

Women Offenders

Community Correctional Services Approach



Overview of CCS



- Supervision of offenders on Community Correctional Orders
- Provides reports to Courts and Adult Parole Board
- 5 Regions, 57 locations (34 full time) with approx. 400 staff
- Around 7,500 offenders on any day
- Around 1,500 are women

CCS Vision



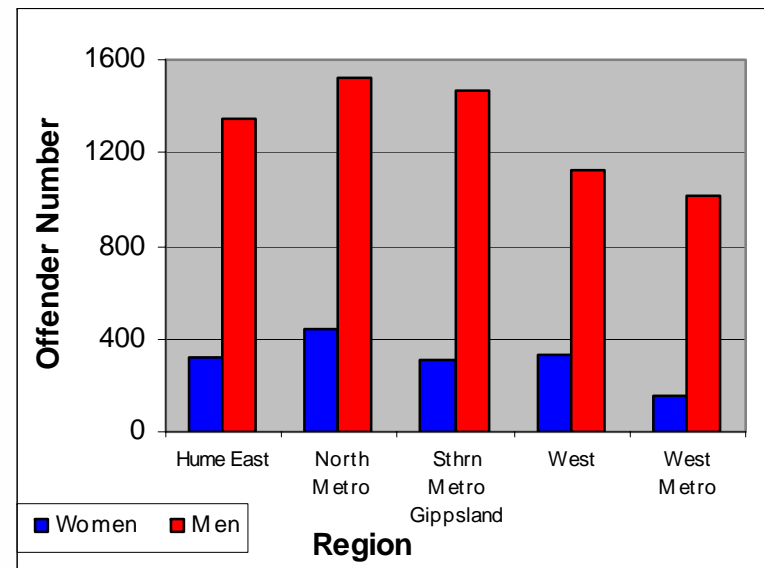
- **Strong, accountable, responsive and flexible service**
 - * Developing appropriate responses for women offenders
 - * Women's Correctional Service Framework excellent basis
- **Strengthening Community Work Program**
 - * Appropriate worksites for women
 - * Practical assistance around childcare and transport

Profile: Women Offenders in CCS



- 1,555 women offenders currently managed by CCS
- Women make up 19% of total offenders in CCS

No. CCS offenders by Region



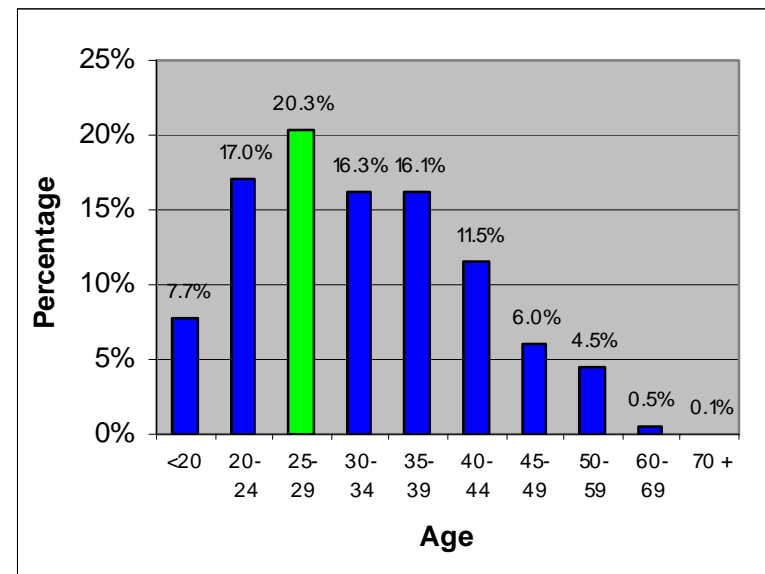
Source: E*Justice @ 1 Oct 2007

Profile: Women Offenders in CCS cont....



