

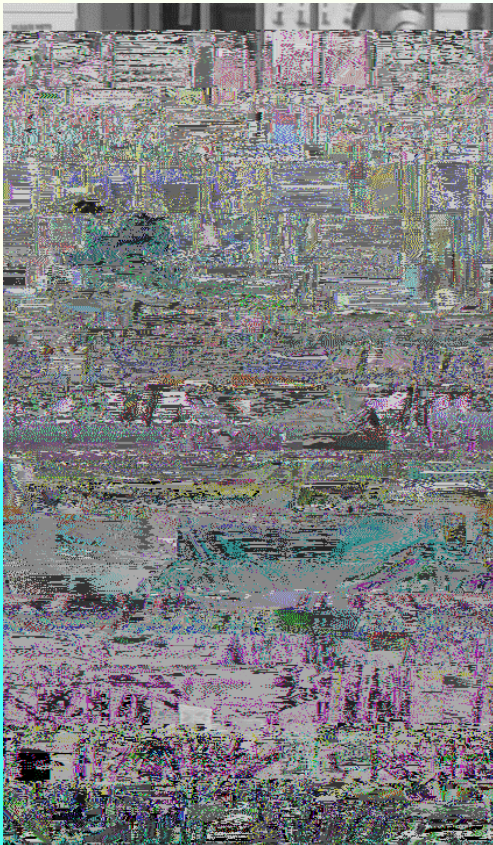


# Prison initiatives to support older prisoners and those with dementia: the prisoner's lived experience

Director of C-SCHaRR and IDCC

# Aim

To explore prisoner's lived experience of attending an initiative exclusively designed for older prisoners and those with dementia.



# Changing prison populations



The world's prison population is aging

Older prisoners are the fastest growing group in prisons across the UK, Australia and the United States of America

(House of Commons, 2018; Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017; Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016)

The health and social care needs of older prisoners are complex as they develop long term conditions, such as dementia, at an earlier age than expected

(Sharupski et al. 2018)

# Poor health of prisoners



Factors that contribute to the poor health of prisoners include:

- unhealthy lifestyles

- poor engagement with healthcare

- low educational attainment

- higher rates of a mental health illness and traumatic brain injuries

- poor nutrition

- lack of exercise

(Maschi et al. 2012)

# Dementia in Prison

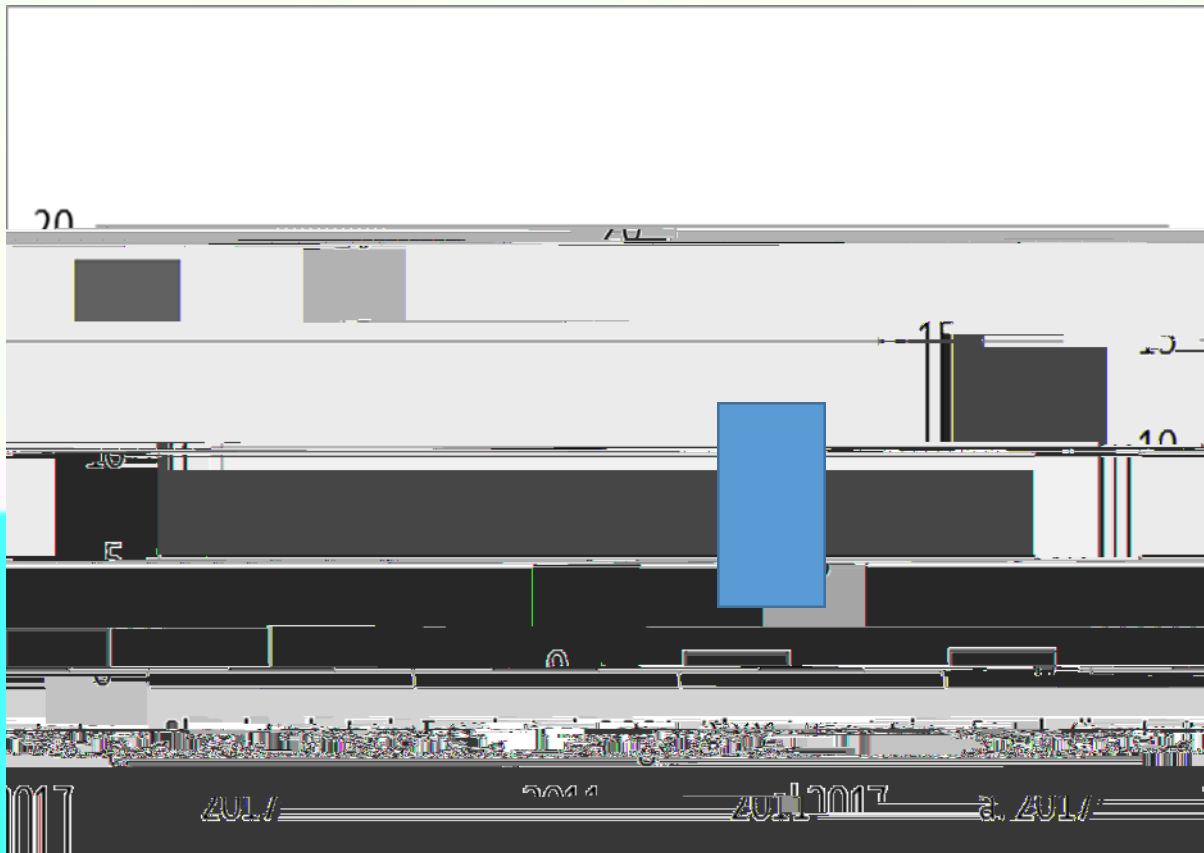
Prisoners with dementia present unique challenges





