

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) provides group-based rehabilitation programs to offenders both in custody and the community.

What is an Offender Program?

An 'Offender Program' is a set of structured activities or interventions, delivered in a group format, designed to support behaviour change. Offender criminogenic programs specifically address those factors directly linked to offending behaviour.

Risk, Need and Responsivity

The provision of programs to reduce risk of re-offending is essential to the work of CSNSW. It is proven that interventions are most effective at reducing re-offending when they target higher risk individuals, address criminogenic need and are responsive to learning styles of individuals.

All CSNSW programs are supported by evidence that shows treatment that aligns with the Risk, Need and Responsivity (RNR) principles reduces re-offending.

Risk: The risk principle establishes that higher risk sentenced offenders are most in need of offender programs, and offenders assessed as low risk are least likely to benefit from, and least likely to require, interventions. CSNSW prioritise higher risk offenders for treatment, based on their earliest possible release date. This is to ensure resources are focused on high risk offenders who could pose a risk to the community on their release.

Need: The needs principle indicates that the content of programs should be based on the dynamic (or changeable) risk factors for re-offending (referred to as "criminogenic needs").

Responsivity: The responsivity principle then determines how treatment/programs should be delivered. This principle establishes that how we deliver behaviour change intervention is tailored to each participant's learning style, motivation, abilities, and strengths, to ensure each participant has the optimal circumstances to learn and benefit from the program.

How are offenders assessed for programs?

In 2013, CSNSW established a Compendium of Accredited Assessments for offenders, which ensures that all assessments conducted are evidence-based, systematic, cost-effective and relevant to the division's goals.

Community Assessments: Offenders are assessed using the Level of Service Inventory - Revised (LSIR). This tool measures the likelihood of general re-offending and underlying criminogenic needs which require treatment.

Custody Assessments: Offenders are assessed using the Triage Risk Assessment Scale (TRAS). This assessment provides a reliable estimate of an offender's risk of reimprisonment.

Other assessment tools include:

- Sex offender and violent offender specific risk assessments
- General Assessments (e.g. drug & alcohol issues, disabilities, mental health)
- Treatment Readiness Questionnaire (TRQ)

Intervention Pathways

In 2020, CSNSW established the Intervention Pathways model which aims to increase treatment for higher risk inmates through:

- Increasing efficiency in determining inmate's eligibility for custody-based programs.
- Increasing the focus of case plans on achieving adequate program treatment.
- Prioritising resources and program delivery to offenders of high risk of reoffending.
- Increasing programs and resources targeted towards short sentence offenders.

Although addressing the offending behaviours which contribute to re-offending is the most legitimate target for programs, CSNSW also recognises that the health, well-being and basic human needs of offenders must be addressed to ensure their humane management, and to support their successful reintegration back into the community. These are also aspects included in the Intervention Pathway identified for an offender while in custody.

What programs are available to offenders?

CSNSW uses a compendium of 30 accredited and/or approved programs for offenders, which are designed to address specific criminogenic behaviours and the risk factors for re-offending, or support well-being.

The CSNSW Compendium of Behaviour Change Programs encompasses programs targeted at various offender groups such as: those with short sentences, violent offenders, sex offenders, violent extremism, driving, and general offending.

How is our program content organised?

CSNSW programs are multi-modal involving:

- Cognitive-Behaviour Therapy to challenge thinking
- Behavioural strategies to reduce physiological arousal
- Role modelling of appropriate pro-social behaviour
- Rehearsing new skills through role plays and practice outside the group room.

The programs build on each other to increase program dosage by using the same language and concepts. They are intentionally designed to encourage repetition and practice of similar concepts and skills. Empirical evidence suggests deliberate practice of new skills is necessary to maintain behavioural change.

Most of the programs were designed without a lot of reading or writing, or written homework. This is also why the ideas of repetition and practice are important, along with the experiential exercises.

How many people are provided programs per year?

In custody, it is anticipated that across each of the approved programs CSNSW will provide interventions to approximately 3000 higher risk offenders each year.

Rehabilitation & Reoffending Target 2021/2022	
Number of inmates completing non-residential criminogenic programs	378
Number of inmates completing Programs for Short Sentenced Inmates	2028
Number of inmates completing the residential Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program	94
Number of inmates completing residential Sex Offending Programs (SOP)	138
Number of inmates completing the residential Violent Offender Therapeutic Programs (VOTP)	98
Number of inmates completing the Young Adult Offender Program (YAOP)	81
Total number of inmates completing CSNSW Criminogenic Programs	2817

In line with RNR principles, CSNSW prioritise resources for offenders in the community to those with the highest needs related to their offending.

In the community, offenders have access to a range of other government and non-government services which are resourced to meet other needs. CSNSW delivers the EQUIPS suite of programs to eligible offenders in the community. These programs are run face-to-face in Community Corrections locations or virtually via our online platform LiViT. LiViT allows offenders across the state to engage in programs online where they may not otherwise have access.

Rehabilitation & Reoffending Target 2021/2022	
Number of face-to-face EQUIPS programs delivered in Community	305
Number of LiViT programs delivered in Community	54
Total Number of EQUIPS programs delivered	359

