



# Te Puna Haumarū Seminar Series

Professor Susan Dennison

Transforming Corrections to Transform Lives: Supporting incarcerated mothers and their children through a co-created model for individual and systems change

Transforming Corrections to Transform Lives (TCTL) commenced in 2020 with the aim to develop a transformative system of practice that breaks the damaging cycles of disadvantage, trauma, and offending, and empowers mothers who are incarcerated, and their children, to have safe, dignified and fulfilling lives. We embarked on a co-creation process with mothers in prison and service providers to develop a comprehensive and shared understanding of mother's and children's needs. We also examined correctional and programmatic practices and identified system barriers and gaps in services across the sector. Our preliminary research with both mothers in prison and system stakeholders revealed problems with the availability, accessibility, comprehensiveness and co-ordination of support and intervention programs. In response, we developed a transformative model for individual- and system-level change with mothers and children's wellbeing at the core, that was subsequently refined through further engagement with mothers in prison. The key features of the model, which is currently being trialled in Queensland, and the evaluation framework will be described. Challenges experienced and lessons gained through these early stages of the Transform Lives Program trial and establishment of a Systems Change Board will be discussed.



Dr Susan Dennison is a Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Griffith Criminology Institute at Griffith University. She is Director of the Transforming Corrections to Transform Lives Centre, leading a transformative system of practice to better support mothers who experience incarceration, and their children, break down intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and incarceration, and generate new knowledge for evidence-based programs. She is a former Australian Research Council Future Fellow and across multiple funded projects has investigated how childhood adversity, particularly maltreatment and parental incarceration, affects young people's outcomes. She emphasises translating research to policy and practice.

When: Wednesday, 29 August 2024 from 2-3pm

Where: Microsoft Teams

For any enquiries about this seminar, please contact Dr April Jolliffe Simpson at [apriels@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:apriels@waikato.ac.nz)