

Forensic Disability Services

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Families,
Fairness
and Housing

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Victoria's forensic disability service system

For over 30 years, Victoria has supported an integrated forensic disability service response.

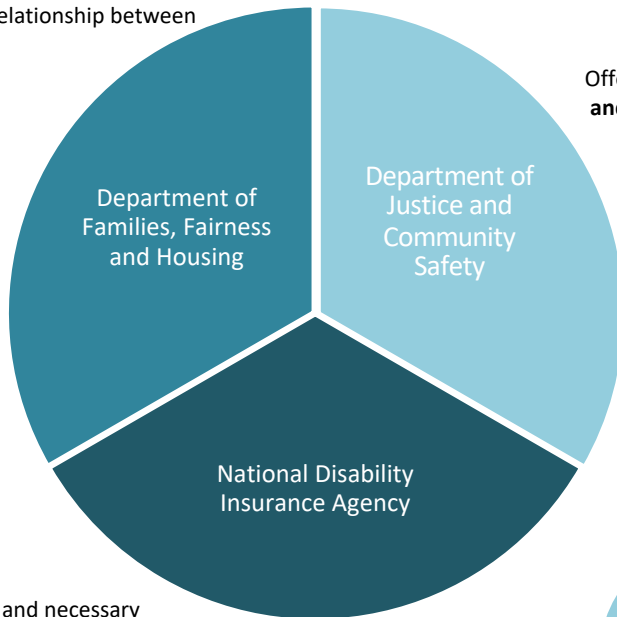
DFFH and the Department of Justice and Community Safety have worked together closely to deliver Victoria's service response to people with disability in contact with the criminal justice system over this time.

Following the implementation of the NDIS, this service response is provided in parallel to supports offered through the Scheme, in line with the Commonwealth's and Victoria's obligations.

Therapeutic care and rehabilitation address forensic needs and the relationship between offending and disability

Offender supervision and management

Reasonable and necessary disability supports



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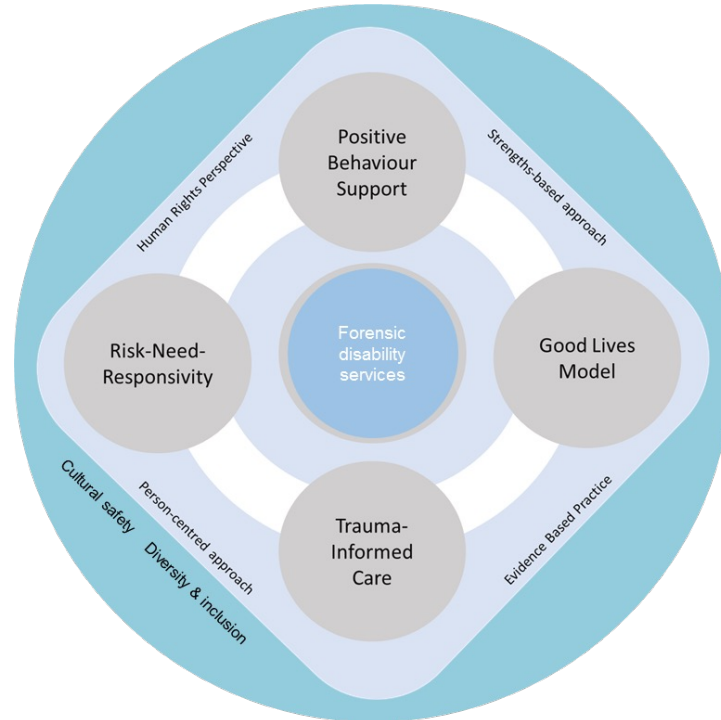
**1 in 3
Serious
Offenders**
in the
community
have an ID

Approx.
**50% of people
in prison in
Victoria** have
an Acquired
Brain Injury
and **9%** have
an ID

Forensic Disability Services Objectives

Forensic Disability Services aims to:

- improve quality of life to support community integration and participation
- improve community safety
- support achievement of goals
- address adaptive functioning skills
- reduce risk of offending

