

Community Corrections working with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

Factsheet

Corrective Services NSW

Corrective Services NSW runs the state's correctional centres, supervises people on community-based orders and delivers programs to reduce reoffending, support reintegration, make the community safer and enable people to change their lives for the better.

Community Corrections

Community Corrections is part of Corrective Services NSW and works to promote the safe and effective rehabilitation and reintegration of people subject to a court order. It employs approximately 1,800 staff who work in more than 60 Community Correction office locations state-wide.

There are approximately 36,000 people on community-based orders at any given time. Community Corrections also provides advice and assessments to courts and releasing authorities to assist in their decision making.

What does supervision in the community look like?

When a person is sentenced to a supervised community based order, they are allocated a Community Corrections Officer (CCO) to work with them for the length of their order.

This involves the CCO engaging the person:

- in supervision interviews focused on positively influencing their behaviour, strengthening their pro-social identity and supporting them to achieve sense of belonging
- to develop a case plan that addresses their needs and goals using a strengths-based approach to empower them to lead a more pro-social lifestyle, and
- to complete programs and counselling to address their behaviour and assist with improving other areas of their life.

The aim of community based supervision is to help a person live a pro-social and productive life beyond their period of supervision.

How Community Corrections works with non-government organisations (NGOs) to support people on community-based orders

Community Corrections engages with NGOs to help deliver holistic and coordinated support to people on community-based orders as Community Corrections has limited resources to assist with all the needs a person may have. NGOs play an important role when working with Community Corrections by helping CCOs with restoring a person's dignity, promoting their self-determination and enabling their reintegration into the community to improve outcomes for people on supervision and the community.



CCOs refer people on supervision to NGOs to:

- complete programs and counselling to address their offending behaviour, including risk factors such as untreated mental health or drug and alcohol misuse/dependency
- get help in other areas of their life, such as employment, education, or cultural support
- provide housing support if the person is experiencing homelessness so they have a more stable environment
- get immediate assistance with clothing, food or financial support.

Community Corrections working with NGOs in practice

Meet Chris.

Chris was supervised by Community Corrections as part of his parole order.

Chris experienced a period of homelessness which severely impacted on his mental health. Chris disengaged from Community Corrections and committed further offences. Chris was sentenced to a further term of imprisonment.

When Chris was released to serve the rest of his parole order, his CCO referred him to local NGOs for housing support and mental health treatment.

After finding stable housing and treating his mental health, Chris completed the rest of his parole order and even found a job. Three years later, Chris has not been charged with any new offences and has maintained his housing and employment.

Community Corrections working with NGOs was vital to ensure Chris received the holistic support he needed to get his life back on track.

Community Corrections working with NGOs in practice

Meet Jenny.

Jenny works at an NGO that provides free drug and alcohol counselling.

Through her work, Jenny has helped many people referred to her by Community Corrections.

Jenny frequently speaks with CCOs to provide updates on how the people referred to her are progressing, including any concerns CCOs should be aware of.

This helps both stakeholders when working with people to ensure they are getting the support they need.

Community Corrections benefits from information sharing with NGOs to ensure the people on supervision are getting tailored assistance.



Are you an NGO and interested in working with Community Corrections?

Reach out to your local Community Corrections office by scanning or clicking the QR code, or go to:
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/nswgovdirectory/community-corrections-offices-probation-and-parole>

