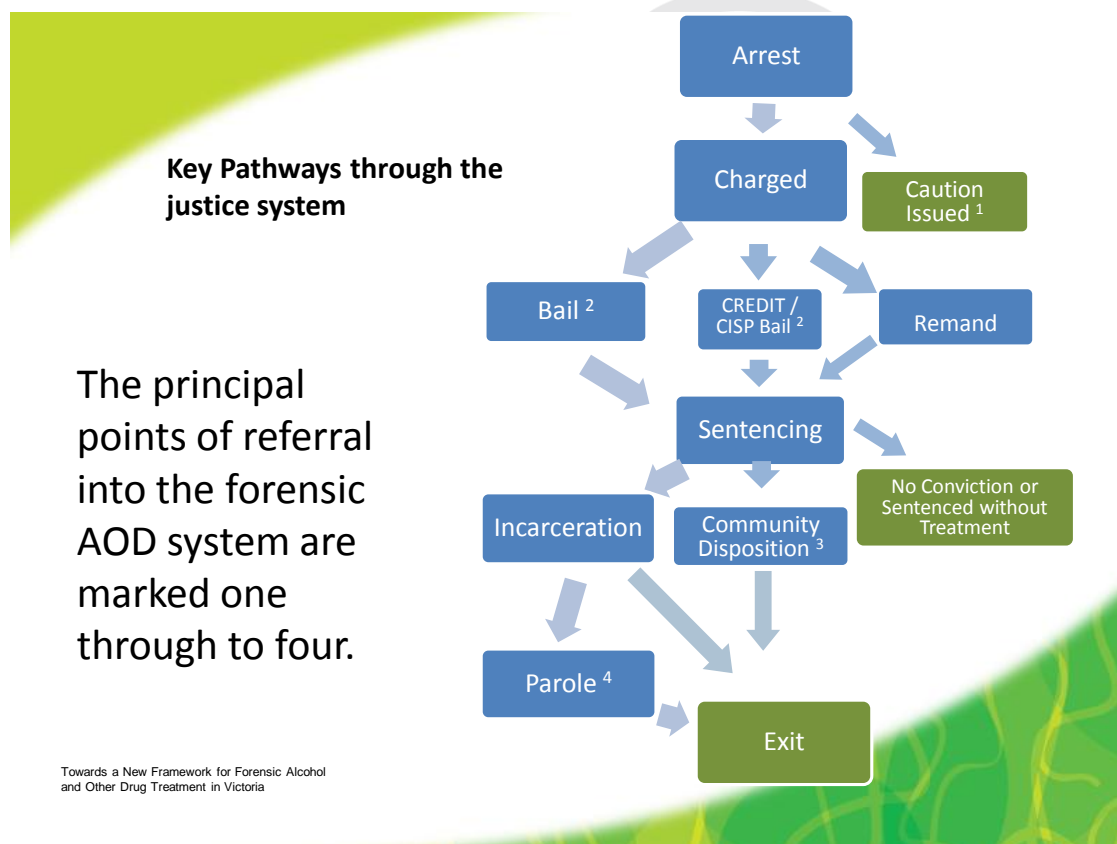


Dear intake and assessment providers

Welcome to our second COATS communiqué to assist our sector partners with the process of transition into a newly reformed drug treatment services sector. **This communiqué focuses on the relationship between COATS and the newly funded catchment based intake and assessment providers.** We look forward to working with each of you, your organisations and consortia over the coming months as we support clients to enter a new look forensic drug treatment system and in some cases to transition between providers.

COATS

- COATS is the state wide centralised intake, assessment and referral service for justice clients into community based AOD treatment services. It has been running for 16 years
- COATS was established to:
 - administer state and commonwealth funded treatment pathways for forensic clients,
 - provide support to agencies in managing forensic referrals ensuring forensic clients get treatment as a priority and achieve outcomes that reduce drug and alcohol related offending,
 - provide financial and activity reporting to agencies, Department of Health and Justice Services
- COATS holds protocol in conjunction with Department of Health with each of our Justice Partners and ensures that all drug treatment providers are aware of the obligations under these protocols through individual signing of Heads of Agreement (HOA). (Revised agreements will be issued by 1st of September)
- Services receiving referrals from COATS are signed up to the Penelope portal which is the means of communication with Justice Partners and COATS regarding treatment.

