

## CREDIT/ BAIL SUPPORT PROGRAM

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Heidelberg	Ph: 8488 6744
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Ringwood	Ph: 9871 4479

The Court Integrated Services Program (CISP) operates at the Latrobe Valley, Melbourne and Sunshine Magistrates' Courts. Please call the Melbourne office for details if you have matters at these locations.

Ph: (03) 9628 7975 or (03) 9628 7936

### Accessibility

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# CREDIT/Bail Support Program

CREDIT stands for Court Referral & Evaluation for Drug Intervention & Treatment. The CREDIT/ Bail Support Program seeks to increase the likelihood of an accused being granted bail and successfully completing a bail period.

## WHAT IS THE CREDIT/BAIL SUPPORT PROGRAM?

The CREDIT/ Bail Support Program seeks to increase the likelihood of an accused being granted bail and successfully completing a bail period. The program provides clients with access to drug treatment, accommodation, material aid and support, as required, according to the assessed needs of the client.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE CREDIT/BAIL SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Provide access to accommodation, health, welfare, legal and other community supports.
- Monitor the client's progress on the program for a period of up to four months.
- Minimise harm to the client and the community by addressing the client's substance abuse-related issues.
- Provide early treatment, including access to drug treatment and rehabilitation programs.
- Reduce risk of the client re-offending.

## OUTCOMES OF THE CREDIT/ BAIL SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Reduction in the number of accused who are remanded in custody due to a lack of accommodation or treatment and support in the community.
- Long-term reduction in clients' offending behaviour
- Successful placement of clients in drug treatment and rehabilitation programs
- Successful completion of bail by clients who would otherwise be remanded in custody.

## WHO CAN REFER?

Referral to the program can be made via a magistrate, police, a lawyer, court nominee, family members, or the client.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

Any accused eligible for a period of bail may be referred to the CREDIT/ Bail Support Program for assessment.

A plea of guilty is not a pre-condition

The program aims to refer clients to alcohol and other drug treatment programs and support services within the community as soon as possible after arrest, irrespective of the plea.

## ACCUSED WHO ARE SUBJECT TO A CURRENT COURT ORDER

If the accused is on a current order through Corrections Victoria that does not include access to alcohol and other drugs counselling or treatment, they can be assessed for the CREDIT/ Bail Support Program.

## ACCUSED WHO ARE IN BREACH OF A CURRENT COURT ORDER

If the accused has breached an order that includes a drug treatment component and is therefore no longer eligible for drug treatment services, they can be assessed for the CREDIT/ Bail Support Program.

Accused in breach of parole are able to continue accessing alcohol and other drug treatment through Corrections Victoria until they are breached by the parole board. If an accused is potentially in breach of a community correction order, suspended sentence or parole, the referral for assessment must come from the magistrate, or the magistrate must be made aware of the potential breach prior to referral to the program.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

The range of services provided to clients on bail include:

- assessment and development of a treatment and support plan
- progress review while on bail (up to four months)
- case management, court reports, brokered alcohol and other drug treatment through Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) for services including counselling, residential drug withdrawal and rehabilitation programs
- referral to short-term crisis accommodation
- passport photographs for identification and medical purposes
- referral to pharmacotherapies
- referral to outreach services for clients requiring intensive support
- referral to health and welfare services for treatment and support for mental health, disability and acquired brain injury needs
- referral to employment programs for training and employment assistance
- material aid, payment of Keypass where required, court date reminders and diaries.

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROPERTIES

The CREDIT/Bail Support Program has access to 20 transitional housing properties in the community. Depending on availability, these are available to the program's clients until access to long-term housing can be established.

An external service provider is contracted by the CREDIT/Bail Support Program to provide housing support including, helping clients to find long term housing, help with budgeting and independent living skills. Many clients in the properties have been successful in seeking full time employment because they are in stable housing.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

Clients are required to commit to treatment and attend regular case management meetings with their case manager. These meetings may initially occur weekly.

However, once a client is accessing treatment and support services, these meetings may be less frequent so that clients have the opportunity to seek employment or training.

Case managers will determine the frequency of meetings based on the client's support needs.

## LOCATION OF THE CREDIT/ BAIL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The CREDIT/Bail Support Program operates at eight court locations across Victoria.

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