

Bail support (Court Integrated Services Program)



Support is available for accused individuals released on bail through the Court Integrated Services Program (CISP). CISP links accused to community-based support to address their health and/or social needs in an effort to reduce their likelihood of re-offending. Court case managers and magistrates encourage participants to engage with treatment and/or support and monitor their progress.

What is CISP?

The Court Integrated Services Program (CISP) provides support to accused on bail and coordinates referrals to community-based services like drug and alcohol treatment, crisis accommodation, disability and mental health services, support for acquired brain injury and Koori-specific services. It is a voluntary court-based program which ensures timely access to community-based treatment and support. Eligible accused are allocated a case manager who makes referrals, encourages participants to engage with treatment and/or support and provides updates to the court. A magistrate motivates and monitors participants at regular court review hearings.

Who is eligible?

CISP is available at Magistrates' Courts in all regions state-wide.

The accused person must:

- be eligible to make an application for bail in the Magistrates' Court
- consent to being involved in CISP.

The accused person must also be experiencing one or more of the following:

- a physical or mental disability or illness
- a drug and/or alcohol dependency
- inadequate social, family or economic support that contributed to their offending
- homelessness.

What is involved?

A case management plan is developed for each person accepted onto CISP. The plan outlines referrals to community-based treatment and support services based on an individual's needs. Participants are assigned a case manager to work with them and review their progress. Case managers also provide progress reports to the court. Participants are required to come before a magistrate monthly. The program usually runs for four months, depending on a participant's level of need and risk.

Jenna's story

*Not her real name

Jenna* was living in her car with her dog and experiencing mental ill health when she was accepted into CISP. She had refused emergency accommodation as she was unable to be housed with her dog who was a source of great comfort to her during regular mental health episodes. During a particularly difficult episode, Jenna agreed to short-term crisis accommodation while her dog was housed by the RSPCA. She was allowed to visit daily due to her case manager explaining the positive impact it had on her mental health. Her case manager also strongly advocated on her behalf to the Salvation Army who eventually agreed to offer Jenna and her dog a place in shared accommodation. Her dog had to undergo a behavioural assessment before they were both accepted. Jenna successfully completed her time on CISP and secured independent accommodation for herself and her dog.



Magistrates' Court of Victoria acknowledges, and pays respect to, ancestors of this country – Elders, knowledge holders and leaders – past and present.

For more information on CISP, as well as MCV's other specialist courts and programs, visit MCV's website:

