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Continual Care after Release : Reintegration Journey Of The Ex-Offenders

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editor's note



Over the past decade, interest in the issue of aftercare for offenders has grown tremendously. Jurisdictions from around the world have sought new ways to reintegrate offenders being released from prisons into their communities while ensuring public safety. In this edition, members shared their reintegration efforts for offenders with the aim of rebuilding their lives, preventing reoffending and reducing recidivism.

Queensland has implemented a series of re-entry services to prepare offenders to cope with post-release stress that may lead to reoffending. To encourage offenders to lead law-abiding lives after release, Hong Kong launched an innovative

community engagement initiative that helps them find new social circles of friends through participation in wholesome activities and hobby groups.

The Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS) was implemented to complement Singapore's existing drug-free strategies by mandating aftercare interventions and supervision for offenders with drug offences or antecedents to reduce reoffending. Alcohol and drugs are often contributing factors in a variety of offences. Recognising this, New South Wales introduced an Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programme based on a specialised therapeutic approach to treat drug and alcohol dependence, and offending behaviour.

Reintegration remains a challenging task that all released inmates have to face. Malaysia uses its outreach programmes extensively through community leaders to promote acceptance for ex-offenders. Macau partnered with local companies in their pre-release inmate employment scheme to help inmates find jobs before their release. South Australia introduced the Interim Home Detention Integrated Support Services Program (IHISSP) which provides individualised support services for offenders on Home Detention based on identified needs.

I am encouraged to read about these targeted efforts in support of offenders' reintegration and would like to thank the APCCA members who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. It is certainly my honour and pleasure to be a part of this venture. I hope that members would continue to contribute at this platform for knowledge sharing and advance correctional practices to the next level.

Desmond Chin
Singapore Prison Service



Re-entry Services

Contributed by Queensland Corrective Services

Re-entry into the community following a period of incarceration is typically a stressful transition. Released prisoners face the task of attempting to secure housing and employment, to re-establish connections with family and friends, often in combination with coping with substance use problems and mental health disorders. The same factors that increase the post-release stress of former prisoners may also contribute to their risk of reoffending and re-incarceration.

In 2015, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) initiated several projects including a specialised women's re-entry service in South-East Queensland, to develop and implement new re-entry services aimed at reducing re-offending. The specialised women's re-entry program was developed utilising a 'co-design' framework, fostering a consultative approach through the engagement of staff and prisoners, as well as external government and non-government stakeholders.

QCS' new re-entry services assist prisoners to desist from re-offending, to succeed on parole and remain out of custody for as long as possible. These services are about helping people who have served their time to stay out of prison after their release.

Queensland commenced rolling out the

suite of re-entry services from July 2016 including:

- Community Re-entry Service Teams (CREST) Re-entry Services – all male correctional centres in Queensland, excluding Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, and the Townsville Women's Correctional Centre.
- MARA Re-entry Service – Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, Numinbah Correctional Centre and Helena Jones Correctional Centre.
- Borallon Training and Correctional Centre – separate integrated centre based re-entry program.

CREST

The CREST re-entry services have a number of streams including:

- In-Prison Information and Referral Service for all prisoners approaching release;
- Post Release Case Managed Stream for prisoners assessed as high risk; and
- Crisis Support for offenders released to parole (first six months after released).

The service also advocates via "Embedded Workers" within a range of other non-government organisations, for the provision of service and access to services such as alcohol and drug services, housing and domestic violence support through other partner organisations.

The In-Prison Information and Referral Service provider assist prisoners with information on services in the area they are returning to or can assist with making referrals for prisoners to take up upon release, e.g. setting up GP appointments upon release, completing housing applications, assisting with securing accommodation. This stream does not provide case management and is designed to empower prisoners to complete tasks for themselves.

The Post Release Case Managed Service ensures assessments are completed for eligible prisoners prior to release with a view that every prisoner is released with a re-entry plan addressing identified needs. Once released, offenders in this stream receive three months post-release support from the service provider. The services are provided as an adjunct support to Probation and Parole and do not replace normal case management processes.

The Crisis Support Service component of CREST is particularly important for offenders being managed in the community. The service provides acute, time-limited access to services and intervention that are considered will mitigate the risks raised and allow the offender to continue to be managed in the community rather than returned to custody. The crisis support service targets preventable suspensions

such as positive drug or alcohol tests and those at risk of committing a further offence.

MARA

The MARA Re-entry Service for women prisoners in South-East Queensland offers a personal assessment of prisoners re-entry needs and offers support that will best meet those needs. The provider assists prisoners with information on services in the area they are returning to or can assist with making referrals for prisoners to take up upon release. The service is relationship based with workers who will support women post-release assigned to individual women to develop a supportive coaching type relationship which then continues post-release. The service is a Step In and Step Out model where women can access support and come back into the service at any time post-release as they desire.

The services also advocates via "Embedded Workers" within a range of other non-government organisations, for the provision of service and access to services such as alcohol and drug services, housing and domestic violence support through other partner organisations. There is also a dedicated youth worker (for young women) and a Regional Cultural Steering Committee to inform culturally appropriate and relevant service provision.

While implementation is ongoing, access to re-entry services will be substantially improved under the new model. For example, under the previous model, the monthly target for pre-release support for female prisoners in South-East Queensland (SEQ) was 29. During the first month of activity (October), MARA serviced 65 requests for pre-release support.

