



Throughcare: Supporting Offender Rehabilitation and Reintegration

What is Throughcare?

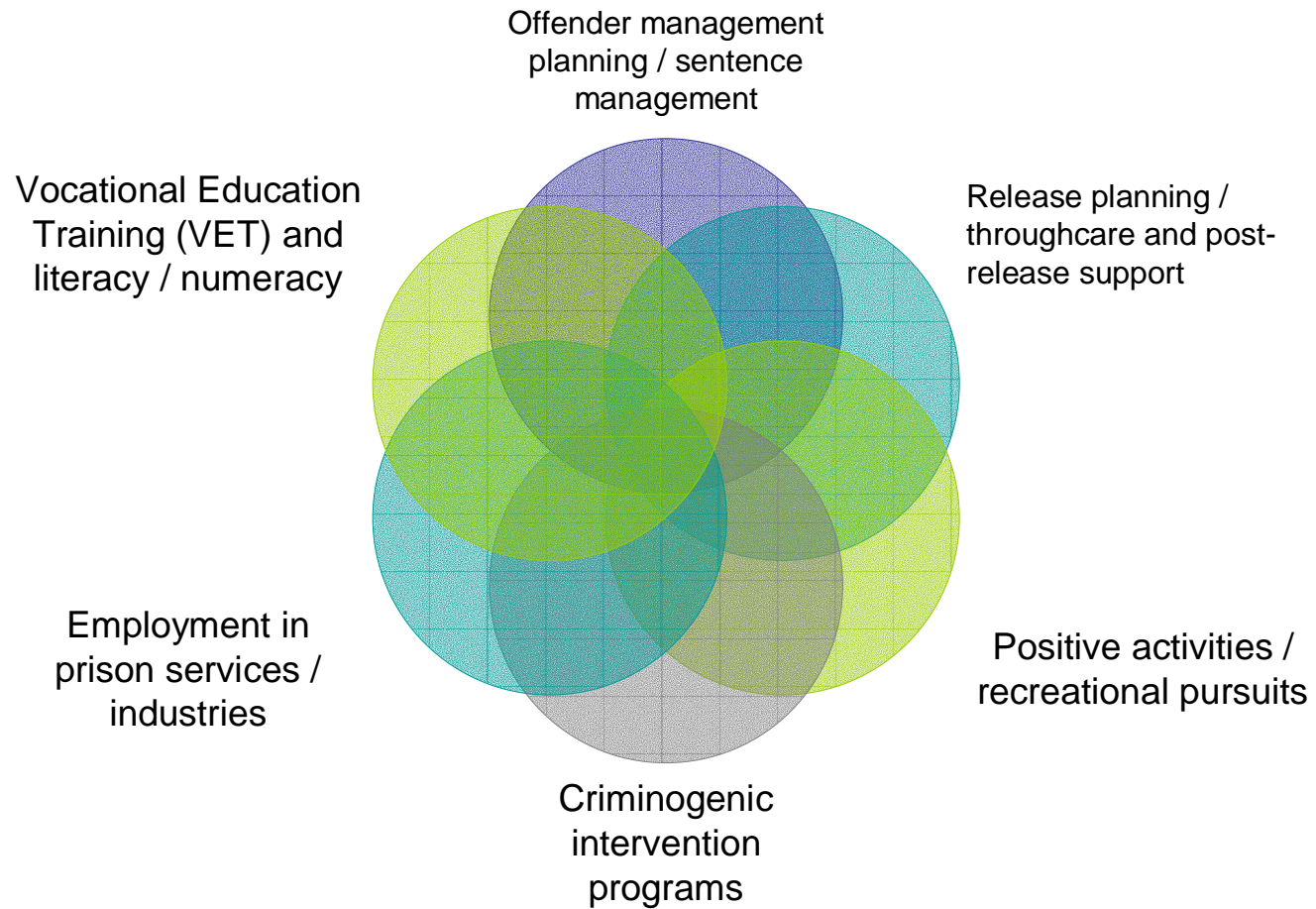
Throughcare aims to support an offender's continuing rehabilitation from their initial reception into custody, throughout their custodial sentence, during the critical transition from custody to community and in the community after correctional supervision ceases.