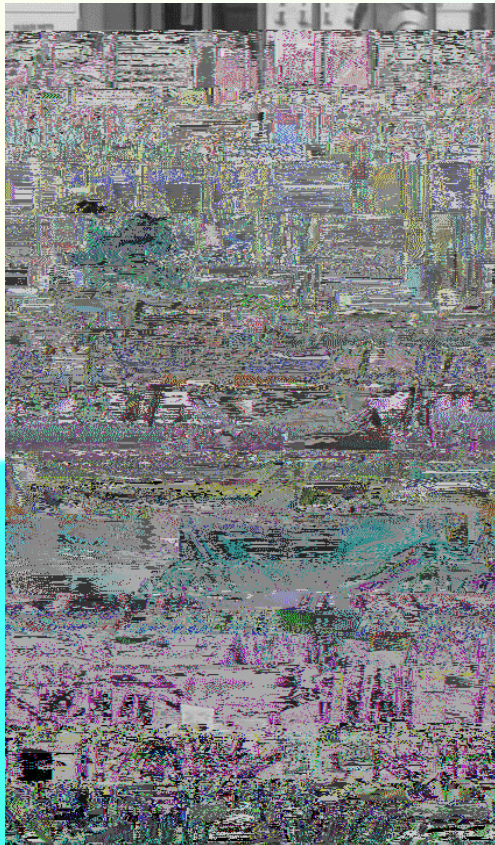
# Dementia in prison

Recent systematic review (Brooke et al. 2018)



# Aim

To explore prisoner's lived experience of attending an initiative exclusively designed for older prisoners and those with dementia.



# Methods

## Design:

phenomenological inductive study

## Methods:

focus groups

audio recorded

transcribed verbatim

## Analysis

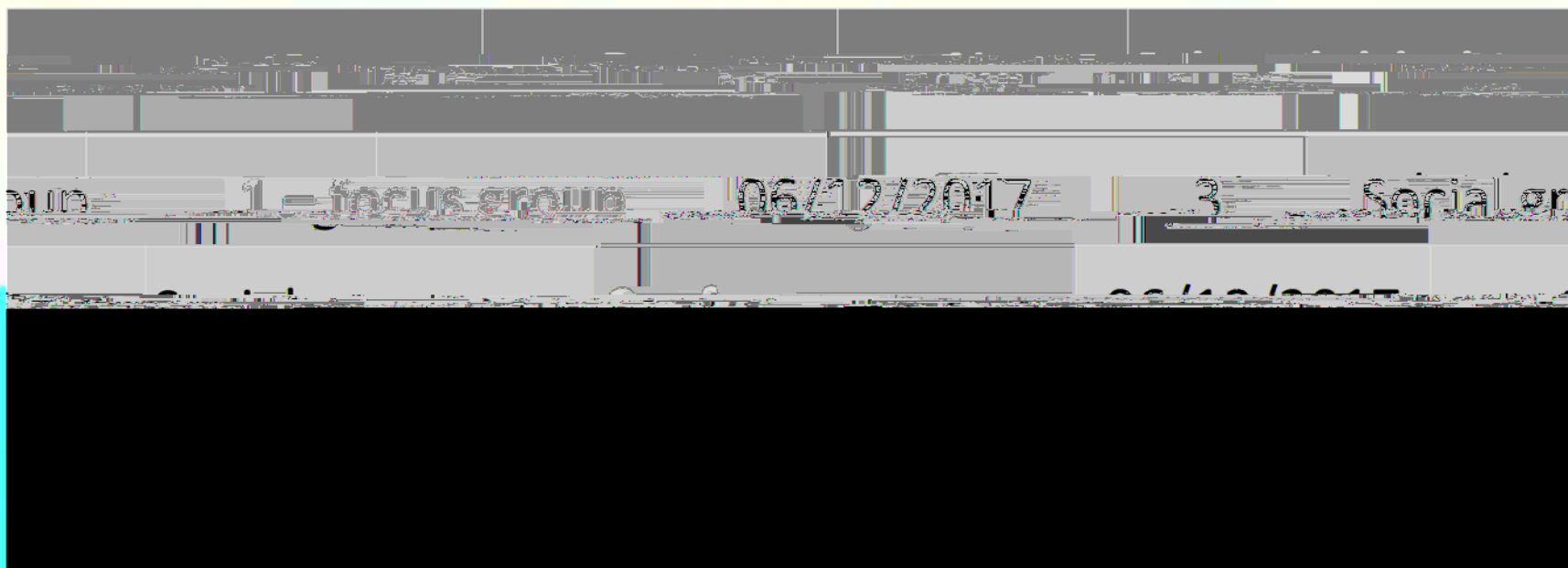
Thematic analysis of data as described by Braun and



