

Magistrates' Court of Victoria



Court
Integrated
Services
Program
(CISP)

Department
of Justice

Purpose of this session

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To provide an overview of the:

- Rationale behind the CISP
- Program features, including eligibility
- Process of referral and assessment
- Services provided by the CISP
- CISP evaluation

Government Policies

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- Funding received for the *Breaking the Cycle of Re-offending Program*, which included development of the CISP.
- Establishment of CISP is consistent with policies as set out in *Growing Victoria Together* and *A Fairer Victoria*, which seek to address the needs of the disadvantaged.
- The CISP derives its mandate from the Attorney General's *Justice Statement (2004)* and aims to address the needs of those over-represented in the criminal justice system from backgrounds of disadvantage and marginalisation.

What is the CISP?

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- The CISP became operational in Nov 2006 at three court locations; Melbourne, Sunshine and Latrobe Valley.
- The CISP provides an integrated service delivery model, featuring a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to the assessment and treatment of clients.
- The program streamlines processes to reduce double handling through a central point of intake.
- The CISP builds upon other programs such as the CREDIT/Bail Support Program and the Aboriginal Liaison Program.

Features of the CISP

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Features include:

- Centralised actuarial screening and assessment;
- Targeted intervention, matching the level of intervention to the level of risk of re-offending and need;
- Priority access to treatment and support services;
- Quality advice to Judiciary to facilitate optimal pre-sentencing and sentencing outcomes;
- Case monitoring and case management where appropriate; and
- Judicial monitoring (where appropriate), as determined by the Court.

Eligibility criteria

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- The defendant must be charged with an offence.
- History of offending or current offending indicates further penetration into criminal justice system.
- The matter warrants intervention to reduce risk and address needs.
- The defendant exhibits needs that contribute to offending.

The CISP is available to defendants on bail or summons and regardless of whether a plea has been entered. The defendant must provide consent.

Referral and assessment process



1. Referral and pre-screening
2. Screening assessment
3. Comprehensive needs assessment and case management plan
4. Case reviews, progress assessments and exit planning

The assessment will look at the risk and causes of offending to determine what level of monitoring is required/appropriate: Low

Intermediate

Intensive

Services provided

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Services include:

- Assessment and referral to treatment
- Case management
- Brokered treatment for access to drug and alcohol treatment, mental health, housing and ABI related needs
- Referral to outreach services
- Progress reports

Transitional Housing

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- The CISP will provide access to 20 transitional housing properties, which are available to eligible program clients.
- HomeGround Services is the agency contracted to provide housing support services to clients residing in these properties.
- Dedicated housing information and referral officers will also be located at the Melbourne and Sunshine Courts to assist clients in accessing both crisis and long term housing.

Program evaluation

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- Evaluators have been contracted to monitor the process, outcome and cost effectiveness of the program during the initial 3 year period.
- Subject to a successful evaluation the CISP may be replicated state wide.

The evaluation team:

- UMEE (University of Melbourne) – Process and outcome evaluation.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers – Economic (Cost effectiveness analysis) evaluation.

Questions?

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