

The WHO Health in Prisons Project Best Practice Awards Scheme

Main Aims of the Scheme are

1. To achieve better prison-level recognition in our countries of prison health development.
2. To give encouragement and recognition to staff of prisons, and those who support them in the wider community, all of whom are working to promote the health of people in their prisons.
3. To learn from the process of identifying these best national practices, including learning about barriers to progress, and how the WHO HIPP can help with wider dissemination of useful information.
4. To encourage Members to consider how much the identified prison or practice could act as an example within that country and beyond.
5. To consider with Members the feasibility of the identified prisons acting as good examples for prisons of other Member countries.

In addition the Awards intend to be:

- simple to administer
- sensitive to potential language problems and cultural issues
- realistic in its demands of the time of staff
- safe (in that any recognition is clearly for one or more clearly established best practices at the particular time the Award was granted, and there is no attempt to cover aspects of prison life outside the remit of the WHO HIPP)
- fair for all prison systems.

Breadth and Scope of the Award Scheme

The Award will recognise best practice within a particular prison, or best practice that illustrates co-operation between a particular prison and the wider community, and is awarded to the prison, not individuals. The Scheme is not prescriptive: best practice can be recognised in a very specific aspect of prison health, or recognised as a comprehensive or 'whole prison approach' to tackling an issue in the prison setting. The scheme should be open to any suitable prison to apply for, with the support of both the Governor or Director and national Counterpart. Initiatives may involve not just health care staff, but any staff significantly contributing to prisoners' health, or indeed individuals from the wider community significantly contributing to prison health.

Categories of Award

Category 1: an example of best practice regarding health care services provided to prisoners. This category includes any aspect of the clinical care provided to prisoners by doctors, nurses or other healthcare professionals.

Category 2: an example of best practice regarding any of the following, or a combination of the following: prevention, health education or health promotion services provided to prisoners. For example, members of staff (not necessarily medically trained staff) working within the prison might provide the service, or it may involve peer education i.e. using specially trained prisoners.

Category 3: an example of best practice, which demonstrates effective co-operation between a prison and the outside community, in the area of health improvement. This category includes any aspect of improving the health and well being of prisoners.

Number of Awards Granted

Each WHO HIPP Network Member Country can put forward a single entry in each category.

From the received entries up to 5 will be chosen for an Award in each of the three categories listed above, so that a total of 15 Awards may be made in an award year.

For more information please visit the following link at the University of Central Lancashire, which is affiliated to the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health and Prisons and assists with implementing the scheme:

<http://www.uclan.ac.uk/health/schools/sphcs/wcc.php>