Borallon Training and Correctional Centre

The Borallon Training and Correctional Centre (BTCC) opened in April 2016. BTCC accommodates male prisoners, primarily up to 35 years old, and has a focus on 'earning or learning' and provides dedicated education, training and employment opportunities. QCS has partnered with Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Queensland to establish an on-site campus within BTCC. Training courses will develop prisoners' skills to address shortages within current

Queensland labour markets. Work offered within the Centre will ensure prisoners are prepared for employment on release and allow them to build skills relevant to employment opportunities in the community. Addressing these education and employment skill deficiencies will assist in reducing the likelihood of prisoners re-offending.

***B**TCC provides a separate integrated centre based re-entry program and includes open access services and case coordination services.*



Inmates working with service providers in the community.

In 2016, BTCC saw 118 students receive a nationally recognised qualification from TAFE Queensland and South West. Training has commenced in 2017 with 75 new prisoners due to commence in January and February and another 75 prisoners commencing in March/April 2017.

BTCC provides a separate integrated centre based re-entry program and includes open access services and case coordination services. The program enables prisoners to successfully reintegrate into the community by enhancing employment and reintegration options. The program offerings have been selected to target industries that prisoners are likely to enter on release. An employment provider is embedded inside and works with prisoners “through the gate” to provide employment post-release.

To support the new re-entry programs, QCS has implemented a new role, Re-Entry Advisor. The Re-entry Advisor’s role is to identify, evaluate and prescribe strategies to efficiently govern management of risk and

need during transition of offenders between Correctional Centres and Probation and Parole offices. This includes liaising with correctional centres, Probation and Parole staff and external service providers to ensure QCS’ processes and case management of offenders is structured to optimise success on parole, therefore contributing to increased levels of community safety.

A range of community organisations actively work with prisoners returning to the community in a variety of ways. Case management provided by Probation and Parole liaises with a range of locally based services to support offenders in continuing intervention and accessing required services whilst under QCS supervision in the community.

In summary, QCS is dedicated to supporting prisoners to successfully reintegrate back into the community. QCS will continue working with other government departments and non-government organisations to ensure an effective delivery of re-entry services.

The Post Release Case Managed Service ensures assessments are completed for eligible prisoners prior to release with a view that every prisoner is released with a re-entry plan addressing identified needs.





Continual care after Release - 'Positive Energy Map'

Contributed by The Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (CSD)

The Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (CSD) endeavors to provide comprehensive rehabilitation programmes for persons in custody and rehabilitated persons. Currently, we provide thorough rehabilitation programmes to offenders from the time when they are admitted to penal institutions and continuously through their detention till the end of statutory supervision which may be imposed on them. It aims at helping rehabilitated persons rebuild their lives and re-integrate into the society.

Rehabilitated persons, particularly youngsters, are relatively more vulnerable to temptations. To strengthen their capabilities in reintegrating into the society smoothly, rehabilitation programmes are arranged to improve their vocational skills, educational attainments and also abilities to cope with difficulties through training courses, hobby classes and various counseling groups. However, social factor such as peer group influence remains one of the paramount obstacles that needed to be hurdled. According to the statistics on drug addicts admitted to penal institutions in 2016, most of the young drug addicts claimed "Out of curiosity" (62.7%) as the major cause of drug abuse, followed by "Peer influence" (33.9%) while the figures for the adult drug addicts were 69.6% and 26.3% respectively. Obviously, it is essential to help rehabilitated persons to build up a healthy lifestyle so as to break the linkage with their previous dubious peers.

In Hong Kong, there is a wide range of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which provide the public with services like recreational activities, personal development, social services and religious activities. The services are abundant in number, readily available and cover all walks of life. But for rehabilitated persons who are generally less self motivated, it is hard to expect them to take the initiative to approach the NGOs on their own. To facilitate access by rehabilitated persons to the relevant information and assist their supervising officers to make referrals more easily, the CSD has created a databank, namely 'Positive Energy Map', to collect the information of healthy activities provided by NGOs across the territory.



Rehabilitation officers executing statutory supervision on rehabilitated persons

Positive Energy Map

'Positive Energy Map' is a collection of healthy activities being provided by various NGOs. Generally, the information is obtained from three sources including internet web pages, staff members performing supervision visits and NGOs providing the services. Firstly, specific staff members are assigned to acquire the information from internet web pages of different NGOs. Staff members paying visits to supervisees also call at different NGOs in

to encourage supervisees to join healthy activities at their leisure times. In addition, the supervising staff will personally accompany the supervisees to enroll in the activities as a token of encouragement. Up to the end of 2016, a total of 207 NGOs have provided 980 activities on the Map and 118 supervisees joined this scheme. Among the participants, most of them took part in activities in relation to volunteer work, religions, personal development and interests. As such healthy activities could gradually lead



Collaboration with non-governmental organizations

the same districts to obtain supplementary information. Once suitable services are identified either through internet web pages or supervising staff, a written notice is sent to the relevant NGOs to inform them of the inclusion of their services on the Map and ask them to provide updates from time to time.

For the sake of easy reference, the activities are categorized by district, type and name of organization. All supervising staff are provided with the Map for use as a guidebook

the participants in a positive direction in the senses of attitude, spirit and behaviour, the participants would become more considerate and are more willing to lead a law-abiding life.

A good start is half way to the success. 'Positive Energy Map' helps many rehabilitated persons lead a healthy and law-abiding life. Taking part in healthy activities does not only help rehabilitated persons cultivate a healthy life pattern and establish new social circle but also assist in exploring and developing

their interests and potentials. There have been real life stories of rehabilitated persons having identified their potentials and started their new careers after joining the activities.

