

ISSUE: PRISONER ASSESSMENTS AND INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

KEY LINES:

- The Department employs a prisoner assessment process in order to identify prisoners' individual risks and needs.
- The Department has a backlog of prisoner assessments.
- To address this backlog, the Department diverted staff ordinarily engaged in program delivery to carry out prisoner assessments but in 2019, that staff reverted to program delivery while continuing to assist with assessments around their program delivery requirements.
- There has been a 4% reduction in overdue assessments since 31 December 2018.
- The Department has recently completed a scan of prisoner assessment processes in other Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand.
- The outcome of this scan will inform the sourcing of an independent external specialist to redesign the prisoner assessment and Individual Management Plan (IMP) process.

CURRENT STATUS:

The process

- The Department undertakes a prisoner assessment process in order to identify prisoners' individual risks and needs.
- Treatment assessment needs are assessed as a part of this overall management plan.
- The results of the assessment process are collated into either a Management and Placement Checklist (MAP) or an IMP according to where the prisoner is at in the sentencing process and the length of the sentence.
- IMPs are developed for sentenced prisoners with an effective sentence of greater than six months.
- IMPs are to be developed within 28 days of sentencing and is reviewed and updated every six to 12 months depending on sentence length.
- MAP-S is for all newly sentenced prisoners. A MAP-R is completed for newly received remand prisoners.
- MAPs are to be developed within five working-days.
- IMPs and MAPs set out how a prisoner is to be managed while in prison and seeks to achieve the following objectives:
 - reduce the risk of re-offending;
 - improve safety outcomes for the community (including the prison community); and
 - ensure that prisoners are encouraged and given the opportunity to make constructive use of their time while incarcerated.

Length of time

There is no set time that these assessments take; it depends on the complexity and criminogenic treatment needs of the offender. See attached flow chart detailing the process - these times do not include any operational delays ie difficulties in accessing a prisoner to complete the assessment, lockdowns etc.

AOD specific assessments

There are no AOD specific assessments. AOD needs are assessed as part of an offender's overall treatment needs. For example assessment of treatment needs for a violent or sexual offender still includes assessment of AOD treatment needs and a clinical formulation of how AOD issues contribute to the individual's offending behaviour.

Exclusions for IMPs

According to Department policy prisoners need an effective sentence of more than six months to be eligible for an IMP. However, these prisoners will be prioritised for pre-parole assessment by a Community Corrections Officer.

In addition, prisoners eligible for a Post Sentence Supervision Order or are Dangerous Sexual Offender liable will be excluded from IMPs.

Prioritising of cohorts for IMPs

- Priority for an initial IMP will be given to prisoners eligible for parole with sentences six months to two years until Earliest Eligibility Date (EED).
- Priority will not be given to prisoners who are deportees, federal offenders (with recognisance orders), appealing their conviction, given finite sentences of 12 months or less, affiliated Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Members.

Number of people eligible for parole but awaiting program completion

There is no data available to support this. The Prisoners Review Board considers many factors in its determination of suitability for parole of which program participation is only one component. When the Prisoners Review Board denies parole, it will usually include a number of factors that contributed to that decision. It is rarely stated that the non-completion of a program is the only reason.

Overdue IMPs

There is no readily available information to highlight how overdue treatment assessments are with respect to the 28 day timeframe. However, as at 31 January 2019:

- Initial IMPs overdue (over the 28-day standard) – 784.
- IMP Reviews overdue – 259.
- Number of prisoners subject to Custodial Operations Broadcasts (not considered priority for assessment and have not been assessed in line with Adult Custodial Rule 18) – 236.
- MAP-Sentenced overdue (past the 5 working-day standard) – 85.

This represents a total of 1,020 prisoners within the system that have not been assessed as required by Adult Custodial Rule 18.