

Reinstatement of Specialist Courts and Court Diversionary Programs Update

June 2016

Queensland Integrated Court Referrals (QICR) commenced operation in Brisbane on 30 May 2016. Murri Court has now been launched in six locations across Queensland and the Drug and Specialist Courts Review is well underway.

Queensland Integrated Court Referrals (QICR)

QICR commenced operation in Brisbane on 30 May 2016.

QICR replaces the Queensland Courts Referral (QCR) process and the former Special Circumstances Court Diversion Program.

QICR provides an opportunity for defendants' to engage with service providers through short term bail-based referrals and then longer-term treatment and rehabilitation post-sentence.

QICR Practice Direction and Procedures

A Practice Direction setting out referral procedures, eligibility requirements and court protocols and processes was issued by Chief Magistrate Judge Rinaudo on 30 May 2016 ([2016/04 – Queensland Integrated Court Referrals](#)).

A QICR Procedure Manual has been issued to key stakeholders and service providers which sets out the roles and responsibilities of all participants in QICR, including service providers, legal representatives and prosecutors.

Forms have been developed to be used by facilitators and the Case Assessment Group to provide detailed information to magistrates, the defence and the prosecution about the defendant's personal circumstances and their participation in QICR.

QICR Locations

QICR will be expanded to further locations across Queensland by the end of 2016. Consultation has commenced with the key stakeholders at other locations. The availability of suitable referral service

providers and the likely volume of referrals will be considered when finally determining suitable locations.

QICR Staffing

QICR is supported by a Coordinator to strategically position the program across the State and dedicated facilitators at each QICR location.

A recruitment process will be undertaken to recruit additional facilitators.

Murri Court

Murri Court provides an opportunity for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (including Elders and victims) to participate in a court process which requires defendants to take responsibility for their offending behaviour but which respects and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Murri Court has been formally launched in Rockhampton, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Richlands and Mackay.

Ceremonies are being planned to launch Murri Court in Mt Isa, Cherbourg, Wynnum, St George, Toowoomba, Cleveland and Caboolture.

From 13 April 2016 Elders and Respected Persons who attend Murri Court are entitled to be paid an allowance of \$100 per sitting day. This payment is made to recognise the valuable contribution Elders and Respected Persons make to Murri Court by covering their expenses.



Reinstatement of Specialist Courts and Court Diversionary Programs Update

June 2016

Murri Court Practice Direction and Procedures

A Murri Court Practice Direction was issued on 13 April 2016 which sets out referral procedures, eligibility requirements and court protocols and processes ([2016/02 – Queensland Murri Court](#)).

Forms have been developed to be used by Community Justice Groups (CJG) to provide detailed information to magistrates about the defendant's cultural and personal circumstances and their participation in Murri Court.

A Murri Court user training package is being developed that will be delivered to Elders and other Murri Court users at each Murri Court location before the end of 2016. The new forms will be introduced as training at each location is provided. A Murri Court Procedures Manual is also being drafted and will set out the roles and responsibilities of all Murri Court participants, including Elders and CJGs.

Monitoring and Evaluation of QICR and Murri Court

Regular monitoring and review of Murri Court and QICR will be undertaken to support stakeholders, magistrates and court staff.

Both models have been developed with capacity to collect data and other information for continuous monitoring and evaluation.

CIP invites feedback from stakeholders on both models and the underlying procedures and forms to assist with continuous improvement and to ensure best practice models are in place.

Drug and Specialist Courts Review

The Drug and Specialist Courts Review Team welcomed a new member to the team, Leigh Krenske, Manager of Research and Evaluation. Leigh is working on a report mapping demand for specialist courts responses for offenders with drug and alcohol problems and other

issues related to their offending. Data will be sourced from key agencies involved, including Queensland Corrective Services, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Health and Youth Justice.

The Review Team released a preliminary issues paper to stakeholders for comment and feedback on the objectives of the review and the operation of the former Drug Court. The feedback is in the process of being collated into a summary report.

The tender process for the expert consultancies for the review has also now been finalised. We are pleased to announce the successful consultants are:

- the Australian National University with the Australian Institute of Criminology, which will report on best practice in drug and alcohol court-based interventions; and
- Emeritus Professor Arie Freiberg AM with Dr Karen Gelb, who will lead work on the broader specialists courts and court diversionary programs review.

QICR Contact:

Tarnya Comyns, Coordinator, QICR,
Courts Innovation Program
T: 07 3234 1024
E: tarnya.comyns@justice.qld.gov.au

Murri Court Contact:

Renee Kyle, Coordinator, Murri Court,
Courts Innovation Program
T: 07 3109 9175
E: renee.kyle@justice.qld.gov.au

Drug Court Contact:

Tara Linnan, Project Manager,
Drug and Specialist Courts Review
Courts Innovation Program
T: 07 3006 2538
E: tara.linnan@justice.qld.gov.au or
QLD-Drug-and-Specialist-Courts-Review-Team@justice.qld.gov.au

