAT programs were run in participating prisons as either as a ten week program (one session per week) or a five week program (two sessions per week). Each DRUMBEAT program was facilitated by two trained Holyoake DRUMBEAT facilitators. Each facilitator had prior training in mental health and drug and alcohol co-morbidities (co-existing medical conditions).



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Those on the research team acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Western Australia and pay their respects to them, their culture and Elders past and present.



Sent to:

- All prison staff who assisted with research project and/or were involved in recruiting prisoners to DRUMBEAT program
- Prison superintendents with cover letter
- Youth Justice Committee- members and Chair



Applications.... media dissemination*

- Media releases sent out by UWA and Holyoake
- 'exclusive interview' for targeted journal with ex-prisoner who participated
- Radio interviews

* Finally after months of approval hoops!

University News

DRUMBEAT improves mental health of WA prisoners

Inmates find different beat

After using drumming as therapy, prisoners report positive impacts on their behaviour and relationships

By Morris McEldowney

Engaging on a drum combined with emotional wellbeing lessons has been shown to significantly improve the mental health of WA prisoners, increasing pressure to roll out the Drumbeat program across the country.

DRUMBEAT, developed by Holyoake in 2000, has been trialled in seven local prisons and hopes have been raised following a positive nine-month independent University of WA evaluation that it can be used as a tool to tackle the rate of deaths in custody.

Reports have also been received from prison staff that it has had a "calming effect" on prisoners whose offences ranged from driving matters to murder.

Based on the therapeutic benefits of music and combining drumming with cognitive behaviour therapy, 21 DRUMBEAT courses were evaluated after being run in Acacia, Bandyup, Boronia, Bunderup, Casuarina, Karrakatta, Wooroloo, and the Federal Department of Health as part of the

"We know all these things we have done wrong, we don't have to be told. We need to know how to change these things. DRUMBEAT helps with that."

The DRUMBEAT sessions have been found to have a calming effect on participants.

Closing the Gap Initiative, with Aboriginal prisoners making up more than half of participants.

The UWA school of population health evaluation found after drumming for 10 weeks that prisoners had a significantly higher average mental wellbeing and this improvement was still evident for some three months later. There was a positive impact on emotional regulation, anger management, social skills, self-worth

and capacity to talk with others. UWA Professor Lisa Wood and Assistant Professor Karen Martin investigated the impact on 114 prisoners and reported 90 per cent said it helped them work through their problems more easily. 86 per cent said it enabled improved relationships with other prisoners and 90 per cent said they had a better understanding of skills needed for good relationships.

DRUMBEAT, an acronym for Discovering Relationships Using Music – Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes and Thoughts, is considered "non-confronting" than traditional therapy and it incorporates themes, discussions and drumming analogies relating to self-expression, communication, emotions and

feelings, self-worth, problem solving, confidence and teamwork.

A former Wooroloo prisoner and DRUMBEAT participant hitting schizophrenia and depression said the music-based course had "reduced aggression" and "increased harmony" during his time in prison and given him the skills to rebuild relationships with his family and continue on with therapy.

Other prisoners reported to UWA that with the help of DRUMBEAT "instead of making someone else you smash the drum" and that it triggered positive changes because "we know all these things we have done wrong, we don't have to be told. We need to know how to change these things. DRUMBEAT helps with that."

by The University of Western Australia
Program trialled in WA prisons
Program that combines hand motion learning can help prisoners.

Associate Professor Lisa Wood and Professor Karen Martin, based at UWA's School of Population Health, recently completed a nine-month trial of the DRUMBEAT program in Acacia, Bandyup, Boronia, Karrakatta and Wooroloo.



Program drums up praise



A PROGRAM designed to help Aboriginal people deal with mental health issues has attracted international attention.

Called Drumbeat, the program was developed by drug and alcohol counselling and support service, Holyoake, initially with input from Aboriginal advisers in Western Australia's Wheatbelt almost a decade ago.

many of the prisoners who took part.

Holyoake has received numerous inquiries from all over the world about Drumbeat and the results of an independent evaluation of this trial are so compelling that we now feel a sense of urgency in taking the program to wherever there are people in need of its mental health services.

Applications.... media dissemination*

- Unfortunately due to 'approval to release' delays, window of opportunity lost for journalist interviews with two other ex prisoners who had participated in program
- And another potential interviewee lost due to reaction of his angry girlfriend!!

