

COMMUNITY BASED ORDERS

Introduction

Community Corrections manages offenders in the community who are sentenced to various types of courts orders.

These orders issue conditions for managing offender behavior. They may include: carrying out unpaid work, taking courses, and treatment programs. They fall into three broad categories:

- courts determined community-based order as an appropriate sentence
- alternatives to a prison sentence
- parole, where an offender can complete the remainder of their sentence in the community.

When determining sentencing options, including which type of order is appropriate, the court (or releasing authority) may take into consideration a wide range of factors, such as community safety, the nature of the offence, an offender's criminal history and likelihood of reoffending, and suitability for community work and offence-focused programs.

Key Facts and Figures 2017/18

- **An average of 19,137 offenders are supervised daily under community-based orders. Of these approximately 84% are men and 16% are women.**
- **About 76% of all community-based orders are successfully completed, compared to the national average of 72.9%.**

What are Home Detention Orders?

Home detention is a means of diverting offenders from full-time custody, through providing a high level of supervision in the community. This penalty is only available to offenders that have been sentenced to imprisonment (with a maximum of 18 months), and are deemed suitable for the program following a rigorous assessment process.

Community Corrections officers develop and implement a case management plan that permits an offender staged access to out of home activities. These include employment and training. The location of offenders is monitored

with the assistance of electronic devices, 24 hours per day.

What are Community Service Orders?

Offenders may be sentenced to perform unpaid work in the community. A Community Service Order is administered by Community Corrections officers who allocate offenders to work with voluntary community organisations. These organisations provide services to the young, sick, disabled and elderly, or environmental projects. Offenders are carefully screened for appropriate placement; and are supervised for the duration of their hours, both in terms of work and behaviour.

- **CSNSW supervises approximately 3,307 offenders with Community Service Orders. They perform around \$15.3 million worth of unpaid community work annually for over 560 non-profit organisations.**
- **Working groups are formed for offenders on community work to assist on projects focused on environmental and community enhancement, such as the Nobbys Head Newcastle project and the clean-up of the Georges River.**

Nobbys Head, Newcastle.



What are Good Behaviour Bonds?

An offender on a Good Behaviour Bond is assisted by both government and non-government agencies with issues such as alcohol and drug treatment, housing and mental health treatment. During this period Community Corrections has regular contact with the offender, and their family, to monitor compliance with the conditions of their bond. This takes place both at a Community Corrections office, and in an offender's home.

What are Drug Court Orders?

Offenders subject to a Drug Court Order are required to comply with a treatment plan formulated by health professionals.

Participants are subject to stringent conditions and the supervision of Community Corrections officers through regular progress reporting to the Drug Court. The Drug Court may vary the conditions and/or impose sanctions, including custody, for failure to comply with a treatment plan or conditions.

What are Intensive Correction Orders?

An Intensive Correction Order is an alternative to full-time custody, where an offender's sentence is served in the community. Offenders receiving a custodial sentence of 2 years, or less, may be eligible for an Intensive Correction Order. The conditions for the order include compliance in reporting and supervision, participation in identified programs, community service work, drug and alcohol testing, compliance with curfews, and also electronic monitoring (if imposed).

There are mandatory conditions on Intensive Correction Orders that must be followed. This includes 32 hours of Community Work per month, and attendance of services or programs that address offending behaviours. The court can also impose additional conditions that are specific to an offender's circumstances.

What is parole supervision?

Offenders released to parole supervision are subject to strict conditions imposed by the State Parole Authority (SPA) or courts. Conditions may include counselling for drug or alcohol abuse, a requirement to attend psychological treatment and group work programs to address their offence related issues. Conditions may also include residential restrictions.

For further information on the NSW parole system, see Fact Sheet 4.

What happens if an offender breaches a Community-Based order?

Community Corrections officers are responsible for monitoring offender compliance with the conditions of Community-Based Orders and are required to take appropriate action if an offender breaches the established conditions.

Failure to comply with the conditions of a community-based order can result in an offender having to return to court or SPA. This may result in a warning or re-sentencing for the original offence. Serious breaches may result in the offender being placed in full-time custody.

Numbers of offenders by type of order

30 June 2018	Male	Female	Not Known ¹	Total
TOTAL²	16,363	3,040	11	19,414
Extended Supervision Orders	97	1	-	98
SPA Parole	1,860	149	-	2,009
Court based Parole	3,904	488	1	4,393
Home Detention	81	20	-	101
Intensive Correction Order	2,110	326	1	2,437
Community Service Order	3,129	589	4	3,722
Bond (including Section 12 Suspended Sentences)	7,637	1,876	7	9,520
Drug Court	222	80	-	302
Bail Supervision (post conviction)	21	3	-	24

¹ Gender of offender not recorded at time of order registration.

² Total offenders is a unique count of persons and does not represent the sum of persons across orders, as some offenders may be subject to more than one order.