Features of Throughcare

- Key agency focus
- Goal is to reduce likelihood of re-offending
- A continuum from custody into the community
- An integrated whole-of-sentence approach.
- Principle guides all offender activities – from employment in prison industries to participation in criminogenic intervention programs
- Addresses the identified rehabilitation needs of individual offenders.



Throughcare. Integrated Offender Management



Snapshot of Population

- In Queensland in 2005-06:
 - Average daily prisoner population was 5,449 in 17 correctional facilities.
 - 4,628 in high security custodial centres and 821 in low security facilities.
 - Average of 12,000 offenders on post-prison community-based release orders or community based orders.
 - 1 in 14 prisoners were female
 - Over 1 in 4 prisoners identified as Indigenous.
 - Approximately one fifth of all prisoners in Queensland (22.2%) were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation).

Snapshot of Need

- **Low level of educational attainment**
 - QCS study found less than 3% of offenders had post-secondary qualifications
 - 78% report Yr 10 or less as highest educational grade attained (Most common is Yr 9)
 - Callan and Gardner (2005) reviewed provision of VET to offenders in Qld = can reduce likelihood of re-offending by up to 24%.
- **Homelessness**
 - Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (2003) found
 - 18% of their sample of 350 offenders homeless prior to incarceration
 - 28% of sample homeless post-release
 - Vs only 1% of Australian population homeless
 - UK research = homeless offenders 3 x more likely to re-offend
 - US found that ¼ of homeless population had been in jail at some time.
 - Critical to looking beyond “survival mode.”

Snapshot of Need

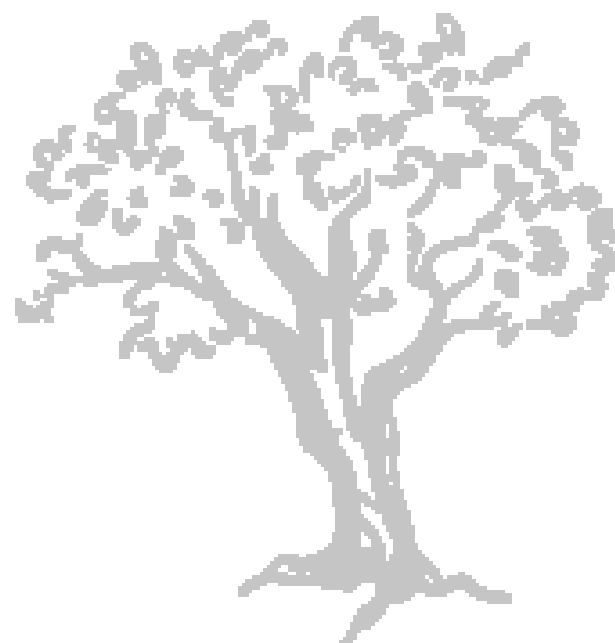
- **“Revolving door” of prison**
 - 60% been to jail before
 - 77% of Indigenous offenders
- **Substance abuse**
 - 75 – 80% with history of substance abuse
 - DUCO study (2003) reports 65% of offenders were under the influence at time of committing most serious offence
 - Kinner’s 2006 PREP-Q study found recidivists 3 x more likely to have a history of injecting drug use.
- **Unemployment**
 - Between 2/3 and ¾ of offenders unemployed at time of commission of offence
 - Australian study found that 9 months after release, only 8% of offenders who gained employment had re-offended vs 54% of those unemployed (Baldry et al, 2003)
 - Many offenders have no employment experience and a lack of marketable job skills.