“The moral of the story would be that if you are going to take on work in a tricky setting with agencies managing tricky clients then you must expect to have to exercise endless patience when it comes to publicising the results of your work. And, the eventual publicity may not do the work justice” (Holyoake media consultant)

Applications.... follow up on 'community' enquiries

For example:

- Approached by a Policy Analyst from the Office of the Director General at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to find out further info about DRUMBEAT after coming across it while looking into innovative programs
- Requests for further information from Dept of Health, Centre for Social Innovation

“As part of a national Aboriginal Suicide prevention program evaluation project I have come across the evaluation work you guys did with the Drumbeat program. I was wondering if that research brought up **any suggestions that might link the benefits and outcomes of the program to suicide prevention** and what your views would be about the suitability of the program being used in that context? *(Member Aboriginal Suicide Prevention project evaluation team)*

Applications.... continue looking for opportunities to keep it on the radar

Corrective Services plagued with reacting to immediate crisis and a straining prison system – preventive programs for prisoner wellbeing can fall lower on radar

- So have to be on the look out for ways to keep advocating for research and recommendations uptake into policy and practice

Jails cost \$40K a day

EXCLUSIVE Gareth Parker State Political Editor
January 10, 2015, 2:20 am



Four WA prison guards assaulted by inmate
AAP • JANUARY 05, 2015 2:07PM

Serco blames dodgy lock for rapist's escape from prison van

Aboriginal woman in prison 'made to go without medication for days'
By Nicolas Perpetch
Updated 22 Dec 2014, 10:21am

Applications.... Looking for opportunities to keep it on the radar

An example:

- Report was used as a basis for Holyoake submission to Prisons Inquiry (2014) - an *Economic Regulatory Authority* inquiry into options to improve the efficiency and performance of Western Australian prisons:

Excerpt below from Holyoake public submission:

*There remains strong bias in favour of western based therapeutic interventions that are incompatible and generally ineffective for Aboriginal prisoners. The models for interventions that support rehabilitation need to be culturally secure and proven to mediate change for Aboriginal inmates. The vast majority of programs and program managers in WA prisons are schooled in western therapeutic models that Aboriginal people find threatening and humiliating. **Few if any of these interventions have any proven evidence base with the Aboriginal population and are failing them.***

Applications... ‘smoothing the path’ for future researchers....

Fed back constructive suggestions to DCS for future prison researchers and suggested development of induction and guidelines for novice prison researchers.

To cover things such as:

- What to expect on arrival and to be allowed to enter prisons
- Know how to avoid being ‘groomed’
- Even if you have permission to record interviews, “the voice cannot leave the prison” – need to pre negotiate approval for secure transcription service
- wearing clothing that can clip to a duress alarm
- Chains of command and reporting when issues arise

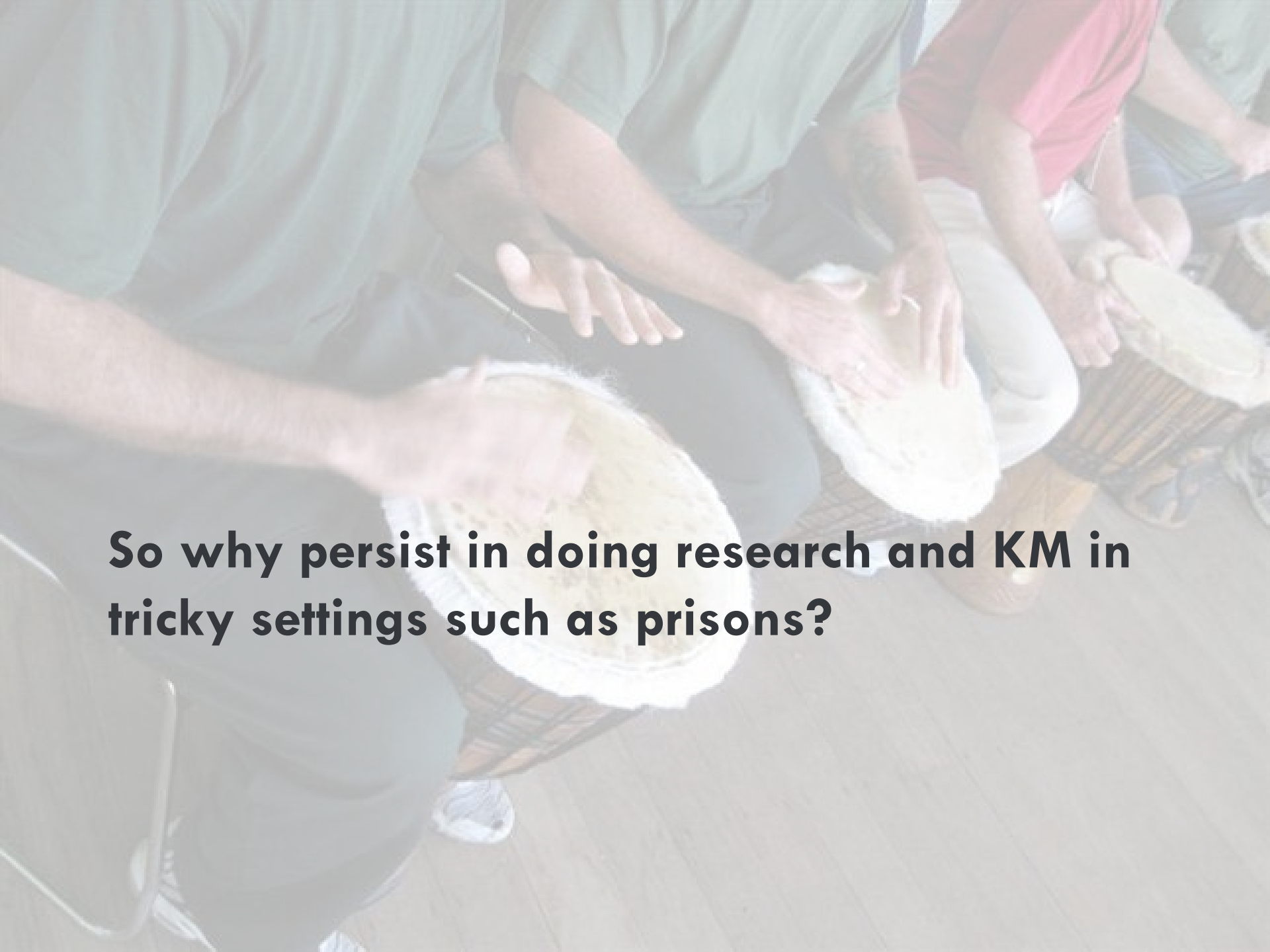
Applications... lessons learnt being applied into other settings or programs

