

Research shows that the best outcomes in offender rehabilitation are achieved when interventions are targeted to the factors directly related to a person's offending behaviour. Interventions should also be delivered in a way that is suited to a person's individual learning style and characteristics and are related to their level of risk.

Throughout their sentence, prisoners and offenders are assessed using a variety of tools, which closely link their case management to the results of those assessments.

What tools does Corrections Victoria use?

Corrections Victoria staff administer the Level of Service/Risk, Need, Responsivity (commonly referred to as the LS/RNR) tool. This risk assessment tool is widely used in other jurisdictions around the world and has been tested and validated for over 30 years. It provides an indication of the risk of general reoffending based on the comparison of an individual with the characteristics of offenders who reoffend at particular rates.

Corrections Victoria also uses offence-specific assessment tools, which provide a greater level of understanding of the offending behaviour, and of the risk of re-offending for specific offence categories.

Sex offenders and violent offenders

Assessment tools include the Static-99 (used for most male sex offenders), which determines the risk of sexual reoffending. The Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) is an additional assessment tool used if the advised risk requires further clinical assessment, or where the risk of sexual reoffending cannot be determined by the Static-99 (e.g. female sex offenders). Corrections Victoria also uses the RM-2000 for assessing those involved with child pornography and the Sexual Offence Risk-20 (SVR-20) for those who are cognitively impaired.

The Violence Risk Scale (VRS) is used to determine the risk of violent reoffending in male offenders, while the Historical, Clinical, Risk Management-20 (HCR – 20) tool does the same for female offenders.

When do assessments occur?

Offenders on community orders

In the courts, Corrections Victoria staff use the Level of Service Inventory – Revised: Screening Version (LSI-R:SV, a screening tool within the same suite as the LS/RNR) to inform sentencing for a Community Correction Order.

This assessment also assists magistrates and judges when determining which conditions are most appropriate to the individual offender. After sentence, the offender's case manager conducts a full LS/RNR to inform the case management process.

The LS/RNR and other assessment tools may be refreshed or revised throughout the offender's order as required.

Prisoners

On reception to prison, all prisoners are screened using a screening version of the LS/RNR. Prisoners assessed as being a moderate or high risk of general reoffending who have a sentence of greater than six months then receive a full LS/RNR.

Other tools and/or a clinical assessment may be used for some prisoners to determine treatment and case management needs.

Prisoners eligible for parole will have their LS/RNR updated as part of their Parole Suitability Assessment. The LS/RNR and other assessment tools can be refreshed or revised during the prisoner's sentence if required.

For further information, please email corrections@justice.vic.gov.au.