Corrections Victoria’s service delivery model for offending behaviour programs provides a state-wide approach to ensure consistency, credibility and confidence in service delivery through its best practice principles. This service delivery model caters for all prisoners and offenders other than those sentenced for sex offences or those with a registered disability, as delivery of these services are facilitated by Corrections Victoria’s Specialised Offender Assessment & Treatment Service (SOATS).

The Offender Management Framework and the Integrated Risk Assessment and Management Framework for Parole inform the best practice principles, which are:

- program development will be evidence based
- eligible offenders will be provided with timely opportunities to participate in appropriate programs
- delivery of programs will be matched to an offender’s level of risk
- program delivery will be responsive to the specific needs of prisoners and offenders, including their level of risk and offence category.

Corrections Victoria and the Department of Justice & Regulation’s Regional Services Network deliver offending behaviour programs. Corrections Victoria designs, develops and oversees the model while the Regional Services Network has responsibility for the day-to-day service delivery in public prisons and Community Correctional Services. As they are under contract to Corrections Victoria, private prison operators deliver these programs under the same model in their facilities.

Offence types and risk profiles determine which services are provided through two service pathways - the Serious Violent Offender Pathway and General Offender Pathway. Offending behaviour assessments and interventions are targeted to meet the specific risk and intervention needs of these groups.

In keeping with best practice principles, all service pathways for offending behaviour programs begin at the start of a prisoner or offender’s sentence and priority is given to group-based interventions.

This service approach:

- enables offending behaviour programs to meet service demand by identifying and understanding the particular needs of prisoners and offenders when their sentence begins
- embeds offending behaviour programs in the broader sentence management framework by ensuring there is program involvement across a prisoner’s sentence
- ensures there is sufficient time to address intervention needs before release
- allows the provision of appropriately sequenced offence-specific and offence-related interventions including treatment readiness programs, pre-intervention and maintenance programs after intervention work is completed
- ensures eligible prisoners take part in offending behaviour programs before their earliest eligible parole date so they can be considered for release on parole
- maximises the opportunity for the successful reintegration of prisoners and offenders to the community.

Other offending programs

Corrections Victoria’s SOATS provides programs and services to sexual offenders. Programs for sex offenders are targeted closer to their prospective release consistent with accepted best practices. SOATS also provides program for offenders with a disability, as defined by the Disability Act 2006. This includes prisoners and offenders with an intellectual disability, acquired brain injury or those with low cognitive functioning. Drug and alcohol services are delivered by specialist agencies. In public prisons, this occurs under contract to Justice Health, while in private prisons, they are provided by the private prison operators.

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