- Majority of women in 20-29yrs age group
- 6% of women are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island ethnicity

CCS women offenders by age



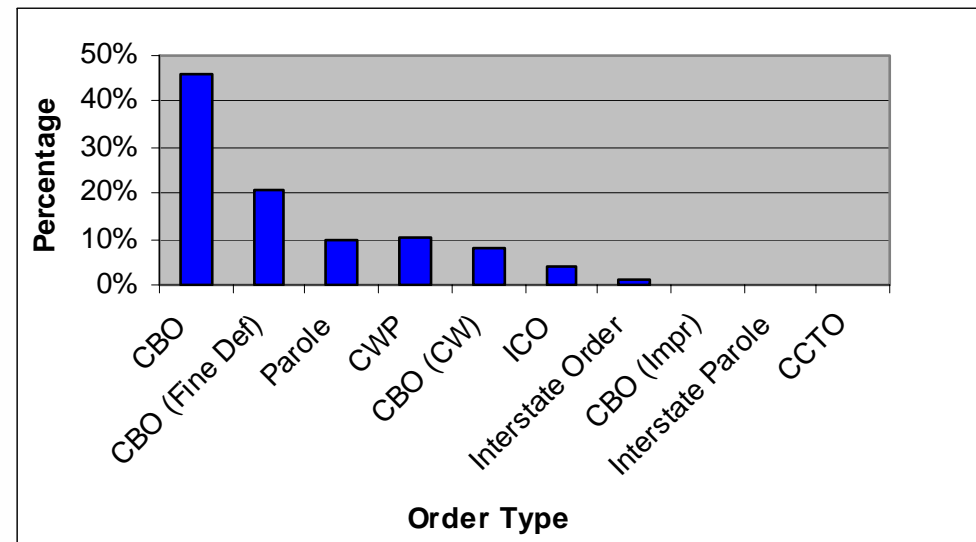
Source: E*Justice @ 1 Oct 2007

Profile: Women Offenders in CCS cont....



CCS women offenders by order type

- Majority of women on CBO's (supervised)



Characteristics of Women Offenders in CCS



- Lower risk / less serious crimes than men
- High levels of substance abuse
- Experience of sexual and physical abuse common
- Mental & physical health issues
- Impact and influence of criminal partners
- Low levels of education and high unemployment

Profile of CCS staff



- High proportion of women in their mid-twenties
- Median age of Community Corrections Officers = 26yrs
- Same age group as majority of women offenders in CCS



Source: CCS Organisational Review April 2007

Challenges for CCS in working with women



- Small numbers spread over multiple locations
- Women presenting with multiple and complex needs
- Barriers to compliance – child care and transport
- Ensuring staff well trained in working with women
- Ensuring strong partnerships with appropriate agencies

Better Pathways – CCS approach



- Establishing appropriate Community Work sites for women
- Re-launching the Women's Portfolio Holder role
- Training for CCS staff in working effectively with women
- Working with judiciary and defence lawyers

Women and Community Work



Strategy: Increase number of suitable worksites and work options for women offenders doing Community Work

- Best practice principles on suitable work sites
- Workshop session on women offenders at the Community Work Forum being held in November

Women Portfolio Holder Role



Strategy: Re-developing specialist women offender advisor role

- Relaunching role, pitched at more senior CCS staff
- Act as champions for staff working with women
- Identify and develop relationships with key external agencies in the local community
- More extensive training, and support from Women's Policy Unit at Head Office

Staff Training



Strategy: Developing and delivering training for CCS staff on the supervision of women offenders

- Pilot training session run by senior psychologist in Reservoir
- Senior Policy Officer developing training in 3 parts:
 - * *New staff*
 - * *Existing staff*
 - * *Women's Portfolio Holders*

Other CCS related Better Pathways initiatives



- Child Care and Transport Subsidies (CCATS)
Program state-wide rollout
- Women 4 Work Program
- Post release support for women (WISP, SWEP)
- Women's Mentoring Program through VACRO
- Engaging with judiciary and defence lawyers

Summary



- Some important achievements made already
- Key focus next 12mths in on re-developing women's portfolio holder role, staff training and community work for women