# Methods

# Participants

Participants recruited from two initiatives for older prisoners over the age of 55, and those with dementia, including a work group and a social group



# Findings

Data were collected in 2017 through focus groups (n=4) with prisoners (n=11) attending the work group (n=2) and social group (n=2)

The participants from the social group were older and more physically and cognitively impaired than those attending the work group

Three themes emerged across both group:

- the need to feel safe

- being provided with a purpose

- prison initiatives should not be aged defined

# The need to feel safe

attending these initiatives provided older prisoners with a safe haven away from boisterous and unsettled youngsters

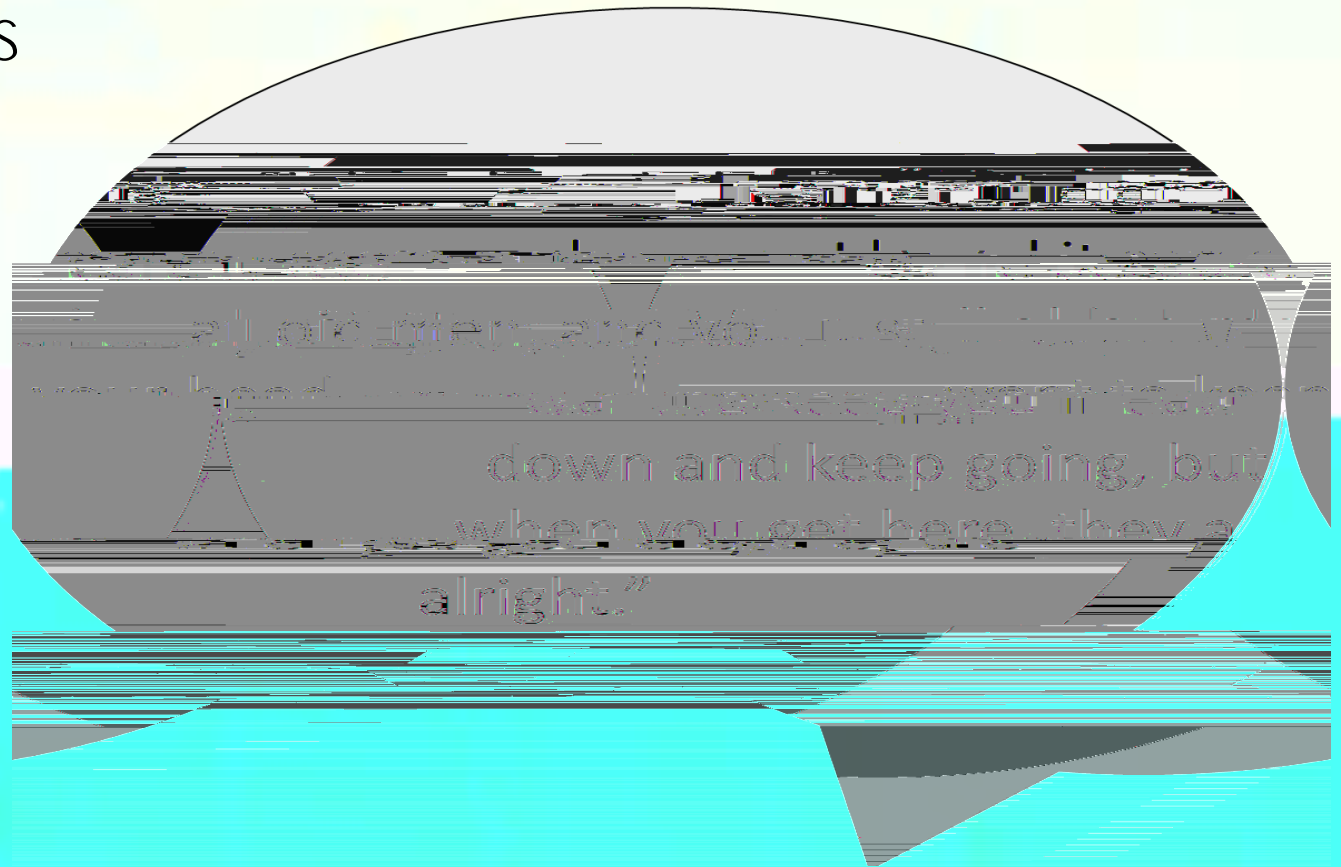






# Prison initiatives should not be age defined

the need to feel included and not excluded, to support this all initiatives should be open to older prisoners



# Discussion



Prisoners experienced the support and safety of attending groups created and designed for older prisoners and those with dementia, however also expressed the need to be integrated into wider prison initiatives.

Both the social and work group supported prisoners with dementia to be active in the prison setting and not be unduly locked in their cells. The impact of these initiatives beyond prisoner's experiences needs to be further explored.



THANK YOU

Any questions?

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