For example:

- Recent running and evaluation in 3 high schools with 'at risk' adolescents, including refugee students
- Inclusion of DRUMBEAT in broader Holyoake drug and alcohol services to juvenile prison, commencing 2015
- Funding proposals submitted by Holyoake to expand delivery of DRUMBEAT (and its train the trainer program) for remote Aboriginal communities

+ have had several meetings with other types of mental health programs run with Aboriginal people re adapting the evaluation methodology to suit their needs



A group of people are sitting on a light-colored wooden floor, playing large, shallow, oval-shaped drums. The drums have a light-colored, possibly woven or leather, head. The people are wearing casual clothing; some are in green shirts, one is in a red shirt. The image is slightly faded, giving it a soft, artistic feel. The text is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

So why persist in doing research and KM in tricky settings such as prisons?

Why persist with a KM approach to research in tricky settings?

- Not for profit organisations want their programs to be ‘evidence-based’ but rarely have access or opportunity for ‘big research’ grants

The evaluation provided us with empirical support for the work we do and in particular the ‘credibility’ to ensure others looked more closely at the potential of this work. The DRUMBEAT program is a departure from the dominant therapeutic models used in rehabilitation and has in the past been overlooked because of its different approach – this research strengthens its reputation and ensures it is not easily overlooked. Holyoake

Why persist with a KM approach to research in tricky settings?

- Program effectiveness needs to be assessed in ‘real world’ as there are valuable lessons learnt from challenges that can’t replicated in an artificial setting or controlled experiment

*“this type of evaluation is the only practical way we have of assessing both the **impact** of our work and the changes we need to make to improve it- situational research that is not artificially constructed but assesses a program in its real context gives us honest and useful information that we can use to better meet the needs of our clients. This form of research reveals much more of the extraneous detail that impacts so significantly on program impact and that cannot be replicated in the artificial setting” - Simon Faulkner, Manager DRUMBEAT, Holyoake*

Why persist with a KM approach to research in tricky settings?

- Provides feedback and insights for the program itself, beyond the 'research outcomes'

The UWA research is also critical in casting light on areas for improvement, both in program content and in delivery.

In particular the research team were diligent in providing us with feedback on a range of issues where they believed improvement to program outcomes could be obtained and we have already incorporated much of this into our service delivery planning.

DRUMBEAT staff

Why persist with a KM approach to research in tricky settings?

- Those in tricky settings want to know that practice is evidence based and worth the effort



“need to know whether there is a positive/beneficial outcome to offenders regarding any program as there is often a lot of work involved in facilitating and running these programs within a custodial environment in relation to security, duty of care, relevance etc So to input all that work you would want to know that the program has a role to play in the successful reintegration of offenders back into the community”(staff, prison x).

Why persist with a KM approach to research in tricky settings?

For us as the researchers:

It was a life changing experience

a humbling reminder of the social determinants of inequity and incarceration

And a compelling reminder of the need for research that is relevant and useful to real world settings and problems

References

1. Matthew R. Currie , Catherine E. Wood , Benedict Williams & Glen W. Bates (2012) Aggression Replacement Training (ART) in Australia: A Longitudinal Youth Justice Evaluation, *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 19:4, 577-604, DOI: 10.1080/13218719.2011.615807
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