

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) sexual offending programs have been designed for sexual offenders who were an adult at the time of offending. The aetiology of child versus adult sexual offenders can be markedly different. As such, the available QCS sexual offending programs are not considered applicable to the treatment of 17 year old offenders who are displaying sexually abusive behaviours or have committed child sex offences.

Currently, there are 66, 17 year old, prisoners accommodated by QCS in adult prisons, of which only two are identified as sexual offenders. Generally, the need for sexual offending programs for this small group is considered low as treatment has often been facilitated in the community prior to their progression to the adult prison system.

In circumstances where sexual offender treatment has commenced with a child in detention prior to transfer into the adult prison system, continuation of these sessions with the Griffith University Youth Forensic Service (GYFS) has been facilitated whilst accommodated in the youthful offenders' unit at Brisbane Correctional Centre. GYFS treatment is tailored around the individual offender, with a focus on individual, family and community-level interventions.

QCS has also previously engaged specialist contractors to complete individual sessions with 17 year old offenders on an as needs basis.

Seventeen year old offenders have access to specific programs, designed for youthful offenders, at the Brisbane Correctional Centre, including the Uniting Care Youthful Offender Program and Boystown Youthful Offender Program.

The Uniting Care Youthful Offender Program is available to male offenders aged 17-18 years old of any cultural background. The program aims to assist offenders to gain necessary life skills relevant to their reintegration into the community. The program uses music and art appreciation to teach effective communication skills. The program aims to reduce confusion in communication, teach core skills for job acquisition and leadership, conflict resolution and enable emotional expression both verbally and non-verbally.

The Boystown Youthful Offender Program is also available to male prisoners aged 17-24 years old and of any cultural background. This program is delivered for 17 year olds at Brisbane Correctional Centre and for 18-24 year olds at Woodford Correctional Centre. The aim of the program is to reduce re-offending through the provision of targeted programs and services, including youth specific inductions, access to vocational and educational courses and transitional support. The program focuses on teaching skills to increase the individual's ability to self-manage behaviour, increase engagement in rehabilitative activities, and prepare for release including making linkages to community agencies to assist with re-entry into the community.

Additionally, if eligibility criteria are met, 17 years olds in adult prisons may access substance abuse intervention programs and pre- and post-release transitional support services as delivered to adult offenders.

Literacy and numeracy courses are accessible in all centres, with classes specifically facilitated for 17 year olds at Brisbane Correctional Centre. Seventeen year old offenders are also provided the opportunity to enrol in distance education through the Charters Towers School of Distance Education to gain year 10 equivalent education. A range of vocational education courses are also accessible to the 17 year old offenders aimed at increasing work readiness.

Seventeen year old offenders are able to engage in employment where available and meaningful activities (e.g. art, physical activity, music classes). Brisbane Correctional

Centre facilitates indigenous art and music sessions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 17 year olds.

Additionally, all 17 year olds have access to chaplaincy services, Elders visits and family visitation to receive support and maintain links to the community. Seventeen year olds also have access to Queensland Health prison mental health and offender health services at all centres.

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms Keiren Bennett, Director, Offender Rehabilitation and Management, Specialist Operations, QCS, on REDACTED or at Keiren.Bennett@dcs.qld.gov.au.



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