

SAMANTHA TAAKA

Correctional Staff Safety in New Zealand Prisons

This PhD will contribute to our understanding of correctional staff violent victimisation in New Zealand prisons, and how correctional staff perceive their own safety in the workplace. By working in a prison, correctional staff may experience dangerous conditions that could possibly threaten their safety. Theoretically, this PhD will provide insight into the factors that relate to the perceived and actual safety of correctional staff. Practically, this research may help inform measures that could contribute towards correctional staff feeling safer at work, and decrease the violent victimisation of correctional staff. The everyday person does not go to work expecting to be verbally and physically assaulted. For correctional staff who work in prisons, the barrage of verbal abuse, threats, and risk of physical harm is almost an expected facet of their everyday work experience. For some, the risk of experiencing violence in the workplace is an expected facet; many correctional staff perceive constant verbal abuse and threats as “part of the job”. However, being a victim of physical harm perpetrated by a prisoner is a much less common experience, and can be devastating both physically and emotionally for the correctional staff victims.

Outputs: One manuscript ready for submission

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