Sample Case

Kwan (assumed name) transgressed the law and was admitted to a training centre in early 2013. Upon his discharge in late 2014, he was subject to 3-year statutory supervision. In the initial stage, he showed no initiative to find a job and demonstrated no enthusiasm to reform. Even worse, he reverted into his former unruliness by mingling with his dubious peers again. Chan Wing-man, his supervising officer, noticed the situation and rendered intervention. Through intensive counseling, Kwan recognized his problems of failing to set a goal, establish a healthy habit and a new social circle. After a number of interviews, Kwan indicated that he had a

“ *In the past, discharged inmates seldom made use of their free time to develop healthy hobbies, leaving themselves prone to reconnect with their old friends who might motivate them to reoffend.* ”

Supervising Officer,
Chan

passion for filmmaking but found no way to learn relevant knowledge. Chan then checked



Micro Movie Filmmaking Class held by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG)

In Hong Kong, there is a wide range of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which provide the public with services like recreational activities, personal development, social services and religious activities. The services are abundant in number, readily available and cover all walks of life

with the 'Positive Energy Map' and found that there was a Micro Movie Filmmaking Class run by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) in Kwan's living vicinity. Chan then accompanied Kwan to HKFYG and assisted him to enroll in the course. Having stayed in the course for couples of months, Kwan confirmed his interest. He later pursued further study in the field by enrolling in a full-time course of Higher Diploma in Film and Television at a local tertiary education institute. Kwan's story was encouraging as it really brought about a great change for Kwan not only in attitude but also in behaviour. Kwan realized where his interests lied and believed that he had control over his own life. Now, Kwan has completely stayed away from his previous peers. He whole-heartedly engaged in micro movie making. Recently, HKFYG even invited Kwan to assist in screenwriting, filming and pre/post-production of micro movies about youth problems. Kwan said, "Thanks to Officer Chan for assisting me to realize my interest in filmmaking. This whole experience has completely changed my life. Without his referral, I would have never known that there are organizations providing courses such as micro movie filmmaking classes in the community, and I would not become a student of professional filmmaking. Currently, I met a group of new friends who share my passion. I can feel the support from the society and I am confident about my future."

Supervising officer Chan pointed out that, "In the past, discharged inmates seldom made use of their free time to develop healthy hobbies, leaving themselves prone to reconnect with their old friends who might motivate them to reoffend. In Kwan's case, he recognized his interests and successfully expanded his social circle through partaking in community activities listed in the 'Positive Energy Map'. Now, he has made friends with who helped him find new direction of life and established a positive attitude. His inspiring story is ample proof of the importance of positive peer group influence."

Looking Ahead

The CSD believes that, apart from provision of safe custody and appropriate rehabilitation programs, community support and effective use of resources provided by NGOs could strengthen rehabilitated persons' determination in getting on a right path and extending their full potentials. In this connection, active engagement of different stakeholders in the community is a crucial element in successful offender rehabilitation. In the future, the CSD will continue to enrich the 'Positive Energy Map' and work with a wider range of NGOs in order to engage more stakeholders of our society in working together for a safer and more inclusive society.



Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS)

Contributed by Singapore Prison Service

Following the amendment of Prisons Act in early 2014, Singapore introduced the Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS) in July 2014 as a means to complement the existing strategy to deal with the drug situation in Singapore, by mandating aftercare interventions and supervision for offenders with drug offences or antecedents. In addition, aligned to the overall objective to enhance public safety, it is also intended to keep serious crime offenders at bay and under close supervision so as to mitigate any imminent threats to public safety.

- Offenders detained under the President's pleasure; and
- Offenders released after serving at least 20 years of their imprisonment terms (but before the 2/3 point of sentence).

Structure

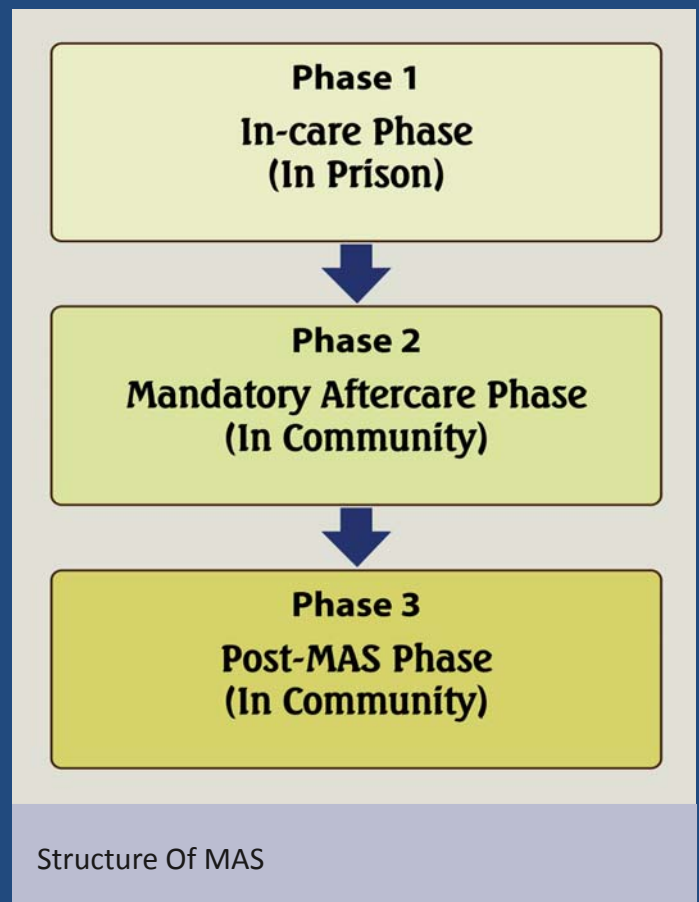
The MAS comprises an in-care, a mandatory aftercare phase and a post mandatory aftercare phase.