Snapshot of Need

- **High mental health needs**
 - 61% of female inmates have had treatment for an emotional or mental illness in their lifetime;
 - depression and anxiety prevalent amongst offender population;
 - 6% of female inmates have schizophrenia;
 - 20% of male inmates and 33% of female inmates have attempted suicide;
 - 10% of males and 20% of females have self-harmed;
 - sexual abuse before age 16 is common (particularly female inmates)
 - high levels of dual diagnosis (mental illness plus substance abuse) and triple diagnosis (mental health, substance abuse and physical health issue)



Transitions



Integrated Transitional Support Model

2 components:

1. Transitions Release Preparation Program

- Assessed as higher risk / higher need
- 16+ RoR and all Sexual offenders and Serious Violent Offenders
- Due for release / eligible for parole within next 6 months

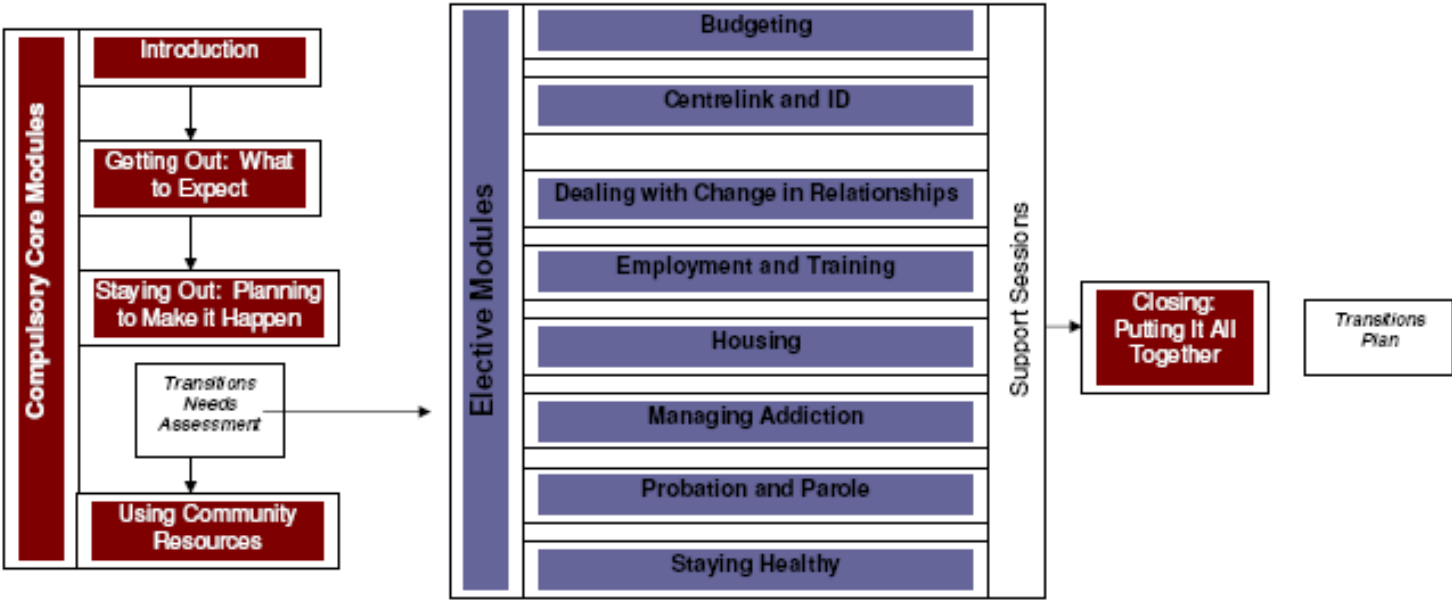
2. Transitional Support Service

- All other offenders, including short sentences
- Condensed needs assessment and referral process
- Due for release / eligible for parole within next 6 months

Transitions Program

- 5 compulsory core modules
 - Realistic expectations
 - Normalising fears and anxieties
 - Goal setting and planning
- 8 elective modules
 - Participation based on individual needs assessment
 - Delivered by relevant NGOs with specialist knowledge / experience
 - Employment and Training module delivered by Advance 2 Work providers
- Rolling support sessions
 - Informal “get-together” sessions
 - Review and consolidate learning
 - Provide individualised assistance as required (e.g. offenders with low levels of functional literacy).