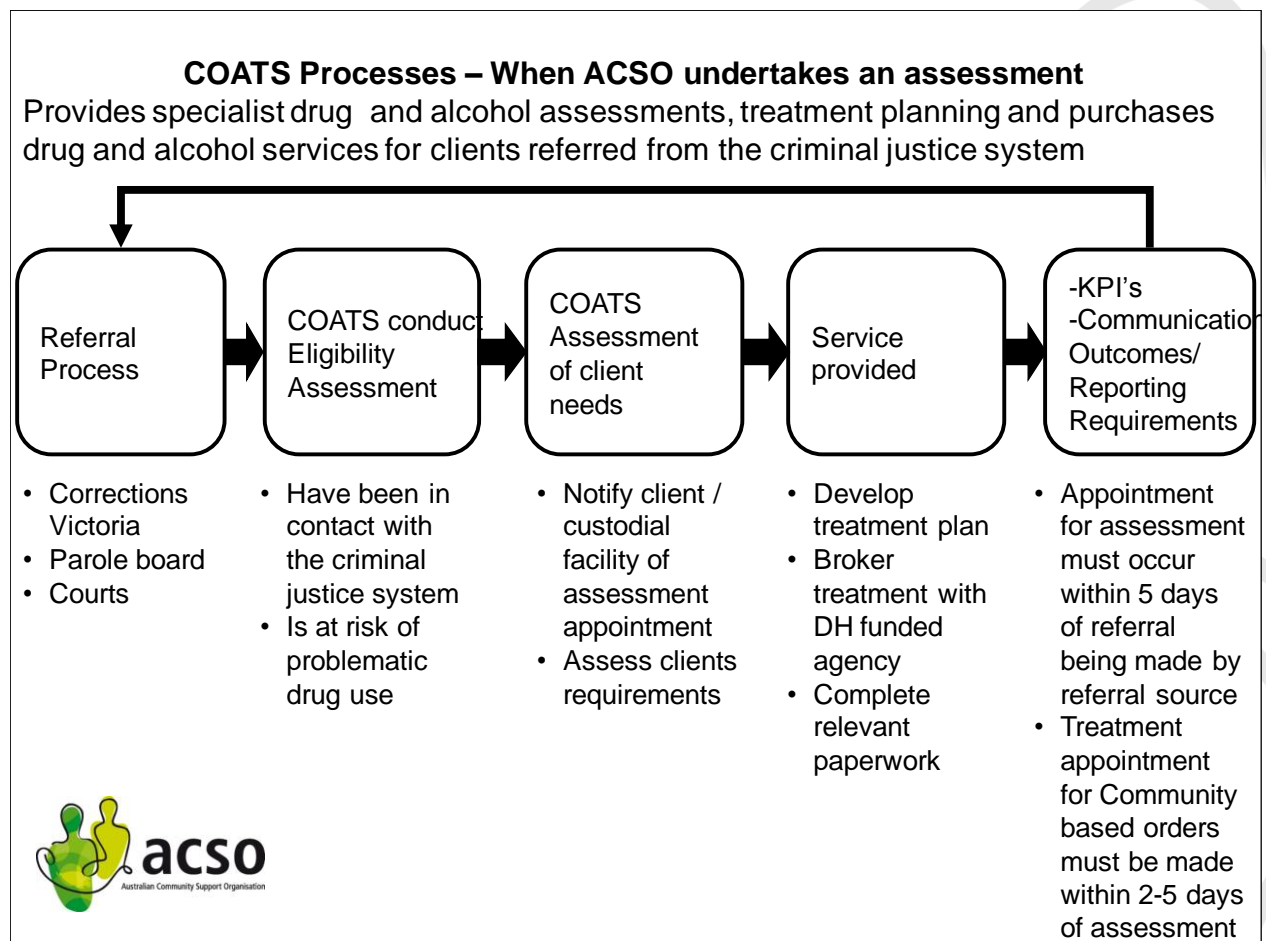


The Role of ACSO in the delivery of COATS

- ACSO will continue to undertake the majority of forensic intake and assessment services for forensic clients, in particular clients referred through Community Corrections, Courts and the Adult Parole Board.
- Assessments are undertaken within 2-5 days of referral according to identified levels of risk.
- ACSO will refer forensic clients directly into community based drug treatment.
- ACSO will also continue to be responsible for the reconciliation of forensic funding and targets.