Target Group

MAS is a structured aftercare regime that provides enhanced community support, counselling and case management with supervision for a selected group of ex-offenders at risk of re-offending and those who require more support in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The following categories of offenders will be placed on MAS upon their release from prisons:

- Offenders imprisoned for drug offences;
- Offenders imprisoned for property offences and have drug antecedents;
- Offenders imprisoned for serious crimes;
- Offenders with sentence length of more than 15 years;
- Offenders sentenced to life imprisonment;



Incare Phase

Offenders with sufficient sentence length will be provided with relevant programmes, such as employability skills training, psychology-based correctional programmes and reintegration programmes, to mitigate their risks and address their criminogenic and reintegration needs.

Mandatory Aftercare Phase

The mandatory aftercare phase will be carried out in the community, during the last one-third portion of the offenders' sentences, generally up to 2 years. There are two significant components in this phase:

Counselling and case management

Our Correctional Rehabilitation Specialists will employ intervention strategies to assist MAS ex-offenders in targeting their criminogenic and reintegration needs. Counselling sessions are conducted to reinforce what was taught in the incare programmes and to guide the



Case Management in the community

MAS ex-offenders to apply these skills on situations that they face in the community.

Our Conditional Rehabilitation Specialists will also work with the MAS ex-offenders in realising their individual reintegration plans, as well as coordinate with relevant stakeholders and community partners for referrals, family and social support.

Employment and training-related activities

Work or training-related activities are strongly encouraged during the mandatory aftercare phase. The Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) will assist the MAS ex-offenders in securing employment or these ex-offenders can also attend training-related activities arranged by community partners.

The mandatory aftercare phase is further divided into the following sub-phases.

Halfway-House Phase

Residency at Selarang Halfway House (SHWH) is compulsory for MAS ex-offenders who are assessed to be of higher risk of re-offending and those who require more support for their rehabilitation and reintegration. The SHWH is a transitional residential facility which provides a safe and supportive environment that adopts differentiated management of these ex-offenders based on their risks and needs, and ensures continuity of care to facilitate their reintegration into society.

During this phase, the MAS ex-offenders are required to abide by house rules and are also required to undergo counselling, case management, curfew and urine reporting. They may be subject to electronic monitoring to track their movement.

MAS is a structured aftercare regime that provides enhanced community support, counselling and case management with supervision for a selected group of ex-offenders at risk of re-offending

Home Supervision Phase

If the MAS ex-offenders perform well during the halfway house phase, they will then progress onto the Home Supervision phase. While they are allowed to reside in their homes during this phase, daily curfew hours have to be observed and they will be subject to electronic monitoring. Other conditions such as counselling, case management and urine reporting for those with drug antecedents may still continue.

Community Reintegration Phase

After completing the home supervision phase, the MAS ex-offenders will progress to the Community Reintegration phase. No curfews are imposed at this phase, but

other conditions such as counselling, case management and urine reporting for those with drug antecedents may still continue.

Post Mandatory Aftercare Phase

For MAS ex-offenders who still have remaining conditional remission period after completion of their MAS, they will be subject to the basic condition of not re-offending.

MAS, as a compulsory post-release aftercare regime, will augment SPS's current efforts to reduce re-offending, improve rehabilitation and reintegration, and better protect society through close supervision of these ex-offenders as well as supporting them in their rehabilitation journey in the form of counselling and case management.



An illustration of MAS Ex-offender with electronic monitoring device



Facilities in Selarang Halfway House



Rethinking Offender Management

Contributed by Corrective Services, New South Wales, Australia

One of the most significant challenges faced by offenders is maintaining a crime-free lifestyle. Research from around the world suggests that interventions focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration are the most effective way of reducing reoffending. The NSW Government recently announced a \$237 million package over the next four years to reduce reoffending by five per cent.

In NSW, 37 per cent of offenders exiting prison and 17 per cent of offenders on community based orders are reconvicted of a new offence within 12 months of release. Group Director of Offender Services and Programs Jayson Ware says that in 2017 more time will be spent planning for inmate release from the time they enter custody. The new plan will provide more rehabilitation programs and enhanced supervision - the aim being to focus on the critical periods directly before and after release.

Commissioner of CSNSW, Peter Severin says "the new reducing reoffending package will create around 345 jobs and includes funding for external providers and individuals to deliver programs and post-release support."

One initiative is aimed at shorter-term offenders who have the highest reoffending rates of all. Often, they can't access programs due to the short length of their sentences and program timing not being compatible. Once identified, these inmates will be fast tracked into high-intensity rehabilitation units where they will participate in intensive programs and services. An enhanced release planning process will be implemented to ensure they have the most appropriate support in place before they leave prison.

Addressing domestic violence (DV) is another important priority. The high reoffence rates of crimes such as murder by domestic male partners are becoming more prevalent - up to 38 per cent of DV inmates who are released on bail reoffend before their court matter is finalised.

CSNSW has partnered with Legal Aid NSW to establish a brief intervention program to assist inmates on remand for DV offences. The program will help offenders understand the content of Apprehended Violence Orders and recognise their abusive behaviour. The program is currently running in four prisons – Bathurst, Cessnock, Grafton and Silverwater.

Offenders assessed as being of medium or higher risk of reoffending, who are remanded in custody awaiting sentencing, can opt to participate in one-on-one intervention and

specific programs to address risk factors.

