

Community Corrections – Order Types and Information

Managing offenders in the community

Community Corrections aims to reduce the impact of crime on the community by managing offenders on community-based orders and being a decisive influence on sentencing.

Community Corrections provides pre- and post-sentence assessments and advice to courts and releasing authorities, as well assistance with engaging in a range of community-based interventions. Interventions for offenders take account of community protection, compliance by offenders with Court Orders, restitution to the community, and the personal and developmental needs of offenders in addressing their offending behaviour.

Community-based orders

There are a range of community-based court orders that can be imposed on an offender. Community supervision contributes to the community's safety by imposing a penalty within a framework of constructive offender case management.

Community Corrections Officers develop a case management plan for individual offenders in the community, which is based on an objective risk assessment.

Supervision in the community incorporates a range of intervention strategies, requiring regular contact with the offender, both at an office and in the offender's home, as well as communication with significant people in the offender's life and other checks to monitor compliance with conditions of the court order.

Casework intervention may also involve offenders participating in programs targeting their offending behaviour. In addition, Community Corrections Officers actively engage with the wider community to link offenders to appropriate services and support in the community.

Types of community Based Orders

- Conditional Release Orders (CRO)

Courts can impose Conditional Release Orders (CRO) for first-time and less serious offences. CROs can be imposed for a period of up to two years. The CRO can be with or without conviction and supervision and is seen as a way to allow less serious offenders to divert from the criminal justice system.

Courts can impose conditions on a CRO when appropriate, related to drug and alcohol abstinence, programs, non-associations, and place restrictions. In addition, courts can impose a conviction on a CRO if they consider it appropriate.

- Community Corrections Orders (CCO)

Community Correction Orders (CCO) are imposed on offenders for crimes that do not warrant imprisonment. CCOs can be imposed for a period of up to three years.

The benefit of CCOs is that they are flexible sentences. The court can select from a range of conditions, such as supervision by Community Corrections Officers, and community service work (up to 500 hours). Breaches are referred to the local court.

- **Intensive Correction Orders (ICO)**

An Intensive Correction Order (ICO) is a custodial sentence of up to two years that the court decides can be served in the community. Supervision is mandatory on an ICO.

Courts can add conditions to an ICO such as home detention, electronic monitoring, curfews, community service work (up to 750 hours), alcohol/drug bans, place restrictions, or non-association requirements.

When appropriate and at the discretion of Community Corrections, breaches are referred to the State Parole Authority (SPA) and an offender may be required to serve the remainder of their sentence in custody.

- **Community Service Work**

Community service work allows offenders to repay the community for their crimes through unpaid work. An offender can be sentenced to perform community service work by a court as part of an Intensive Correction Order or a Community Correction Order.

Community service work can include a range of tasks, from the maintenance of public spaces to preparing meals for community events. Work can be ongoing, seasonal, or one-off and cannot replace the work of paid employees.

Community Corrections has partnerships with community organisations to provide community service work opportunities for offenders. These organisations are known as 'community service work partners' and benefit from accessing labour for work that would otherwise be unable to be completed.

- **Parole**

A parole order is imposed when an offender is released from custody and will serve the balance of their sentence in the community.

The purpose of parole is to supervise and support the reintegration of offenders before the end of their total sentence, while providing a continuing measure of protection to the community.

Parole does not mean that offenders are 'free' without supervision. Whilst on parole, the offender is still considered to be serving a sentence in the community and must comply with the conditions of their parole order.

When appropriate and at the discretion of Community Corrections, breaches are referred to the State Parole Authority (SPA) and an offender may be required to serve the remainder of their sentence in custody.

Reports

Judges and magistrates frequently require verified information about an offender to assist in determining an appropriate sentence. Legislation requires that sentencers consider assessments by Community Corrections Officers before they can impose certain sentences. These reports contain verified information regarding the offender's background, education and employment, an assessment of the issues contributing to the offending behaviour and pertinent information relevant to sentencing. Reports include an appraisal of the offender's suitability for a range of community-based sentencing options.