

New Post-Custodial Support Program

Fact sheet for referrers

New treatment program for people leaving custody who need drug and alcohol support

What is the new program?

NSW Health is funding several organisations to deliver specialist alcohol and other drug (AOD) case management, counselling and support services for people exiting custody who are at risk of AOD-related harm. The program aims to connect people to appropriate health and social services to reduce harmful substance use, improve health and wellbeing outcomes, and reduce future contact with the justice system.

PCS will provide intensive and comprehensive treatment and support for people leaving custody who have a history or a risk of harmful drug and alcohol use. Assessment and care planning will begin up to 3 months before the person's release from custody and continue for up to 12 months post-release.

How does the program work?

PCS program staff will meet with the person needing support while they are in custody, assess their needs and develop a care plan for implementation on release. In most cases, contact will be in person, but phone and audio-visual link ups will also occur. The PCS worker will provide treatment and support to the person after release, including helping them access AOD counselling, residential rehab and other health and community services.

The organisations and their catchment areas are set out in the table on the next page.

What kind of support does it give?

PCS provides integrated case management for people with harmful use of drugs and alcohol. It will identify treatment and support needs relating to drug and alcohol use as well as other health and wellbeing issues. These include medical issues, mental health, accessing employment or Centrelink and making community connections. The types of case management support can include:

- individual and group AOD counselling
- peer support from someone with lived experience of drugs and alcohol
- assistance with getting Centrelink or other government services
- help getting connected with a GP and other health specialists, like a dentist or a mental health counsellor.

Planning care is done together with the client and, if they wish, family, partners or a friend. The individual will identify their own substance use goals, which may include abstinence, reduction in use or harm reduction, subject to any parole conditions.

How to access the program

To make a referral complete the online form at www.health.nsw.gov.au/postcustodialsupport or via the QR code, or you can contact the service directly. If the individual is in custody, they can ask the health clinic drug and alcohol team or Corrective Services NSW staff to help them make the referral using the webpage or by phone. You must have the individual's consent to make the referral and to share their information with the PCS service provider.

Geographic area	Service provider contact
Mid North Coast and Northern NSW	The Buttery Ph: (02) 6687 1111, Email: intake@buttery.org.au
The Hunter Valley	Odyssey House & Drug and Alcohol Health Services Inc. (DAAHS) Ph: (02) 6543 2677 Email: pcsadmin@daahs.org.au
Central West (Dubbo region)	Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) Ph: (02) 68459310 Email: PCS@wachs.net.au
Riverina (Wagga Wagga region)	Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) Ph: (02) 6923 5200 Email: wellbeingintake@rivmed.org.au
Southern NSW Murrumbidgee	Directions Health Ph: (02) 6132 4800 Email: postcustodial@directionshealth.com



Scan the QR code to go directly to the online referral webpage or visit
www.health.nsw.gov.au/postcustodialsupport

Similar programs in other areas

For people leaving custody who plan to live outside these areas, drug and alcohol support may be available from Justice Health's Connections program and other similar programs – see table below. People who are still in custody can be referred by Corrective Services NSW staff or by the health care team at the clinic. For any queries about these supports, please contact the local service directly.

Other services for people exiting custody with needing drug and alcohol treatment and support	
<p>Waminda Aboriginal women returning to Nowra area Ph: (02) 4421 7400 Email: Intake2@waminda.org.au</p> <p>Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) Shellharbour area, opening mid 2024 Ph: TBC Email: TBC</p> <p>Odyssey House Statewide for people from culturally & linguistically diverse backgrounds Ph: (02) 8706 0150 Web: www.odysseyhouse.com.au Email: multicultural@odysseyhouse.com.au</p>	<p>CRC (Community Restorative Centre) Adults: Inner city, Inner West, Western, or South West Sydney, Young people under 24 years Greater Sydney Web: www.crcnsw.org.au/services/alcohol-and-other-drugs-support/ Ph: (02) 9288 8700 Email (adults): aod.transition@crcnsw.org.au Email (young people): pathwayshome@crcnsw.org.au</p> <p>Connections Program (Justice Health) Statewide for people exiting public correctional centres (excludes Parklea, Clarence and Junee) Email: jhfmhn-connectionsprogram@health.nsw.gov.au</p>

The Post Custodial Support program is funded by NSW Health as part of the NSW Government response to the Ice Inquiry.