

CONCURRENT SESSION

C10 Supportive housing after prison



Supporting the housing needs of people leaving custody



NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Matthew Sander
Core and Cluster Program Lead

10 August 2022

The NSW Government has committed to reducing street homelessness by 50 per cent by 2025



The NSW Department of Communities and Justice is the lead agency responsible for delivering this priority.

We are committed to reducing street homelessness by focusing on initiatives to:

Collect and use better data to ensure we deliver the right kind of support to where they are needed most

Engage more directly and frequently with people who are experiencing street homelessness

in prevention and early intervention

Build on and invest



Prison and rough sleeping

10 per cent of people (465 people) who were sleeping rough and accessed a Specialist Homelessness Service in 2019-20 had recently been in a custodial setting.

Clients with a court appearance in the previous 12 months are 25 times more likely to experience rough sleeping and access a Specialist Homelessness Service than the general population.

Timeline of DCJ housing support for people exiting custody



Pre-2019

DCJ Housing Districts employ a localised approach in working with CSNSW

Inmates can access up to two days temporary accommodation through Set to Go

November 2019

DCJ introduces Housing Support for people leaving prison pilot

November 2020

DCJ introduces Inmate Early Assessment Scheme

Set to Go amended so temporary accommodation can be booked up to two months prior to release

July 2021

DCJ launches Reintegration Housing Support Program

The Reintegration Housing Support Program



DCJ has launched a new program, in partnership with the Community Restorative Centre (CRC), to provide support to people for leaving custody who are at risk of homelessness.

The Reintegration Housing Support Program (RHSP) is a new two-year program which aims to connect people who are leaving custody and at risk of homelessness with specialist support workers who will assist with securing access to suitable accommodation, as well as wrap around psychosocial support.

The RHSP is operating in six locations across NSW, with two CRC support workers based in each of the following DCJ Housing offices:

Location	Office
Inner Sydney	Strawberry Hills
Western Sydney	Mt Druitt
South Western Sydney	Liverpool
Western NSW	Dubbo
Illawarra	Coniston
Hunter	Newcastle

Supporting people exiting custody



Each support worker has a case load of 12-15 clients at any one time (excluding one-off service delivery for drop-in clients, short-term support, referrals and information provision), with the program aiming to support at least 300 clients per annum.

Support includes:

- Referral to appropriate housing supports
- Connection with Community Corrections (parole and probation) and Centrelink
- Alcohol or drug support
- Physical and mental health services
- Help obtaining identification, connecting with friends and/or family in the community
- Obtaining emergency items such as clothing, mobile phones and transportation.

Case Studies