How ACSO will make referrals to treatment services

- All approved providers of non-residential withdrawal, counselling and care & recovery coordination are expected to dedicate annually 20% of their DTAU funding for the treatment of forensic clients and to report against this target.
- Providers delivering services out of scope will continue to deliver COATS in exactly the same way as they do today.
- ACSO will continue to develop the treatment pathway for each COATS client and refer them to the service most appropriate to the presenting need.
- ACSO will refer clients directly to treatment sites for counselling, care & recovery co-ordination and non-residential withdrawal and provide a copy of each referral to the lead provider (where required) in consortiums and to the relevant catchment intake and assessment provider.
- ACSO will also provide a weekly summary of referrals to intake and assessment providers (and consortium lead agencies where relevant) to assist them in managing demand for services and track capacity in individual agencies.



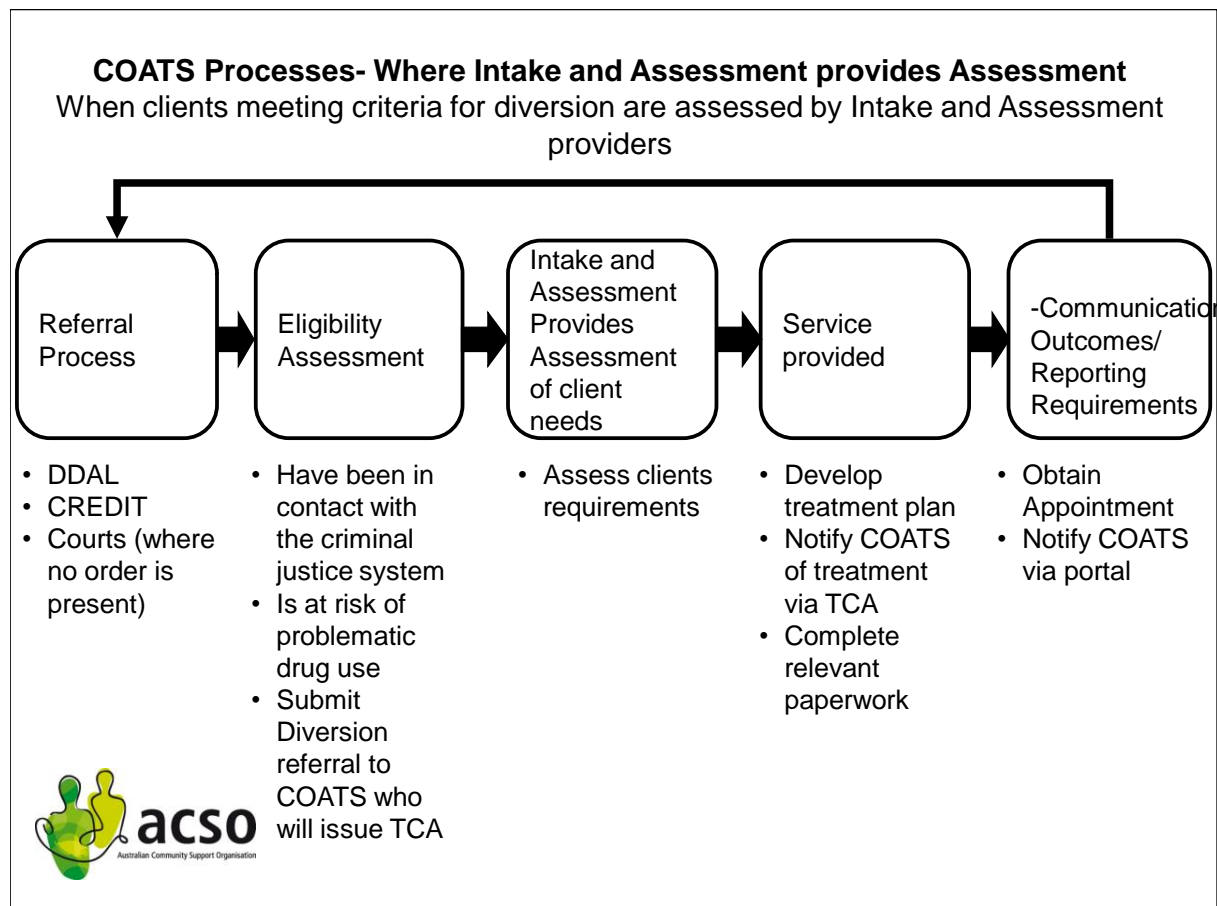
The Role of catchment based intake and assessment providers in the delivery of COATS

- Catchment based intake and assessment services will be expected to provide screening, assessment and brief intervention services from 1 September 2014 for diversion clients such as those referred by the Drug Diversion Appointment Line (DDAL) and the Court Referral & Evaluation for Drug Intervention & Treatment (CREDIT) program and other referrals sources such as clients historically considered under the Rural Outreach Diversion Worker programs.