CSNSW has a suite of offence specific programs called EQUIPS (Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate, Practice and Succeed) that target behaviours such as domestic abuse, addiction and aggression. The aim of each program is to guide offenders to identify offending behaviour and contributing factors, then devise self-management plans to avoid reoffending.

There is also a non-specific version of the program called Foundation that caters for a variety of offence types and offers therapeutic and educational components. Each program has 40 hours of face-to-face engagement and is available in custody and the community.

In addition to the EQUIPS suite of programs, CSNSW offers a number of intensive behavioural change programs focused on behaviour such as sex offending, violence, and alcohol and drug treatment.

Alcohol and drugs are often contributing factors in a variety of offences and CSNSW has two alcohol and drug specific programs for inmates.

The Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre is based at Parklea and incorporates both treatment and a case management plan. The inmate moves through three stages of the program, addressing physical, social and psychological needs while learning strategies and skills that will enhance the likelihood of reintegration into the community.

Inmates who successfully complete the first two stages return to live in the community and are subject to at least six months of 'community custody'. This involves ongoing, intensive case management including urinalysis, face-to-face fortnightly meetings with their

case co-ordinators, home visits, work visits and contact with significant supports in the community such as family and close friends.

The Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program is based on a specialised therapeutic approach to treat drug and alcohol dependence and offending behaviour. This cognitive-behavioural program offers group involvement, peer support, education and vocational training as well as assistance to offenders who return to the mainstream prison environment or resettle in the community.

A reintegration plan is developed within the first four weeks of the program. On successful treatment completion, participants move into the final phase, which includes entry into a transitional centre to test their behaviour change in a staged way before moving into the community. Male participants have access to the Honour House at the Outer Metropolitan Multi Purpose Correctional Centre, and female participants have access to Bolwarra Transitional Centre at Emu Plains.

Corrective Services Industries offer opportunities for inmates to gain valuable work experience and qualifications in over 100 business units around the state. The business units include agriculture, carpentry, baking, food processing, metal work, printing, timber processing and textiles.

Inmates can complete certified trade qualifications in conjunction with local Technical and Further Education Institutes, and often go on to obtain work before they are released via the 'works release program'.

Inmates can also complete tertiary education via a number of university distance education programs while in custody.

Most offenders who leave custody are subject to a period of supervision by Community Corrections. The new 'On Tracc' initiative is a NSW Government partnership with the Australian Community Support Organisation and Arbias – both non-government organisations.

On Tracc provides additional support services for higher risk inmates in their first three months of release to complement their case management.

According to Director of Community Corrections Strategy Jason Hainsworth, research from around the world suggests that one of the most effective ways to

Building on the existing model of community supervision a new tool called the Practice Guide for Intervention has been developed to assist Community Corrections Officers to be effective agents of change.

The aim is to create a guide for officers to take a structured approach to engage with offenders, using techniques such as offence mapping, motivational interviewing and EQUIPS programs to target behaviours and attitudes directly related to offences.

The guide improves the quality and consistency of current practice, while being accessible for staff to use in interviews. There are 12 modules, each with four or five