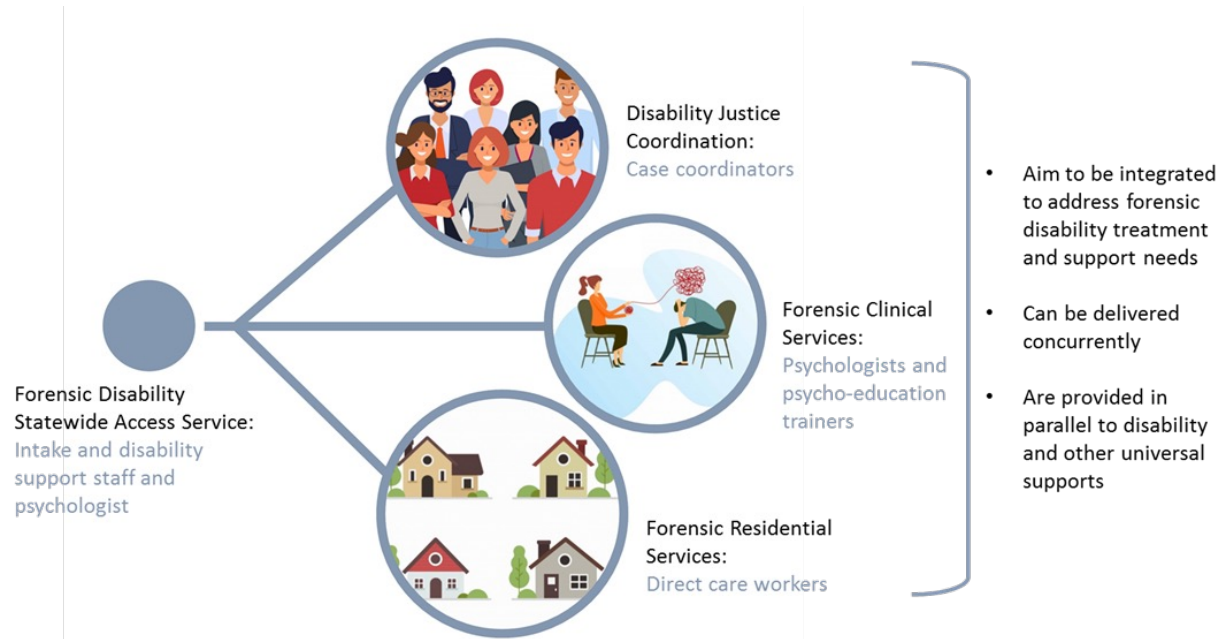


Forensic Disability Services

- Forensic Disability Statewide Access Service
- Disability Justice Coordination
- Forensic Disability Clinical Services
- Forensic Residential Services

Approx.
750 people
receive
services
each month

25% of
forensic
disability
clients are
**Aboriginal
or Torres
Strait
Islander**



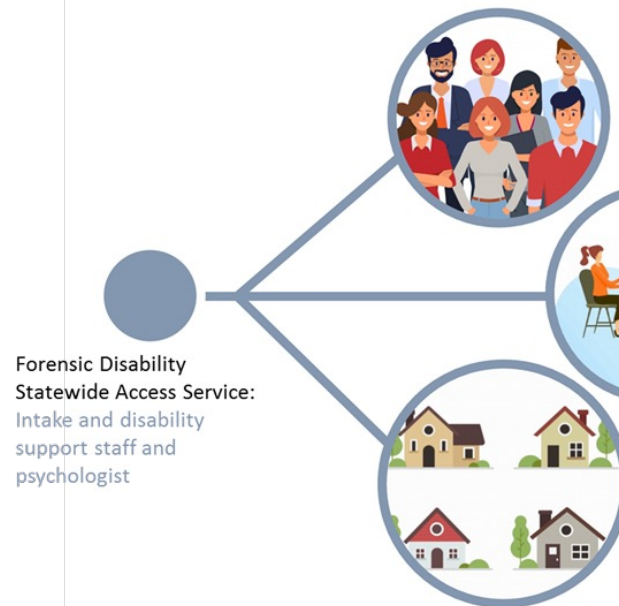
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Forensic Disability Services

Forensic Disability Statewide Access Service (FDSAS)

- Operates as a triage and intake entry point for referrals for forensic disability treatment and supports.
- Assesses eligibility under the *Disability Act 2006* through target group assessments
- Screens for access to Disability Justice Coordination, Forensic Residential Services and Clinical Services
- Provides initial advice on forensic disability supports, including through a Disability Prison Services Coordinator who assists staff within adult prisons in identifying options for supports for people with cognitive disability

