

Prior Criminal Record

Individuals are not excluded from participating in the program if they have a prior criminal record. One aim of the project is to address underlying issues that lead to criminal behaviour, which may be indicated by a criminal record (eg. consistent history of low-level drug offences).

However, several factors will be considered where an individual has a criminal record, including:

- Type of offences.
- Age and number of offences.
- If the criminal record is consistent with the current behaviour that indicates a need for treatment or other intervention.
- Opportunities for treatment and intervention in the past (past participation in other support and treatment programs e.g. Community Correction Order, Drug Court etc.) and the individual's participation in these opportunities.

For more information

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North Richmond Community Health (Wulempuri-Kertheba) stands on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present.



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NEW DIRECTIONS

a partnership between North Richmond Community Health, Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Justice Centre and City of Yarra



An adult pre-charge diversion pilot

What is New Directions?

New Directions is an adult pre-charge diversion pilot designed to offer intervention at the earliest opportunity (pre-charge). It targets early stages of criminal behaviour for low-medium level offences.

It involves a Police Officer referring an eligible person to a Navigator who works with the person to identify drivers of offending and provide tailored interventions to prevent or reduce further offending.

The Navigator will conduct a Needs Assessment with the individual to identify areas of their life that they need assistance with, such as:

- Accommodation.
- Financial issues.
- Physical and/or mental health.
- Substance use.
- Relationships.
- Employment.
- Education.
- Training.



What is involved in the program?

If the individual decides to participate in New Directions, they will be asked to sign a four-month agreement with the following conditions:

- Not to offend during the four months.
- Meet with the Navigator as directed.
- Identify two needs they want to work on and;
- engage with the services that the Navigator refers them to.

If the individual successfully completes the program, Victoria Police will not proceed with the charges the individual was referred for.

What are the potential benefits?

- Address underlying causes of offending and prevent crime through early intervention.
- Provide an alternative option to criminal sanctions for low-medium level offences, particularly for first offences.
- Build upon positive factors that can divert the individual from future offending.
- Save police time by reducing the number of prosecutions and paperwork.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The individual must live within the City of Yarra or the offence must have taken place within the City of Yarra;
- The individual must be over 18
- The offence must be an eligible offence
- The offence must not be older than 6 months old
- The individual must not be subject to a sentencing order imposed by the courts or be on police/court bail
- The individual must not be assessed as a high-risk individual
- There must be sufficient evidence to charge or reasonable prospect of finding of guilt. Admissions not necessary.

