Foreword

In the pursuit of cutting-edge, evidence-informed rehabilitation services and policies, conducting local correctional research and drawing on insights from international studies and practices reinforce the Department's enduring commitment to desistance from crime, crime prevention and the promotion of public safety.

"What Works: How Research Can Help in Offender Rehabilitation" remains the theme of this issue. We begin with Hong Kong's first comprehensive local research on desistance from crime, which explores the pathways and contributing factors to desistance. Expert opinions from Dr Frank PORPORINO (Research Consultant), Dr Kenneth LEUNG (Honourary Advisor and former Deputy Commissioner) and Professor Patrick LEUNG (Research Consultant and Collaborator) offer valuable perspectives on the research implications. This issue also presents findings from a local Video Visit Survey, which provides objective evidence supporting family connections in rehabilitation – an emphasis echoed in contemporary desistance theories. In addition, two articles summarise insights from recent international conferences, namely "Evidence-Informed Drug Rehabilitation and Prevention Workshop" and the "15th Asian Conference on Psychology and Behavioural Science", highlighting emerging approaches to substance use rehabilitation and the integration of artificial intelligence into human service interventions.

I hope these two local studies, alongside global insights featured in this bulletin, will foster synergy for future research initiatives, professional exchanges and knowledge transfer—furthering our collective dedication to correctional excellence.

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