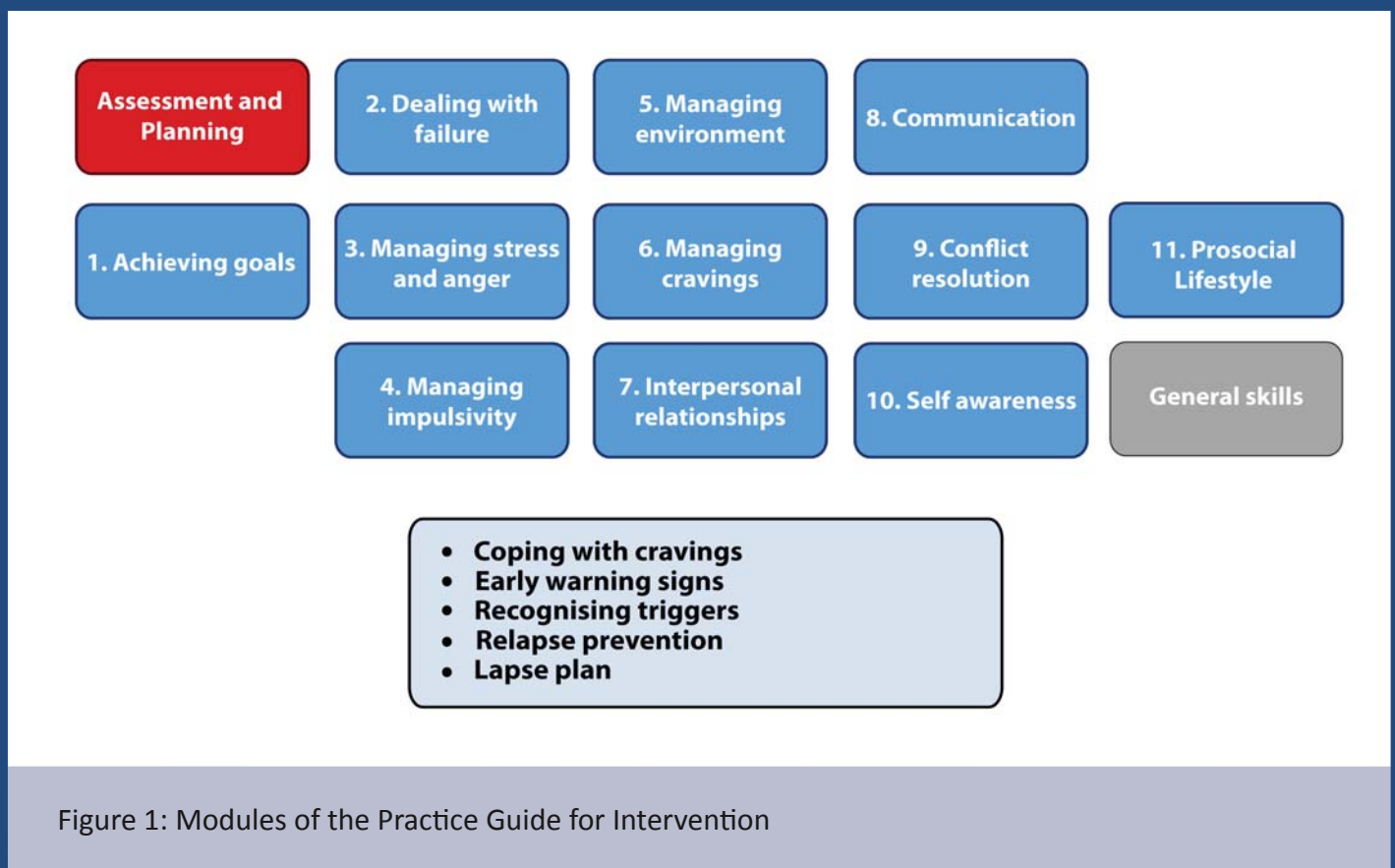


Figure 1: Modules of the Practice Guide for Intervention

reduce reoffending is through high quality, intensive supervision in the community. Reoffending can be reduced even further when motivation techniques and cognitive behaviour therapy tools are applied.

exercises targeting criminogenic factors, not offence types. (Figure 1)

The approach used by the guide is similar to what a skilled officer already does,

but makes this work more structured and targeted. The exercises within each module are designed to help officers focus on offence related interventions.

For example, if an offence mapping exercise reveals that risk factors of stress, alcohol and conflict led to the offence, then modules on ‘managing stress and anger’, ‘managing cravings’ and ‘conflict resolution’ would be

other organisations to work with lower-risk offenders - who aren’t normally supervised by Community Corrections – and don’t normally have access to programs or interventions.

One administrative practice within Community Corrections is to terminate the supervision of offenders who have completed appropriate interventions and no longer have outstanding issues to address. A new pilot

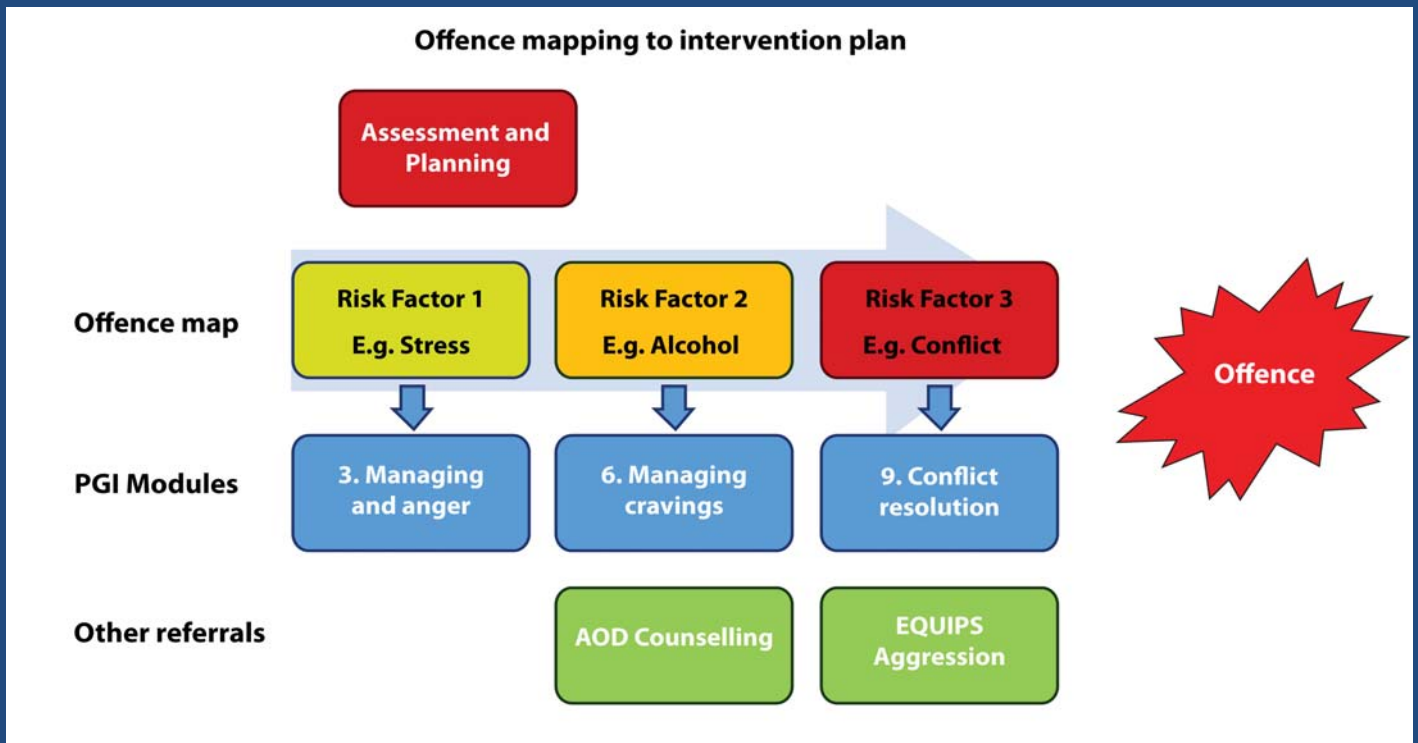


Figure 2: Offence mapping to intervention

used in interviews. Appropriate referrals may include drug and alcohol counselling and the EQUIPS aggression program. (Figure 2)

Corrective Services NSW have also partnered with two non-government organisations, Anglicare and Mission Australia, to develop a new training program for non-government staff to gain accreditation to facilitate men’s behavioural change programs. Traditionally Corrective Services have targeted medium risk offenders and above. This initiative will allow

program successfully trialled in four locations modified this procedure – suspending supervision rather than terminating – allowing supervision to resume immediately if deemed necessary. For example, due to re-offence or coming to police attention.