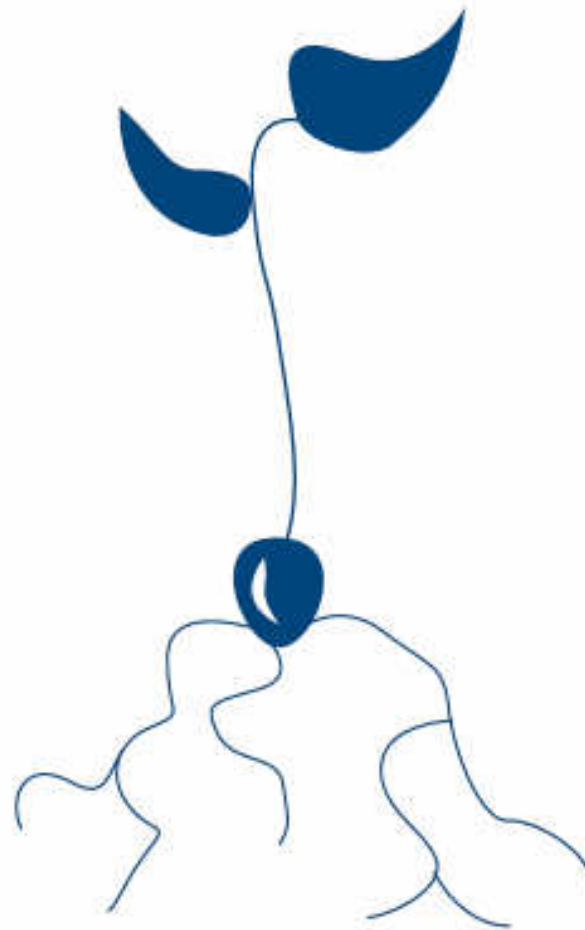
TRANSITIONS PROGRAM MAP



Transitions Program

- Through-care linkages for offenders
- “Face to a name” = more likely to access services post-release
- Revised facilitator manual with specific content and resources for female offenders and Indigenous offenders.
- Key outcome = personal Transitions Plan, detailing reintegration goals, action plans and supports.
- 1500 offenders participated in program / support service between July 2007 and January 2008 (5 months ahead of target!) .

Offender Reintegration Support Service



Background

- External Services Review Project
- Extensive consultation with key stakeholders:
 - Identified lack of consistent service provision
 - Largely historically based “grants” process
 - Limited accountability
 - Not necessarily reflective of current needs

Background

- Snapshot of Need:
 - While Transitions helps plan for release, no formalised through-care linkages.
 - High rates of institutionalisation
 - Learned helplessness
 - Lack of experience accessing “help”
- What Works?
 - Consultation with other jurisdictions (e.g. Victoria, NZ, WA)
 - Extensive international literature review
 - **Through-care can reduce re-offending by between 15 – 20%.**



Principles of ORSS

- Through-care service provision
- Importance of relationship between released offender and NGO case worker
- Supports criminogenic intervention programs delivered in custody / commitment to crime-free life by supporting successful re-settlement in the community
- Strengths-based, empowerment model – “helping offenders to help themselves”
- Service brokerage model
- Encouraging self sufficiency
- Offender-centred model and partnership model between offender, QCS and service provider
- Needs based resource allocation
- Pro-social mentoring / support

Region	Centre	Provider
Far Nth Qld	Lotus Glen	Families and Prisoners Support Group
Nth Qld	Townsville	North Qld Prisoners Aid Society
Central	Capricornia	Career Employment Australia (CEA)
Wide Bay	Maryborough	CEA
SE Qld	Woodford, Wolston, Borallon, Bris Womens', Darling Downs	CEA
HIGH NEEDS SE Qld	Bris Womens' Wolston, Borallon, Woodford	CEA Catholic Prison Ministry

5 Phases of ORSS

1. Referral to the Service Provider by the Transitions Coordinator.
1. In custody prior to release.
1. At the time of release.
1. In the community after release.
5. Closure of provision of Offender Reintegration Support Service.

