



Image: Flickr Stu Rapley

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

Community Forensic
Mental Health Service
505 Hoddle Street Clifton Hill
Victoria 3068

T: +61 3 9947 2500

F: +61 3 9947 2599

E: info@forensicare.vic.gov.au

www.forensicare.vic.gov.au



MENTAL HEALTH COURT LIAISON SERVICE

Community Forensic Mental Health Service



Forensicare

The Mental Health Court Liaison Service (MHCLS) plays a key role in the public mental health response to the over representation of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

Who we are

The MHCLS is made up of experienced mental health clinicians who support individuals charged with offences who present with a mental illness whether they:

- are currently linked with treatment services
- have disengaged from treatment
- are experiencing mental illness and have yet to come into contact with treatment providers.

What we do

We aim to intervene early in the criminal justice process by identifying mentally ill individuals at the post charge, pre-sentence stage, and by providing timely advice to courts and linkage with treatment providers.

We offer specialist mental health assessment and advice to Magistrates and facilitate early intervention for people who are in police custody.

How we do it

We perform multiple functions including:

- completion of mental state assessments and delivery of court reports to support fully informed judicial determinations and to reduce delays in court proceedings and remands
- provision of advice in relation to diversion options available through mental health legislation and establishing linkage to mental health service providers
- provision of education and training in relation to the MHCLS program, mental illness in general, the mental health system and the Mental Health Act 2014 for court users and court staff.
- referral to appropriate mental health services for further assessment and treatment (if necessary, referral under the Mental Health Act 2014)
- liaison with a range of external service providers and facilitation of inter-agency collaboration.

Referrals

Referrals may be received from a range of sources including:

- Magistrates, court personnel and legal practitioners
- court welfare services and disability services
- forensic medical officers and custodial nurses
- treatment agencies, including area mental health services
- police and prisons based services
- self-referrals and family and carers

Referral criteria:

The MHCLS provides services for people appearing in court who –

- have a mental illness
- present with behaviour that may be related to mental illness

Anyone can refer to the MHCLS. To make a referral please contact the Mental Health Court Liaison Service clinician at the relevant court.

Service Locations

Melbourne Magistrates' Court

4th Floor
233 Williams Street
Melbourne 3000
Phone: 9602 3293 / 9628 7909
Fax: 9602 3251

Broadmeadows Magistrates' Court

1st Floor
Cnr. Pearcedale Parade and Dimboola Road
Broadmeadows 3047
Ph: 9309 7030
Fax: 9309 7135

Dandenong Magistrates' Court

(also services Frankston Magistrates' Court)
Cnr. Pultney and Foster Streets Dandenong 3175
Phone: 9767 1327
Fax: 9767 1385

Ringwood Magistrates' Court

(also services Heidelberg Magistrates' Court)
39 Ringwood Street
Ringwood 3134
Phone: 9876 0235
Fax: 9876 0364

Sunshine Magistrates' Court

10 Foundry Road
Sunshine 3020
Phone: 9311 5023
Fax: 9311 4923

