



# Murri Court Sentence Report – Cover Sheet

*Information for the Murri Court Assessment Panel*

This cover sheet outlines why we are collecting this information, how the information is used, and why it is important to make sure the report is completed as fully and as accurately as possible. It also provides instructions for completing the Murri Court Sentence Report (MCSR).

## **When do I use this form?**

The MCSR is to be conducted just before the Murri Court sentence.

## **What is it for?**

This form is used to:

- provide an update on the defendant's progress with treatment and support services; and
- describe how the defendant's circumstances have changed after being involved in Murri Court.

The Murri Court Assessment Panel is not clinically trained and are not able to diagnose a defendant. The Murri Court Assessment Panel will provide the court cultural advice, and can only tell the court what the defendant tells them about his or her circumstances and offending. It is important that this report is completed as fully and as accurately as possible. This is because the Murri Court magistrate relies on this report to get a good understanding of the defendant. The information in this report may help the Murri Court magistrate when sentencing the defendant.

This report is also useful for the Murri Court Assessment Panel. It will show how life has changed for the defendant, and what things worked (or didn't work) for them. This information might help the Panel when working with other similar defendants in the future.

## **How do we use this report?**

The Panel may choose to yarn with the defendant and then complete the report, or they may choose to step through the report with the defendant. The CJG coordinator can print this form out and write in the spaces provided or they can write notes and type in the document later.

The defendant may choose not to answer some questions. That is ok. It is important, however, that the Murri Court magistrate has useful and relevant information to assist them in making informed decisions.

## **What do we do with it once it's complete?**

Once the Panel has finished the report the CJG coordinator will provide a copy to the defendant or the defendant's legal representative, the prosecutor, the Murri Court magistrate, and the Murri Court Elders. This should occur at least 48 hours prior to the defendant's Murri Court sentence. A copy of the report should also be provided to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General ([murricourt@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:murricourt@justice.qld.gov.au)) for the purpose of updating the central program database.

## **More questions?**

If you have any questions please contact your local Indigenous Justice Officer or email [murricourt@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:murricourt@justice.qld.gov.au).

Defendant's name



The artwork used here was created by Wakka Wakka man and Gilingbaa artist David Williams.

# MURRI COURT SENTENCE REPORT



This form is used by the Murri Court Assessment Panel to record changes in the defendant's life after participating in Murri Court, and to provide the Murri Court magistrate with a broader context in which to understand the defendant's efforts to address the underlying contributors to his/her offending

## Defendant's Details

Surname		Given Name/s			
Date of Birth	Age	Gender	Male	Female	
Address					
Home Phone	Mobile	Email			
Court location					

## Cultural Identity

This section of the report describes any changes there might have been in the defendant's connection to culture since going to Murri Court.

When we first spoke, we talked about your connection to culture. You said:

Do you feel connected to culture?	No	Yes			
How important is it to you to feel connected to culture?	Not at all important	A little bit important	Important	Very important	Don't know

What makes you feel connected to culture OR  
What would make you feel connected to culture?  
(eg. going to NAIDOC, going to country, talking with Elders)

Has Murri Court helped you feel connected to culture? Yes ↓ No (go to next question)

How has Murri Court helped you feel connected to culture?

When you finish in Murri Court, what will you do to stay connected to culture?

Defendant name:



## Defendant's family background

This section of the report asks if the defendant is better able to cope with things that happened when s/he was growing up since going to Murri Court.

When we first spoke, we talked about what life was like for you growing up and how things affected you.

You said:

How do you feel about those things now?

Much worse

About the same

A bit better

Much better

Don't know

Has anything helped you to feel better about those things?

Yes  
↓

No (go to next question)

What has helped you to feel better?

Has anything made you feel worse about those things?

Yes  
↓

No (go to next question)

What has made you feel worse?

Has Murri Court helped you to feel better about those things?

Yes  
↓

No (go to next question)

How has Murri Court helped you to feel better?

What will you do when you leave Murri Court to cope with your feelings about things that happened to you growing up?

## Defendant's personal circumstances

This section describes what life is like for the defendant now and if there have been any changes since going to Murri Court.

When we first spoke, we talked about what life is like for you now.

You said: [summarise the defendant's responses in the 'Defendant's Personal Circumstances' section of the Murri Court Entry Report]

How has your life changed since starting Murri Court?

Much worse

About the same

A bit better

Much better

Don't know

Has anything helped to make your life better?