Commissioner Severin says, “When all the initiatives are in place, CSNSW expects to provide new or enhanced interventions to over 42,000 offenders each year to reduce reoffending.”



Reintegration For Ex-Offenders In Malaysian Prisons

Contributed by Malaysia Prison Department

Correctional Departments play an important role towards helping released inmates reintegrate into society. Reintegrating into society is a very challenging task that all released inmates have to face. Acceptance by family members alone is insufficient to prevent reoffending. Acceptance by the community, the relevant enforcement agencies as well as government and non-government organizations are equally important. It is a fact that all released offenders will have to adapt and live within the community for their livelihood. The community and the employment sectors should however view this group of citizens with a positive attitude who need guidance and assistance.

Corrections Department shoulders the heavy responsibility towards ensuring that the community and private sector will view released offenders as rehabilitated individuals who need to be given a second chance to rebuild their family and careers. Engagements need to be done by

the Corrections Department to convince the community and private sector that the rehabilitation programs which the inmates undergo are effective and released offenders will not pose a risk to society and are now ready for successful reintegration.

After-care upon release is important to ensure that released inmates do not reoffend.

Malaysia's After- Care

For continual care after-release, Malaysian Prisons Department uses its Out-Reach programmes extensively. Through these Out-Reach programs the community, community leaders and employers are made aware of their role to help inmates reintegrate back into society. Out-Reach programs are attended by released inmates, their families, community leaders or village heads and potential employers. Various enforcement, aid providing agencies and NGOs are also

PROGRAMS	TOTAL	ATTENDANCE
Out-Reach Programs (Carried out all over the country)	92	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Released Inmates • Govt. agencies • NGOs • Potential Employers • Aid-providing agencies • Inmate Families • Community Leaders

involved to ensure that released inmates receive proper guidance, counseling and help during the early years of release. During these Out-Reach programs inmates will be informed of help and assistance that is offered by the various NGOs, government and non-government agencies. Thus inmates can approach the relevant agencies when they need any form of assistance. There are also some government agencies which provide a one-off loan to potential inmates who have the capability to start small-businesses.

Inmates are introduced to potential employers to enable inmates to gain employment. Many employers now hold interviews in prisons to help inmates gain employment upon release. The community leaders are also made aware of their role to monitor the released inmates in their village. The community leaders are encouraged to hold religious programmes in their mosques involving the newly released inmates. Counseling services are also provided by various government agencies and NGOs.

All community leaders have direct link with Parole Officers, thus any information regarding

released inmates can be relayed swiftly and directly to the parole officers for further action.

Apart from Out-Reach Programs which are conducted by the Prisons Department, The Discharge Prisoners Aids' Society (DPAS) too carries out reintegration of inmates programs. Their aid normally comes in financial grants to potential released inmates who have entrepreneur skills to start a small business. These DPAS societies have been set in every state in Malaysia, but sadly not all DPASs' societies do much to help newly released inmates. It can be concluded that the department's Outreach Programs are more effective for reintegration of released inmates into society.

Conclusion

The result of Out-Reach programs in Malaysia is that the community is now more receptive towards released inmates. Many employers are now confident in employing former inmates. With community acceptance and being employed makes reintegration of inmates back into society more successful and easier now than before.



A Potential Employer Interviewing An Inmate Prior To Release From Prison



Hino Malaysia has donated engines for inmates to learn how to repair and service Hino engines.



Creating Job Opportunities for Inmates

Contributed by Correctional Services Bureau, Macao

Pre-release Inmate Employment Scheme

The Correctional Services Bureau in Macao has always committed to assist the rehabilitation and social reintegration of inmates, besides providing inmates with a variety of educational courses and trainings in an effort to help them acquire different knowledge and skills, the Bureau and the Social Reintegration Department of Social Welfare Bureau has also co-organized the “Pre-release Inmate Employment Scheme” since year 2012, aiming at facilitating the social reintegration of inmates by helping them to find jobs before their release. In this scheme, employers from the local private entities are invited to the recruitment meeting held in the prison. Inmates can be interviewed by the local employers

just in time and be able to obtain the employment opportunities more instantly.

Criteria and Kinds of Jobs

The Social Reintegration Department of Social Welfare Bureau establishes a connection with the local private entities and notifies the Bureau when there are job vacancies for the inmates on a quarterly basis. Inmates are free to make the job applications upon receiving the internal notices from the prison, they can apply for more than one job in accordance with their own qualifications. The recruitment meetings are held in the prison quarterly and employers from private entities are invited to come to the prison to conduct the job interviews with the inmates. To cope with the requirements of the local



Employers from private entities interviewing inmates

private entities, inmates who possess the Macao SAR Resident Identity Card and having the chance of parole or completing their sentences within the coming half year will have the priority to join the job interviews. With this scheme, inmates are benefited from having more job opportunities before their release and greater protection for their future reintegration into the society. From 2012 to 2016, there were averaged 43% of the inmate-applicants have been hired, jobs included construction worker, porter, driver, sales, baker apprentice, confectioner, waiter and waitress, kitchen worker, gas station staff, etc.