FDSAS can be contacted at ForensicDisability.Access@dffh.vic.gov.au



Forensic Disability Services

Forensic Residential Services

- Are a network of secure and non-secure state-wide houses and units that provide accommodation where a person with forensic disability treatment and support needs requires a residential setting to reduce their behaviours of concerns, including their risk of offending, and increase their adaptive functioning skills and achieve personal goals
- Integrate supports for daily living skills building and positive behaviour provided through direct care staff with clinical treatment provided through psychologists
- Aim to provide a therapeutic environment, integrating forensic clinical and disability direct care supports, to support the achievement of beneficial treatment outcomes and goals



Forensic Disability Services

Disability Justice Coordination

- Assesses and coordinates forensic disability supports for a person deemed eligible through the Forensic Disability Statewide Access Service based on their needs, risks and goals
- Advocates for any other supports they require through other universal service systems and can facilitate referrals to the NDIS to help people get their reasonable and necessary disability needs met
- Supports the forensic disability client to understand the court process, conditions of bail, parole and/or their order
- Coordinates access to interventions to reduce their risk of reoffending and any behaviours of concern that contribute to that risk, improve their quality of life and support community safety
- Supports planning for community transition when a person is exiting from prison or youth justice custodial.



Forensic Disability Services

Forensic Clinical Services

- Provide offence-specific and offence-related treatment programs targeted to people with cognitive disability that address their criminogenic behaviour and behaviour of concern related to their disability that reduce their risk of offending
- Programs are provided to people residing in forensic residential settings as well as people living in the community
- Risk assessment, as well as 1:1 and group treatment
- Provides behaviour support planning and consultancy to other services and providers about the person's forensic disability treatment and support needs
- Community Forensic Disability Mental Health Service.



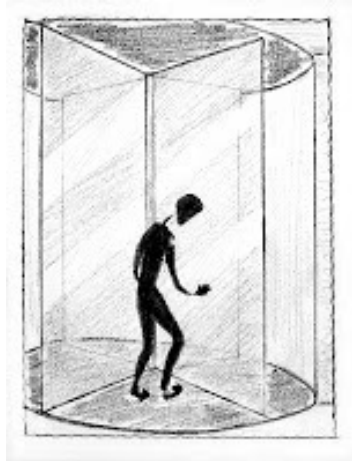
A typical client

Limited education and employment

History of trauma

Repeated offending history

Behaviour of concern



Early onset of alcohol/drug use

Self-harm & suicide attempts

Poor physical health

Cognitive and functional impairments

Forensic Disability Services – Career/placement opportunities

Head over to the Forensic Disability Careers page <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/forensic-disability-services> for more information.

Studentplacements@dffh.vic.gov.au



Forensic Disability Services – Research opportunities

Discreet Research Projects (Honours / Masters)



Assessment

- Validity and reliability of adapted measures
- Predictive validity of risk assessment measures



Intervention

- Validity of offence specific programs (pre/post offending)
- Validity of offence related programs (self rated)



Qualitative exploration

- Experience of people in services
- Explore mechanisms in treatment
- Staffing issues (e.g. burn out and local of control)

Complex projects (Grants / PhD)



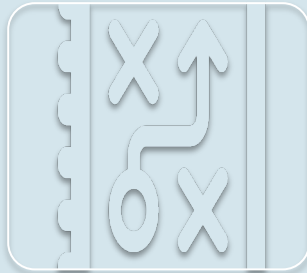
Criminogenic versus disability needs

- Establishes evidence based approach to considering behaviour (NDIS)
- Develops tools to establish standards



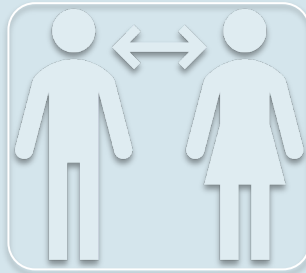
Residential treatment

- Development of evidence based residential treatment (TFM)
- Explore mechanisms of change



Pathways in Victorian justice

- Explore different experiences and outcomes for people with disability, personality disorder and mental health disorders in justice system



Program development

- Develop evidence based programs for:
 - general offending,
 - arson,
 - young people



Assessment developments

- Need for risk assessments valid for young / aboriginal people
- Need for risk management tools
- Need for adaptive functioning measures suitable for places of custody

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