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24-27 MARCH 2019
Hotel Grand Chancellor
Hobart, Tasmania



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Health and justice through partnership

Lottie Turner

Health Justice Australia

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Across Australia, a quiet revolution has seen community lawyers leaving their traditional shopfronts to work from the most unlikely of settings: in hospitals and community health services. Health justice partnerships are collaborations between health and legal services that bring lawyers into the healthcare team to address the underlying drivers of poor health. Health justice partnerships tackle the intersecting health and legal problems in people's lives, from mould in public housing causing respiratory problems or credit and debt exacerbating stress and diverting people from meeting their healthcare costs, through to family breakdown, family violence, child protection concerns and elder abuse.

From only a handful in 2014, health justice partnerships now number over 50 across Australia. They are operating in hospital and community health services; in capital cities and regional centres. They are providing legal assistance to patients broadly; while also targeting the needs of priority populations.

The paper will facilitate discussion with conference delegates about the opportunities to develop health justice partnerships further in regional and rural communities. Drawing on Health Justice Australia's recently released foundational report mapping the national health justice landscape, discussion will explore the range of services that are currently working in health justice partnerships; how these partnerships operate; and the kinds of health-harming problems they can address. It will explore the role that health justice partnerships play to achieve both systems change, through small-scale reforms at the local level that can have a significant impact for immediate patient communities; and systemic change, by advocating for changes to the ways in which health and human (including legal) services are funded, designed and delivered.

About Health Justice Australia

Health Justice Australia is the national centre for health justice partnership, supporting collaborations between services to achieve better health and justice outcomes for vulnerable communities.

Health Justice Australia supports the expansion and effectiveness of health justice partnerships through:

- Knowledge and its translation: developing evidence and translating that evidence into knowledge that is valued by practitioners, researchers, policy-makers and funders.
- Building capability: supporting practitioners to work collaboratively, including through brokering, mentoring and facilitating partnerships.
- Driving systems change: connecting the experience of people coming through health justice partnerships, and their practitioners, with opportunities for lasting systems change through reforms to policy settings, service design and funding.

Presenter

As a social worker, **Lottie Turner** has spent more than a decade working in health, law, social services and community development. During this time, she has led the design, development and implementation of human rights frameworks and policies for one of Australia's largest community health organisations, cohealth; was a senior member of Gay & Lesbian Health Victoria (GLHV), where she led the state-wide LGBTIQ+ youth inclusive practice strategy across health and human services; has been Content Advisor for award-winning publication Archer Magazine; played a key role in the evaluation of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission managed project Fair go, Sport!; brokered community-wide youth codesign initiatives during the recovery from the Black Saturday bushfires; and in 2015 was named by Junkee.com as one of 200 young Australian change makers. As Partnerships Director at Health Justice Australia, Lottie is responsible for building partnering capability across the health justice landscape, including through brokering, mentoring and facilitating partnerships.