

# Forensic Mental Health Services

## Fact Sheet | June 2022



The Community Forensic Mental Health Service is a confidential statewide service that assists people who have a mental health issue and/or intellectual disability who are:

- Involved with the criminal justice system, or
- Assessed as high risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system as a result of their mental health and associated behaviour.

The service offers mental health assessment, liaison, counselling, support, education, advice and referral to other services. We may be able to provide case management in some instances

### For more information contact:

**North: 03 6777 1204**

**South: 03 6166 0486**

### Who is eligible for our services?

People aged 18 years and over who have a mental illness and/or disability and are:

- on a forensic order
- on Magistrate's Bail with specific directions to present to Forensic Mental Health
- on probation or parole
- assessed as high risk of becoming involved

### Our Team includes

Our team includes psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, community mental health nurses, social workers, occupational therapist, and court liaison officers.

### Services we provide

Our team delivers:

- mental health assessment
- risk assessment & management planning
- court ordered reports
- case management
- medication administration, monitoring & education
- therapeutic intervention, such as counselling
- consultation, support & education
- referral to other services

## Court Liaison Services

Court Liaison Officers in our team:

- Identify people before the court who may have a mental illness and make referrals to treatment and support services.
- Provide immediate assessment and advice to the court about defendants who may have a mental health problem.
- Provide initial screening assessment to determine fitness to stand trial.
- Support individuals and family members through the court process.
- Provide assessments, recommendations and oversight of participants to the Diversion List.

## The Diversion List

The Diversion List is a specialist Court List in the Magistrates Court to meet the needs of defendants who have mental illness, cognitive impairment or a brain injury.

The List provides a therapeutic alternative to the general court process and participants voluntarily take part in treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Court Liaison Officers assess eligibility of participants and oversee their progress while on the program.

## What are Forensic Orders?

The Supreme Court can place a person on a Forensic Order if they are found:

- Unfit to take part in the legal process, or
- Not guilty by reasons of insanity.

A person can be placed on either a:

**Restriction Order** – the person is detained in a secure mental health unit, or

**Supervision Order** – the person lives in the community under the supervision of the Chief Forensic Psychiatrist with specific conditions.

Each order is reviewed every 12 months by the Tasmanian Forensic Tribunal

## Useful contact numbers

A list of useful contact numbers is given below.

<a href="#">Access Mental Health</a>	1800 332 388
<a href="#">Advocacy Tasmania</a>	1800 005 131
<a href="#">Alcohol and Drug Services</a>	1300 139 641
<a href="#">Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)</a>	1800 250 015
<a href="#">Freedom of Information Unit</a>	1300 766 725
<a href="#">Guardianship and Administration Board</a>	1300 799 625
<a href="#">Lifeline (Crisis Counselling 24 hr)</a>	13 11 14
<a href="#">Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania (Free Phone Advice)</a>	1300 366 611
<a href="#">Mental Health Carers Tas.</a>	1800 985 944
<a href="#">Mental Health Tribunal</a>	03 6165 7491
<a href="#">Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service</a>	1800 064 865
<a href="#">Official Visitors Program</a>	1800 001 170

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Tasmanian  
Government



Department of Health

1300 135 513

[www.health.tas.gov.au](http://www.health.tas.gov.au)

*Statewide Mental Health Service welcomes feedback from clients, carers, and family members to help us improve care. Talk to one of our team, fill in a consumer feedback form*

*The Tasmanian Health Service integrates acute, primary and community services. This integration has given service providers the flexibility to ensure people have the best services we can provide, as close as possible to where they live*