

National AOD Workforce Development Strategy

**Submission By:
Tasmanian Prison Service and
Community Corrections**

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- This response is prepared on behalf of Corrections outputs within the Department of Justice Tasmania – namely the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) and Community Corrections.
- The TPS works with prisoners serving periods of remand, as well as custodial sentences, who present with problematic drug and alcohol use. Community Corrections works with offenders subject to community-based orders who present with problematic drug and alcohol use.
- Community Corrections employs state-wide Court Diversion Officers, as well as an Alcohol and Drug Specialist (with the recruitment process currently underway), to deliver the Court Mandated Diversion (CMD) program.
- This program provides Magistrates with an option to divert eligible offenders into treatment for their drug use. CMD aims to break the drug-crime cycle using the authority of the court to ensure that offenders access the services and treatment necessary to address the issues that contribute to their drug use and offending. Program participants are required to attend frequent urinalysis testing, individual counselling sessions, group counselling, as well as weekly appointments with an allocated Court Diversion Officer. The preferred caseload, excluding assessments, is 10 offenders per Court Diversion Officer. There are 120 places for offenders on the program state-wide.
- The TPS employs two specific Alcohol and Drug Counsellors to deliver individual counselling services within the prison. The TPS also employs five Interventions Officers who deliver brief intervention specifically targeting problematic alcohol and other drug use.
- The TPS employs Program Facilitators who deliver group based criminogenic intervention programs. The primary program delivered for those with problematic alcohol and other drug use is the Making Changes Program. All other intervention programs delivered at the TPS also include a module relating to substance use in recognition of its high prevalence in all forms of offending behaviour, this includes the Sex Offender Treatment Program, Family Violence Program and Violence Prevention Program.
- Community Corrections employs Probation Officers who deliver offender programs, and the TPS employs dedicated Programs Facilitators. These areas deliver the EQUIPS Addiction Program for individuals who are assessed as having a high level of drug or alcohol abuse within the past twelve months. This program is designed to address addictive behaviours. Each EQUIPS Program is facilitated by trained program facilitators over a ten week period consisting of two 2 hour sessions per week. Each program caters for up to 12 participants.
- Community Corrections employs a Learning and Development Manager who coordinates training for all Community Corrections staff, inclusive of Court Diversion Officers and Probation Officers specialising in program delivery. The Community Corrections Learning and Development Framework is being revised and developed in 2022, and at present no specialised Alcohol and Drug training is provided to staff.
- TPS Team Leaders and Managers coordinate workforce development opportunities for their staff.

I hope this assists with the review and revision of the National Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Workforce Development (WFD) Strategy.

Kind regards,

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