

Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures

11.6 Aboriginal community mentors

Policy summary

The Aboriginal Community Mentors (ACM) also known as Pinta Kulpi is a strategy to assist correctional staff to support Aboriginal inmates to maintain their cultural connection and is in line with the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

This is an informal initiative that encourages the involvement of Aboriginal people who are recognised as being of significant standing in the Aboriginal Community.

The ACM strategy reinforces Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) support of Aboriginal inmates who want to maintain and strengthen their Aboriginal identity.

Management of Public Correctional Centres Service Specifications

Service Specification	Rehabilitation and reintegration
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Scope

This section applies to all correctional centres and other facilities administered by or on behalf of CSNSW.

It also applies to all CSNSW employees, and where relevant to other personnel such as contractors, subcontractors, and visitors.

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1 Aboriginal community mentors

1.1 Policy

Pinta Kulpi is an informal strategy for Aboriginal inmates to provide and promote:

- support from the Aboriginal community
- connection with Aboriginal culture through music, art, horticulture and language
- participation in CSNSW education, training and treatment programs
- reintegration in to the community

As this is an informal initiative Mentors are not part of the case management team. They are not required to access the Offender Integrated Management System (OIMS) or to contribute to case management notes.

When Mentors attend a correctional centre they must **not** provide a program or service outside of this policy or represent any other organisation or service.

Mentors are not authorised visitors or official visitors and must complete a Criminal Record Inquiry (CRI) to establish suitability prior to entering a correctional centre.

Mentors are admitted to correctional centres as ordinary visitors. They are subject to **COPP section 10.1 Visits to inmates by family and friends** and are required to complete local security and safety awareness at each centre they attend.

ACM's must comply with the CSNSW *Guide to Conduct and Ethics* and all other applicable CSNSW policies and procedures.

1.2 Procedures for establishing an aboriginal community mentors strategy

	Procedure	Responsibility
1.	Consult with the Governor or delegated officer to establish the Aboriginal Community Mentors strategy.	Regional Aboriginal Programs Officer (RAPO)
2.	Establish visit frequency, duration, clearly define approved access areas, and critical incident assistance and protocol.	Governor and RAPO
3.	Source prospective Aboriginal people who are recognised as being of significant standing in the Aboriginal Community.	RAPO
4.	Conduct a CRI check from CIG prior to an ACM being appointed.	RAPO
5.	Approve ACM.	Governor/ delegated officer

	Procedure	Responsibility
6.	Complete local security and safety awareness at each individual centre of attendance.	RAPO/ACM's
7.	Immediately report to the Governor or delegated officer a discipline breach, or if it is believed the ACM's may pose a threat to the good order and security of the centre. Note the Governor is responsible for advising the RAPO of ACM's breach.	Staff
8.	Maintain appropriate records and ensure a record of attendance is kept.	RAPO

1.3 Role of ACM

The Mentors are required to:

- attend correctional centres and HIPUs if requested by the Governor
- immediately notify centre management if they become aware of *any* inmate that may be at risk
- provide culturally appropriate and responsive support to all Aboriginal inmates
- provide understanding of cultural sensitive knowledge and mentoring expertise to inmates and staff
- support Aboriginal inmates during critical incidents when requested by correctional centre management
- assist and encourage Aboriginal inmates to adjust to the custodial environment
- support the treatment goals of CSNSW and encourage Aboriginal inmates to participate in programs, education vocational training and employment opportunities

1.4 Role of RAPO

The RAPO is responsible for coordinating the ACM strategy. The RAPO will maintain and distribute a list of suitable mentors to the Governor and centre management.

When a Mentor is approved by the Governor the RAPO must:

- liaise and maintain regular contact with the local Aboriginal community
- explain the purpose and scope of the ACM strategy
- identify and assess suitable Mentor candidates
- obtain a CSNSW Visitors Identification Number (VIN) for each suitable Mentor
- arrange transport where necessary
- coordinate payments of Mentors with the centre's Administration Manager
- maintain regular contact with centre management to support the ongoing facilitation of the ACM strategy.

1.5 Remuneration for ACMs

The ACM initiative is funded from the each correctional centres budget. This does not include the Aboriginal High Intensity Program Units (HIPUs) which are funded from a separate budget.

Payments will be authorised for:

- hours of service (paid at the Clerk 5/6 year 4 hourly rate)
- a maximum of 2 hours per visit unless requested and approved at the discretion of the Governor (excluding Aboriginal HIPUs which may be attended for a maximum of 6 hours per visit)
- actual travel costs on presentation of receipts (excluding travel costs associated with the Aboriginal HIPUs which are not reimbursed).

Mentors are not paid for travel time. The centre may arrange the means of transportation to and from the centre.

2 Quick links

- [Related COPP](#)
- [Forms and annexures](#)
- [Related documents](#)

3 Definitions

ACM	Aboriginal Community Mentors
COPP	Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures
CRI	Criminal Record Inquiry
CSNSW	Corrective Services NSW
HIPUs	High Intensity Program Units
OIMS	Offender Integrated Management System
Pinta Kulpi	Paakantyi for 'To join in conversation'
RAPO	Regional Aboriginal Programs Officer

4 Document information

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