- An annual target of 10% of the intake and assessment Drug Treatment Activity Unit (DTAU) funding for each intake and assessment provider is being allocated for forensic clients.
- KADW workers will continue to undertake assessments for Aboriginal clients referred by police and Koori Courts as is the current arrangement, with the aim for intake and assessment providers to take on this function over the next 10 months.

DDAL Clients

- Assessment and intake providers will undertake DDAL assessments and provide brief intervention.
- Assessment and intake providers will need to provide Turning Point Drug Diversion Line with appointment availability for allocation.
- Should a client require ongoing counselling after initial assessment the client can be referred to a counselling service in the relevant catchment, with treatment brokered through ACSO.



Reconciliation against forensic targets

- Catchment intake and assessment providers will be required to submit a Treatment Completion Advice (TCA) to ACSO for each intake and assessment service for a forensic client for reconciliation against the 10% DTAU allocation.
- Non-residential withdrawal, counselling and care & recovery coordination services ordered for both COATS and diversion clients will be reconciled by ACSO.
- The reconciliation will be against each consortium's total forensic adult non-residential DTAU allocation, based on the standard forensic price for each function.
- Payment guidelines will be distributed shortly
- Screening, assessment and brief interventions provided for DDAL clients will continue to be calculated at the current rate of \$300 per client (equivalent to 0.47 DTAUs).
- All other COATS and diversion clients will be calculated at the standard forensic comprehensive assessment and initial treatment plan price (\$578.31; 0.898 DTAUs).

Meet our team

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or to discuss your concerns throughout this time. We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the coming months.

<p>CEO</p>	<p>Over 25 years sector experience including in drug treatment. Current CEO of ACSO, responsible for driving the organisation's vision and strategic goals.</p>	<p>Karenza Louis-Smith</p> 	<p>Responsible for the strategic direction and leadership of ACSO.</p> <p>Ph: 9413 7000 M: 0409 901 258 Karenza@acso.org.au</p>
<p>Group Operations Manager, ACSO Connect</p>	<p>Over 10 years sector experience with expertise in dual disability, complex needs and challenging behaviours.</p>	<p>Lee-Arna Howle</p> 	<p>Responsible for leading our community mental health, drug treatment services and COATS programs, senior managers and teams</p> <p>Ph: 9413 7000 M 0457 536 264 lhowle@acso.org.au</p>
<p>Senior Manager COATS</p>	<p>Over 10 years experience in AOD working in a range of settings including forensic and community counselling and assessment, youth, outreach, residential withdrawal, supported accommodation.</p>	<p>Heather Carmichael</p> 	<p>Responsible for leading all of COATS operations. Key contact for all COATS enquiries</p> <p>Ph: 9413 7000 M: 0421 960 490 hcarmichael@acso.org.au</p>
<p>Financial services team</p>	<p>Qualified accountants and CPS members make up ACSOs finance team. With many years of experience they currently reconcile \$16m ABF for forensic drug treatment services (COATS)</p>	<p>Tony Phillips Eddie Garcia</p> 	<p>Manage all financial reconciliations as part of the activity based funding, including providing services with monthly reports and quarterly reports to the Department.</p> <p>Ph: 9413 7000</p>
<p>Regional Manager Melbourne</p>	<p>A qualified psychologist with over 10 years experience working with Corrections Victoria and in drug treatment.</p>	<p>Lauren Carter</p> 	<p>Regional manager covering Melbourne and the RAPIDS program</p> <p>Ph: 9413 7000 M: 0428 399 898 lcarter@acso.org.au</p>
<p>Regional Manager Western Victoria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certificate psychiatric nursing - Cert IV alcohol and other drug studies - Diploma of management 	<p>Jane House</p> 	<p>Regional manager covering Great South Coast, Grampians and the Loddon Mallee catchments.</p> <p>P: 5332 9800 M: 0409 130 680 jhouse@acso.org.au</p>
<p>Regional Manager Eastern Victoria</p>	<p>Over 12 years experience in AOD services in Management and Clinician roles with qualifications including an Advanced Diploma of Management; a Diploma of Alcohol & Other Drugs</p>	<p>Jenny Svoboda</p> 	<p>Regional Manager covering Hume, Goulburn Valley and Gippsland catchments</p> <p>P: 5172 2900 M: 0417 101 536 jsvoboda@acso.org.au</p>