The Intersection of Law Enforcement and Public Health: Building Partnerships, Reinforcing Domestic and Global Public Health

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Law enforcement, especially through the activities of police forces, has a crucial but largely unacknowledged role in the protection and promotion of the public health. While police are key partners in many specific public health programs, their identity as an important part of the public health endeavour is rarely recognised. This means there is generally an inadequate approach to research and investigation of ways in which law enforcement, especially police, can be most effectively engaged and be most effective in carrying out their public health role. This seminar will explore the intersection of policing and public health through a range of public health issues including domestic violence, alcohol, illicit drugs, responding to disasters, HIV, mental health and fraudulent medicines. Dr Thomson will argue that there is need, merit and opportunity to enhance public health through collaborative partnerships with law enforcement.

Dr Nicholas Thomson has spent the last 12 years working across South East Asia for Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. His initial work on HIV prevention among injecting and non-injecting drug users in the Golden Triangle, saw him well placed to begin to understand that public health efforts without partnership with police were self defeating. Over the course of his time in Asia, Nicholas worked at the interface of security and health around issues of prisons, compulsory drug treatment centres, human rights and public health policing. He is currently involved in criminal justice reform in the context of public health in Asia and more domestically is based at the Nossal Institute for Global Health working on a growing Law Enforcement and Public Health program including putting on the First International Conference on Policing and Public Health to be held at the University of Melbourne, 11-14 November.

Wednesday 19 September 2012
12.30 - 1.30 pm, Seminar Room 515
Melbourne School of Population Health
Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

ALL WELCOME