

About ACSO

ACSO is an Australian leader in helping people with difficult problems and we work to make our community safer by reducing crime.

We are an important part of the criminal justice system and we help people change their behaviours so that they can get their life back on track and stay out of prison.

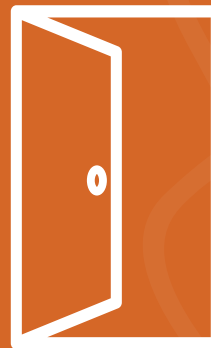
We work with people at risk of getting into trouble with the law and also help people move from prison or court, supporting them in the community to help stop them from re-offending. We work with the whole spectrum of people who are, or who without our help, could be on the wrong side of the law. This means that we work with people who need help getting their life on track, perhaps because of drug issues or mental health issues, and people who have committed serious crimes, who have served their sentence and need to reintegrate safely with society.

No other organisation is like us. No one else covers the whole spectrum from prevention and diversion to rehabilitation of people in the criminal justice system. Our holistic approach and "wrap-around" service model is a critical part of our success, creating better outcomes for clients and the community.

What we do is help people change their behaviour and create good lives. We work with people who are motivated to reintegrate with the community. This focus on behaviour change also means that we do not provide passive minding services because that does not change behaviour.

COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY SERVICES TEAM

"Reducing return to custody through links to community!"



Information for service providers

Australian Community Support Organisation Limited (ACSO)

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CREST



What is CREST?

The CREST program is a regionally based prisoner re-entry program focusing on success on parole. The key objective of CREST is to reduce return to custody rates for parolees. The program offers an evidence based reintegration response, directly targeting the needs and risks identified for the parolee's release and successful transition. It is delivered in partnership with Queensland Corrective Services and ACSO in the South East Queensland region.

CREST essentially has three components; an in-prison information and referral service, a component that supports offenders identified as high risk and people with complex needs, as well as a community based crisis prevention support service for offenders at risk of returning to custody. These components together, provide an integrated re-entry service.

- ✓ assisting offenders with securing safe and stable accommodation;
- ✓ promote connectedness with family, social support networks and encourage participation in community groups;
- ✓ attitudinal change and motivation to engage with the change process;
- ✓ assisting offenders to develop purposeful use of time including employment, education and training or other prosocial use of time (e.g. volunteering);
- ✓ pre-release information to assist prisoners with their own planning;
- ✓ linking offenders with support to get substance use under control; and
- ✓ support for managing mental and physical health.

In-prison information and referral services

Whilst in prison, any prisoner can access our information and referral service via our ACSO workers in the prison. This service supports basic information and referral requests to support offenders to plan successfully for their release.

Post-release managed services

This component targets eligible clients at high risk of reoffending or those with complex reintegration needs who are being released on parole. The service will be provided for 3 months' post release to parolees, and will provide planning pre-release, as well as support upon release to ensure success on parole. Eligibility for this service is determined by ACSO staff according to QCS guidelines.

Crisis Prevention support service

Provides up to five days of community based support to offenders on parole, who are at risk of being returned to custody. Referrals for this service are strictly through Probation and Parole.

“CREST is a holistic and integrated service which supports individuals, **both in custody and beyond..**”