



Youth justice custodial practice manual

Secure Services

(<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual>)

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Youth Justice Custodial Services Practice Manual (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual>) > Working with young people in custody (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/working-with-young-people-in-custody>) > Health services in custody (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/working-with-young-people-in-custody/health-services-in-custody>) > Health services in custody (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/working-with-young-people-in-custody/health-services-in-custody/health-services-in-custody>)

Health services in custody

- A health plan is developed for each young person sentenced to custody.
- Young people on remand also have access to health services.
- Many of these young people experience a range of complex health issues.
- Youth justice and health staff collaborate to help young people access the health services they need.

When to use this procedure

Use this procedure when undertaking case management duties with young people in the custodial precincts.

What else you need to know

Make sure you have read and understood the following procedures:

- [Admission to custody](http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/sentence-management/admission-to-custody) (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/sentence-management/admission-to-custody>)
- [How we work with young people in custody](http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/introduction-to-working-in-the-custodial-precincts/how-we-work-with-young-people-in-custody) (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/introduction-to-working-in-the-custodial-precincts/how-we-work-with-young-people-in-custody>)
- [Case management](http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/case-management-education-and-employment/case-management) (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/case-management-education-and-employment/case-management>)
- [Substance use treatment](http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/working-with-young-people-in-custody/health-services-in-custody/substance-use) (<http://intranet.dhs.vic.gov.au/youth-justice-custodial-manual/working-with-young-people-in-custody/health-services-in-custody/substance-use>)

treatment)

Staff responsibilities

Find your role below to see what your responsibilities are:

- Unit Coordinator – Malmsbury
 - Admission staff Parkville Precinct
 - Health services
 - Parkville Precinct YJW1
 - Key Worker or Unit Coordinator
 - Unit Manager
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Unit Coordinator – Malmsbury

On admission

- Let the health service know when a young person is admitted so that an admission health assessment can be scheduled.
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Admission staff Parkville Precinct

On admission

- Let the health service know when a young person is admitted – admission assessments are conducted jointly by youth justice and health staff.
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Health services

On admission

- Conduct an admission health assessment within 24 hours of admission or 12 hours if the young person identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- Unit Health Coordinators should introduce themselves to new clients within 48 hours of admission.

During the young person's time in custody

- Provide or coordinate health services identified in the health plan.
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Parkville Precinct YJW1

When escorting young people to the health service

- Actively supervise the young person on the way to and from the health service. Remain within earshot, alert to any safety issues while the young person is in the health service.
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Key Worker or Unit Coordinator

When a young person is unwell or when health service input is needed

- Make a referral to the health service, through the Unit Health Coordinator where appropriate.
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Unit Manager

If health service advises that a young person is unable to attend court the next day due to illness or injury

- Notify the court that the young person is unfit to attend and cancel transport for the young person.
 - If the court requests evidence that the young person is unfit to attend, the Unit Manager must seek this from health service.
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The procedure in detail

- Health services provided
- Admission health assessment
- Health case management
- Supervision of young people in health settings
- Referral to specialist and external health services
- Young people unfit to attend court

Health services provided

In custody, health services include:

- Unit Health Coordinators, who are generally allocated to custodial units to coordinate health services for young people
 - primary healthcare such as nursing and medical services
 - mental healthcare including support from psychological and psychiatric services
 - drug and alcohol assessment and intervention and other services including pharmacotherapy
 - violence prevention interventions
 - health promotion and education activities
 - supporting youth justice staff to understand young people's health issues.
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Admission health assessment

On admission to custody, each young person meets with a worker from the health service for an assessment of their primary and mental health needs and the development of a healthcare plan.

The admission health assessment must occur within 24 hours of admission (or within 12 hours if the young person identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander).

The admission health assessment generates:

- a brief summary report
- medication and treatment sheets
- a recommendation on observation levels
- any necessary health alerts and instructions for immediate treatment or management – including mental health and self-harm risks.

If a young person has escaped from custody or absconded from temporary leave, they should be assessed on return to custody in the same way as at admission.

Malmsbury procedure

At Malmsbury, the Systems and Administration Officer must notify the precinct health service of all new admissions to allow for timely assessment of health issues.

Parkville procedure

At Parkville, the admissions staff notify the health service of the young person's admission – the admission assessment is conducted jointly by youth justice and health staff.

Health case management

Health staff provide some direct health services and coordinate young people's access to other health and specialist services.

All sentenced young people and those on long-term remand (21 days or more) receive a health-needs assessment within six weeks of admission.

This occurs within the statutory case management process undertaken by youth justice. Health services must have input at each stage as young people move through the system. All sentenced young people will have a health plan to support their case management.

The Unit Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the health service has input to case plans and for inviting them to relevant case planning meetings.

Unit Health Coordinators should introduce themselves to new clients within 48 hours of admission to explain their role.

Supervision of young people in health settings

At Parkville, you must escort young people to and from health appointments. It is not safe to leave them by themselves in the health service without supervision. You must wait with them and escort them safely back to their unit.

At Malmsbury, young men are assessed to determine if it is appropriate for them to move around the precinct by themselves. If a young man may move between areas without staff supervision, you should radio ahead before sending him to other areas such as the health service. Health staff should then let the unit know when the client has arrived and when he leaves to return to the unit.

Although young people need to be supervised to maintain safety, you should also allow for confidentiality between a young person and their health worker.

This means that you remain within the health service area, available in case there are any problems, but allow the young person to speak privately without being overheard.

If staff are unsure how to maintain this balance, they should check with their Unit Supervisor.

Referral to specialist and external health services

At any time during the young person's time in custody, the Key Worker or Unit Coordinator can make a further referral to the health service – for example if the young person becomes unwell or to ensure health input into their case management.

The Unit Health Coordinator can help unit staff coordinate these referrals.

For mental health referrals, see the procedure on **Mental health treatment**.

Young people unfit to attend court

On occasion, the health service may advise that a young person is injured or unwell and therefore unable to attend court the next day.

The Unit Manager must ensure the court is notified and transport for the young person is cancelled.

If the court requests evidence that the young person is unfit to attend, the Unit Manager must seek this from the health service.

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Authorised by: Ian Lanyon, Director Secure Services

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