

## Partnerships & Networking

Lead and support the development of strong collaborative relationships between mental health services (AMHS & MHCSS) and local Justice services to reduce gaps in service, particularly during discharge, transfer or release.

Services include:

- Prison
- Community Corrections
- Police
- Courts
- Forensicare, Inpatient & Community Services
- Contribute to the development and review of protocols and processes between mental health services, justice system and local support agencies, including clear referral pathways, collaborative practice principles, information flow and timely communication mechanisms.

## Eligibility

Referrals requesting clinical consultancy require the consumer to meet the following inclusion criteria:

- Diagnosed mental illness
- Prior forensic/offending history with risks of recidivism, or
- Current behaviours of concern that may attract criminal sanctions

## Referrals

FCSP contact details are available for your use by accessing Forensicare website: [www.forensicare.vic.gov.au](http://www.forensicare.vic.gov.au)

## About Forensicare

Forensicare is Victoria's leading provider of forensic mental health care. We work to meet the needs of consumers with serious mental illnesses across the justice system, mental health sectors and the community.

Our services deliver a range of mental health programs targeted at patients with different needs at different stages of recovery; from early intervention and prevention, inpatient care, rehabilitation and community transition support. These services are delivered through:

- Thomas Embling Hospital, a secure mental health hospital
- Prison Mental Health Services
- Community Forensic Mental Health Service

We also work in partnership with Swinburne University of Technology through the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science to deliver a forensic mental health research program, specialist training and ongoing professional education.



Forensicare

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## FORENSIC CLINICAL SPECIALIST PROGRAM

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Information for Mental  
Health Services

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Community Forensic Mental Health Service

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Forensicare

The Forensic Clinical Specialist Program (FCSP) is a Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) funded service designed to build forensic mental health capacity within Victoria's public and non-government mental health sectors.

The FCSP supports positive outcomes for consumers with co-existing vulnerabilities of serious mental illness and risk of offending/reoffending.

### Who we are

The FCSP is a state-wide program established to build forensic mental health expertise and capacity in Victoria's specialist mental health services. Centrally coordinated by Forensicare, the FCSP is delivered in partnership with local specialist mental health service providers.

Dedicated senior forensic mental health clinicians (Forensic Clinical Specialists) are embedded within local area mental health services (AMHS) to enhance sector capacity and support the effective management and treatment of consumers vulnerable to contact with the justice system.

Primarily a consultancy resource for clinical AMHS and non-government Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS), the FCSP is also a key liaison point in the support of effective collaboration between mental health services and the Justice system.

Building forensic mental health capacity across Victoria's mental health sector

### What we do

The FCSP works to improve expertise and capacity of AMHS and MHCSS workforce to optimally assess and manage offending and problem behaviours

- Improve clinical outcomes for vulnerable consumers with mental health and offending treatment needs
- Reduce consumer contact with the justice system
- Improve management of offence related risk
- Improve worker safety and reduce violence and aggression in the workplace
- Improve coordination and referral pathways between specialist mental health services and correctional services
- Focus on vulnerable individuals released from custody in need of mental health follow-up.
- Enhance local oversight of Non-Custodial Supervision Order (NCSO) clients treated by AMHS (Crimes & Mental Impairment (Unfitness to be tried) Act 1997).

### How can the FCSP assist you?

The FCSP provides sustainable capacity building via strategic service provision in four key activity areas:

#### Clinical consultancy

FCSP offers first line consultancy, offender specific risk assessment and management support to the mental health workforce for the following behaviours of concern:

- Violence
- Threateners
- Stalking
- Sexual Offending
- General Offending
- Querulous (Vexatious) Complainants
- Fire-setting

### Workforce Education & Training

The FCSP routinely provides training on forensic mental health topics:

- Promote FCSP and benefits for consumers, workforce, organisations, and the community
- Principles of forensic mental health risk assessment & management
- Role of mental health in offending
- Navigating the forensic system
- Crimes & Mental Impairment Act 1997 & legislative requirements
- Provide supervision, support and debriefing for workforce working with the target consumer group

### Organisational Service Development & Quality Improvement

The FCSP enhances systemic health service capacity to support target consumer group via:

- Contribution to the development, review and evaluation of risk assessment and management frameworks
- Contribution to relevant policies, procedures and protocols
- Promotion of service wide initiatives, increase use and development of evidence based practice
- Gathering data, evaluating and modifying the program to meet stakeholder needs
- Contribution to operational reviews of incidents involving target population

