

## MONITORING THE DEFENDANT'S PROGRESS

CISP staff will develop a case management plan with each client accepted onto the program, detailing referrals and linkages to community and treatment agencies. A case manager will be assigned to each client to monitor his/her progress on the program. The court may also decide to monitor the client's progress. CISP staff will provide progress reports to the court throughout the client's time on the program.

## WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

### Melbourne Magistrates' Court:

**Tel:** 9628 7975

**Fax:** 9628 7976

### Sunshine Magistrates' Court:

**Tel:** 9300 6212

**Fax:** 9300 6289

### Latrobe Magistrates' Court:

**Tel:** 5116 5247

**Fax:** 5116 5235



The Court Integrated Services Program helps ensure that defendants get support and services to reduce re-offending and make communities safer.

# Court Integrated Services Program (CISP)

The Court Integrated Services Program helps ensure that defendants get support and services to reduce re-offending and make communities safer.



Magistrates' Court of Victoria  
[www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au](http://www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au)

## WHAT IS THE COURT INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAM?

The Court Integrated Services Program is a service established by the Department of Justice and the Magistrates' Court of Victoria to help ensure that defendants get support and services to reduce re-offending and make communities safer.

The program provides a coordinated, team based approach to the assessment and treatment of defendants. It will link defendants to support services such as drug and alcohol treatment, crisis accommodation, disability services and mental health services.

The program builds on other successful programs operating in the Magistrates' Court, such as the CREDIT/Bail Support Program and the Aboriginal Liaison Program.

## AIMS OF THE COURT INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAM

The program aims to:

- Provide short-term assistance before sentencing for defendants with health and social needs
- Work on causes of offending through individual case management support
- Provide priority access to treatment and community support services, where possible
- Reduce re-offending rates

## WHICH COURTS HAVE THE PROGRAM?

The program is available at Melbourne, Sunshine and Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Courts.

## HOW CAN I ACCESS THE PROGRAM?

Defendants can refer themselves or be referred to the program by any of the following people/agencies, at any stage throughout the court process

- Police
- Lawyers
- Office of the Public Advocate
- Judiciary
- Office of Public Prosecutions
- Court staff
- Support Services
- Family and friends

A referral form needs to be completed and is available from the Support Services counter at Melbourne, Sunshine and Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Courts.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

Program staff will assess applicants as to their eligibility. The assessment will look at the risk of offending and the causes of offending.

CISP staff will provide a report to the Magistrate who will decide whether the defendant is eligible for the program.

The program is aimed at defendants who are assessed at a moderate/high risk of offending and who can be assisted by the team.

The general eligibility criteria are:

- The defendant must be charged with an offence
- The defendant's history of offending or current offending indicates a likelihood of further offending
- The matter before the court warrants intervention to reduce risk and address needs
- The defendant has:
  - physical or mental disabilities or illnesses
  - drug and alcohol dependency and misuse issues
  - inadequate social, family and economic support that contributes to the frequency or severity of their offending.

The program will be available to defendants regardless of whether a plea has been entered or whether the defendant is intending to plead guilty or not.

Defendants are eligible for the program if they are brought before the Court on summons or bail.

Defendants must provide consent to be involved in the program.

## WHAT SERVICES DOES THE PROGRAM INCLUDE?

Melbourne, Sunshine and Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Courts have teams of trained professionals who can provide assistance relating to:

- Drug and alcohol dependency
- Homelessness
- Mental health
- Disability
- Young offenders
- Koori specific needs

CISP staff will offer referrals and support following assessment and acceptance onto the program.

This support could range from a community referral to case management, depending on the client's needs.

Services offered include:

- Assessment and referral to treatment
- Case management
- Brokered treatment for access to drug and alcohol treatment, mental health, housing and Acquired Brain Injury related needs
- Referral to outreach services for clients requiring intensive or ongoing support
- Providing progress reports to the court