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An inmate having video interview with the employers

Enhancing Convenience with the New Launch of Video Interview Service

In order to optimize the use of facilities and resources, provide more convenience to the employers and for more inmates to obtain the interview opportunities, the Bureau launches the video interview service since the year end of 2016, of which employers of the private entities can choose to conduct the job interviews with the inmates at the

video visit rooms in Correctional Services Bureau Services and Information Centre, which is located at the city hub of Macao.

The Bureau will continue to work closely with the Social Reintegration Department of Social Welfare Bureau to develop more job opportunities to the inmates, as well as to build up a stronger connection with the community in different forms in hopes of obtaining more social acceptance and support on inmate rehabilitation.



Interim Home Detention Integrated Support Services Program (IHISSP)

Contributed by Department for Correctional Services (DCS) South Australia

In June 2016, the Department for Correctional Services (DCS) in South Australia introduced the Interim Home Detention Integrated Support Services Program (IHISSP). The program provides individualised support services for offenders on Home Detention, based on identified support needs.

Offenders are known to face a range of difficulties on release from prison. Research identifies that the critical domains necessary to support an offender in the community include housing, education and training, employment, independent living skills eg cooking and budgeting, mental health, alcohol and drugs, and family and community connectedness. These are the areas that provide the basis of the focus areas for the IHISSP.

The level and intensity of support is tailored to the individual needs and treatment targets of the offender on IHISSP, and each offender identified for support will be allocated to either settlement support or intensive support.

Settlement support is for a period of up to four weeks and provides support/referral to meet housing needs, service referral to Housing SA, Centrelink, Medicare etc, linkage/referral to drug and alcohol programs or community mental health, and referral to education, training, living skills programs and local community services.

Intensive support is for three months with the potential for extension. It provides one on one case coordination around key goals in the offenders' case plan, ongoing mentoring to support plan achievement, program support and engagement (drug and alcohol, gambling, family violence), housing or accommodation placement and support, assistance managing health, lifestyle and behaviour and support with finances, relationships, daily living, social integration or parenting.

Currently, the IHISSP is provided by two non-government organisations (NGO) – OARS and Anglicare. They are responsible for allocating a staff member as the individual's case coordinator and ensuring that person is the primary contact for the DCS program partnership. IHISSP case coordination involves:

- Assessment (determining the needs associated with risk of re-offence)
- Referral and service brokerage
- Holistic case planning and establishment of participant relationship
- Coordination of the case plan
- Direct and indirect monitoring of offender engagement in relation to service provision
- Support, facilitation and service provision, including attendance with the offender where necessary
- Crisis intervention
- Advocacy

Planning is currently underway to progress procurement for the longer term wrap around support services, with a contract to commence from mid-2017.

Referrals to the IHISSP are dependent on the type of Home Detention Order that the prisoner/offender is subject to – either Court Ordered Home Detention or Sentenced Home Detention.

The Statutes Amendment (Home Detention) Act 2016 was proclaimed on 10 June 2016, with amendments to the Correctional Services Act 1982 (Home Detention Release Orders) starting on 10 June 2016, and amendments to the Criminal Law Sentencing Act 1988 (Court Ordered Home Detention) starting on 1 September 2016. These amendments were the first legislative changes to be put forth as part of the Transforming Criminal Justice Reform Agenda led by the South Australian Attorney-General's Department.

The amendments to the Correctional Services Act around Sentenced Home Detention affected the eligibility criteria by removing

any time restrictions on sentence length or minimum time to be served before a prisoner can be released on Home Detention.

The amendments to the Criminal Law (Sentencing) Act allow magistrates and judges to use Court Ordered Home Detention as a valid sentencing option for a period of imprisonment.

Community safety is of paramount importance in the implementation of the changes, with offenders sentenced for violent and sexual offences not eligible for Court Ordered or Sentenced Home Detention.

Referrals to the IHISSP can be made in custody and while under consideration for a Home Detention Order. If support needs have been identified, the Home Detention Committee will complete and end the referral form. The IHISSP provider may meet with the prisoner and conduct an assessment pre-release. Referrals can be made at any time while on Home Detention by Home Detention / Community Corrections Officers.



Inmates working in the community garden, before and after planting



Local Community Garden

Planning is currently underway to progress procurement for the longer term wrap around support services, with a contract to commence from mid-2017.

A referral can be made at the time of sentencing and may be included in Pre-Sentence Reports for the Magistrate, or at any time throughout the duration of the Home Detention Order. The Home Detention or

Community Corrections Officer can complete the referral form, which must have the consent and signature of the prisoner/offender.

As at 6 February 2017, 104 people have completed the IHISSP, and reports from OARS have been positive. One participant has demonstrated exemplary behaviour and taken on a key role in supporting the local community garden. He was released from Port Lincoln Prison in 2016 and was admitted to complete his Home Detention on the IHISSP. During his time on the program, he willingly addressed the issues identified in his Case Plan, engaged in Alcohol and Other Drug counselling, financial counselling, dental appointments and is pursuing voluntary/community work. Ben was successful in seeking exit point housing and is looking forward to contributing to mainstream society in a positive way.



M U L T I M E D I A H U B
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*Special thanks to the inmates at MMH for their dedication
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