

What are the potential benefits of the program?

New Directions responds to crime by focusing on rehabilitation to make our community safer by:

- addressing the root causes of offending and preventing crime by intervening earlier
- resolving crime effectively without going to court. Taking someone to court often isn't a good way of changing their behaviour. Instead, it can draw them further into a cycle of crime
- responding to the harm caused to victims of crime by taking their experiences into account, giving them a say and an opportunity for the harm to be repaired
- connecting individual people with the services and treatment they need to address issues that contribute to criminal behaviour.

What help is available to me?

> Victims of Crime Helpline

👉 victimsocrime.vic.gov.au/

☎ 1800 819 817

> Neighbourhood Justice Centre Peacemaking Program

👉 neighbourhoodjustice.vic.gov.au/our-services/conflict-resolution/peacemaking-conflict-resolution-service

☎ 9948 8632

✉ anita.deblasio@courts.vic.gov.au

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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



Have you been a victim of crime?

What is New Directions?

New Directions is a program to resolve crime without going to court. It focuses on rehabilitating people, and drawing them away from a cycle of crime so they can contribute positively to our community. The program helps to prevent further crime and make our community safer.

Police refer eligible people to the program, who are alleged to have committed specific low-medium level offences in the City of Yarra.

The program's Navigator works with the person to identify the root causes of their offending. They provide the person with tailored interventions to address issues such as:

- Mental Health.
- Substance Use.
- Homelessness.
- Unemployment.



The Navigator monitors the person's progress on the program and holds them accountable. If the person fails the program, Victoria Police will charge them with the alleged offence(s) and prosecute them through the courts. If the person successfully completes the program, Victoria Police will drop the charges.

Example:

Two men leaving a pub get into a fight. This leads to them breaking a neighbour's window and scaring the neighbour's family. They are referred to New Directions. Instead of sending them to court, they engage in counselling for alcohol addiction and anger issues. At the neighbour's request, they pay for window repairs and write a letter of apology to the neighbour and her family.

What is involved in the program?

The police will discuss New Directions with you and answer any questions you may have.

They will hear from you about how the alleged offender's behaviour has affected you and take your views into consideration in deciding whether to refer the person to the program.

If the alleged offender participates in the program, the person will sign a four-month agreement with the following conditions:

- Not to offend during the four months.
- To meet with the Navigator as directed.
- To identify two needs they will work on and to engage with the services that the Navigator refers them to (e.g. drug and alcohol counselling).

A restorative process could also be included (e.g. making amends to the victim) and you may be invited to participate in such a process. The Neighbourhood Justice Centre's Peacemaking Program would deliver this process.