Categories of Support

- Alcohol Service / Support Group
- Budgeting
- Banking
- Centrelink
- Child Support Agency
- Drug Service / Support Group
- Employment
- EOI Documentation
- Financial assistance
- Furniture / household items

Categories of Support

- Gambling Service / Support group
- Health Service / Support Group
- Housing
- Independent Living Skills
- Mental health service / support group
- Parenting
- Probation and Parole
- Recreation / Leisure
- Relationships / Counselling
- Training and Education
- Transport
- **Other**

Intended Outcomes of ORSS

- Improved reintegration / re-settlement in the community after release.
- Offender receives assistance to address identified needs.
- Ultimately, reduced re-offending rates.
- Total number of offenders referred to program since it commenced in August 2008: 292

Good News Story

- **An offender named B was identified by the Woodford Transition Officer on the 17-1-08 as a suitable client for the ORSS Program.**
- **B is a 33 yr old male who has been incarcerated a number of times over the years due to drug use which has led to numerous break and enters to support his drug habit.**
- **Growing up B did not have any family supports. He never knew his father and his mother placed him at the age of 9 in a boy's home.**



Good News Story

- **Both B's parents are now deceased. B has a sister in Melbourne, a brother in Adelaide both of whom he has never met and another sister in Brisbane who at this time does not want contact with him. B's only supports have been his friends that he would use with.**
- **B did not get a good education and he has poor social skills.**

Good News Story

- **ORSS case manager met with B on the 11-2-08. The needs that B had identified in his reintegration diary were transport on release, accommodation, employment, probation and parole, ID, financial assistance, employment, drug counselling and to retrace family. B's release date was the 5-3-08 on court ordered parole.**
- **After meeting with B the first priority was to find him accommodation. ORSS case manager approached Better Housing projects and managed to secure B a room in one of their boarding houses. He was referred to A2W for employment and information was gathered on drug counseling, financial assistance and a family tracing service was found.**



Good News Story

- **On his day of release B was met at Woodford by the ORSS case manager and transported to Centrelink for his crisis payment, the Dept of Housing to secure a bond loan for his accommodation, probation and parole to report and finally to his new home.**
- **Overall a very successful but long day. B was extremely grateful for the support he received and said he would not have been able to get to these appointments and find accommodation by himself.**
- **The following day the case manager met with B and supported him to apply for an 18+ card, open a new bank account and then took him shopping for groceries and clothes.**



Good News Story

- **Since B's release he has been able to maintain his accommodation, has remained drug free, is attending probation and parole appointments, has had a meeting with A2W for employment and spends his day working out at the local PCYC.**
- **The ORSS case manager will continue to support B over the next couple of months and provide ongoing assistance if requested by B.**

Throughcare and External Services Unit

What do We Do?

- Manage the delivery of funded services for the Agency (ORSS, Visitor Transport, Chaplaincy and Indigenous Services)
- Stakeholder Liaison Officer (Regional stakeholder meetings, handles stakeholder queries, organises interstate / international delegations).
- Coordinate the Integrated Transitional Support Model – Transitions Program and Transitional Support Service (staff training and support)
- Coordinate and oversee strategic partnerships with external agencies to support throughcare (e.g. Relationships Australia, Teen Challenge etc)
- Undertake strategic projects to enhance throughcare (e.g. Offender ID project, Indigenous Service Delivery review)