



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

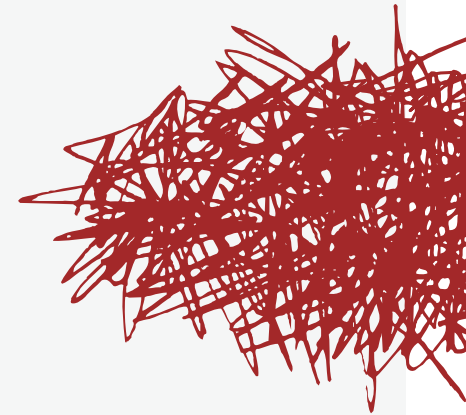
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MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE AND RESPONSE SERVICE

Community Forensic Mental Health Service



Forensicare

The Mental Health Advice and Response Service (MHARS) 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 MHARS is made up of experienced mental health clinicians who support individuals having contact with the courts who may 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 having contact with the court, and by providing timely advice to courts and linkage with treatment providers.

We provide specialist clinical mental health advice to Magistrates, Community Corrections Services and court users to ensure the appropriateness of mental health interventions and referrals and facilitate early intervention for people who are in police custody.

MHARS clinicians do not provide direct, ongoing treatment services.

How we do it

We perform multiple functions including:

- mental state assessments and provision of court reports to support fully informed judicial determinations and to reduce delays in court proceedings and remands
- providing advice in relation to available diversion options to both mental health service providers and other health providers
- screening and assessing people being considered for a community-based order who may not have a documented or self-reported mental illness
- providing education and training in relation to the MHARS program, mental illness in general, the mental health system and the *Mental Health Act 2014* for court users and court staff
- referrals to appropriate mental health services for further assessment and treatment (if necessary, referral under the *Mental Health Act 2014*)
- liaising with a range of public and private 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 Assessment and Prosecutions Service (CAPS)
- court welfare services and disability services
- forensic medical officers and custodial nurses
- treatment agencies, including area mental health services
- police and prison mental health services
- self-referrals and family and carers

Referral criteria:

The MHARS provides services for people appearing in court or police custody who –

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

Anyone can refer to the MHARS. To make a referral please contact the MHARS clinician at the relevant court.

Service Locations

Melbourne Magistrates' Court

233 Williams Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
T: 9602 3293 / 9628 7909
E: mharsmelbourne@forensicare.vic.gov.au

Broadmeadows Magistrates' Court

Cnr. Pearcedale Parade and Dimboola Road
Broadmeadows Vic 3047
T: 9309 7030
E: mharsbroadmeadows@forensicare.vic.gov.au

Dandenong Magistrates' Court

Cnr. Pultney and Foster Streets
Dandenong Vic 3175
T: 9767 1327
E: mharsdandenong@forensicare.vic.gov.au

Frankston Magistrates' Court

Fletcher Road
Frankston Vic 3199
T: 9784 5777
E: mharsfrankston@forensicare.vic.gov.au

Heidelberg Magistrates' Court

Jika Street
Heidelberg Vic 3084
T: 8488 6700
E: mharsheidelberg@forensicare.vic.gov.au

Moorabbin Justice Centre

1140 Nepean Highway
Highett Vic 3189
T: 9090 8000
E: mharsmoorabbin@forensicare.vic.gov.au

Ringwood Magistrates' Court

39 Ringwood Street
Ringwood Vic 3134
T: 9876 0235
E: mharsringwood@forensicare.vic.gov.au

Sunshine Magistrates' Court

10 Foundry Road
Sunshine Vic 3020
T: 9311 5023
E: mharssunshine@forensicare.vic.gov.au

