

## HOW CAN WE HELP?



Referral for drug and alcohol support (counselling, opiate and alcohol treatment)



Referral to health services in the community (to address physical and mental health needs)



Provide advocacy with housing and other accommodation agencies



Referral to welfare services (for clothing / material aid)

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

- ✓ An adult in a public Correctional Centre
- ✓ Have a history of problematic drug and/or alcohol use
- ✓ Sentenced on all charges (unless pregnant)

## REFERRALS

Anyone can refer a patient to the Connections Program.

- Ask a Health worker to refer you to the program
- Ask CSNSW to make a referral for you by emailing:

[JHFMHN-ConnectionsProgram@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JHFMHN-ConnectionsProgram@health.nsw.gov.au)

**Telephone:** 9700 2101

If your referral is accepted, a Connections Transition Coordinator will meet with you to complete an assessment with you prior to your release. Participation in the Connections Program is voluntary.

## Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network

# CONNECTIONS PROGRAM



**Helping people transition from custody into the community**



## ABOUT US

The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network's Connections Program provides a pre-release assessment with post-release linkage and support, for people with drug and/or alcohol related problems. The Connections Program aims to smooth the transition from custody into the community, assisting people to link with community services for ongoing treatment and care, and provide advocacy and support during the first few weeks after release.

### WHERE DO WE WORK

Connections assistance is available to both men and women in any public Correctional Centre in NSW.

We provide post-release support across all of NSW.

We will provide assistance and linkage with services local to you, including drug and alcohol, general medical and community mental health services, housing, Centrelink, and can assist with any other concerns you may have.

## WHAT WE DO

### BEFORE RELEASE

If your referral is accepted, a Connections Transition Coordinator will meet with you to complete an assessment to find out what help you need.

We will start making some arrangements (e.g. appointments) before you are released. We will let you know what has been arranged for you, and give you the contact details of the Connections team member who will be supporting you after release.

### AFTER RELEASE

We will keep in contact with you for the first month after you are released and help you link into the services that you need. We can attend appointments in the community with you, provide support letters and advocate on your behalf.



**“It’s been good having someone on my side. You helped me with more things than I thought you could.”**  
- Beau

**“I would recommend Connections to anyone in gaol... it’s brilliant.”**  
- Charlene

**“I’d be struggling today without your assistance.”** - Peter

**“You helped me keep it together. You went out of your way to help me.”** - Dennis