Yes  
↓

No (go to next question)

What has helped to make your life better?

Has anything made your life worse?

Yes  
↓

No (go to next question)

What has made your life worse?

Defendant name:



**Defendant's personal circumstances continued...**

Has Murri Court helped make your life better?

Yes  
↓

No (go to next question)

How has Murri Court helped make your life better?

What will you do when you leave Murri Court to make better choices in your life?

**Defendant's personal history**

This section of the report asks about changes in the defendant's personal history.

**Education**

When we first spoke, you said:

Since then, have you <b>enrolled</b> in:	Traineeship	University	TAFE	Apprenticeship	None of these
	Other (please describe)				

Since then, have you <b>completed</b> :	Traineeship	University	TAFE	Apprenticeship	None of these
	Other (please describe)				

Since then, have you <b>cancelled or stopped</b> :	Traineeship	University	TAFE	Apprenticeship	None of these
	Other (please describe)				

Please describe what courses/traineeships/apprenticeships you have completed/ enrolled in / or stopped

**Enrolled in**

**Completed**

**Stopped**

Are there any courses / traineeships / apprenticeships you **would like** to enrol in?

**Employment**

Only ask these questions if the defendant is **capable of looking for work**

When we first spoke, you said:

Are you currently:	Not working and not looking for work	Not working, but looking for work	Not working, but studying
	Working part-time/casual	Working full time →	Where are you currently working?
	Other (please describe) ↓		

Defendant name:



## Income and spending

We are collecting this information to help the magistrate understand your current financial situation and living expenses.

Do you have enough money to meet all your expenses each fortnight?	No	Yes				
What is your main source of income?	No income Other (please describe)	Employment	Supported by family	Receiving benefits (eg Centrelink)		
What is your income each fortnight?						
How much do you spend each fortnight on:	<b>Rent</b>	Don't know	<b>Food</b>	Don't know	<b>Mobile</b>	Don't know
	<b>Loans</b>	Don't know	<b>Child support</b>	Don't know	<b>Electricity</b>	Don't know
Do you have a SPER debt?	No	Yes ➔	How much money do you owe to SPER?			
			Do you have a SPER payment plan?	No	Yes ⬇	Don't know
			How much do you spend each fortnight on your SPER plan?			Don't know

The Murri Court Elders and CJG should contact their Indigenous Justice Officer if they would like more information regarding a defendant's SPER debt.

## Accommodation

When we first spoke, you said:

Are you living in the same place now?	No ⬇	Yes (go to question marked with *)			
What kind of place are you living in at the moment?	A house/unit you rent or own	A house/unit your parents/family rent or own	Public housing	Someone else's house	
	Hotel/backpackers	Caravan park	Motor vehicle		
	Boarding house / Hostel	A shelter or emergency housing	Couch surfing	On the street/ no fixed address	
	Other (please				

How long have you been living there?

Who lives there with you (eg friends, family)?

How do you feel about your current living arrangements? *	Very unhappy	Unhappy	Mostly happy	Very happy	Extremely happy	Don't know
Are your current living arrangements temporary?	No	Yes ➔	Where do you think you will move to?			
Are you currently on the Public Housing waiting list?	No	Yes ➔	When did you register?			
Are you receiving rent assistance from Centrelink?	No	Yes ➔	How much do you receive per fortnight?			

Defendant name:



**Health (this information is what the defendant reports and is not diagnosis from the assessment panel)**

When we first spoke, we talked about your health.

You said: [summarise the defendant’s responses in the ‘Health’ section of the Murri Court Entry Report]

How is your health now? Much worse About the same A bit better Much better Don't know

Has anything helped to make your health better? Yes No (go to next question)

What has helped to make your health better?

Has anything made your health worse? Yes No (go to next question)

What has made your health worse?

Has Murri Court helped to make your health better? Yes No (go to next question)

How has Murri Court helped to make your health better?

What will you do when you leave Murri Court to look after your health?

Do you currently have any substance misuse issues (eg alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription medication)? Yes No Don't know

If yes, please describe type of substance and how often:

In the next 3 months, how easy or difficult would it be to cut down your drinking or drug taking? Very difficult A bit difficult Easy Extremely easy Don't know

Do you have a gambling habit or other addiction? Yes No Don't know

If yes, please describe

**Self-Assessment**



How would you describe your **physical health** over the last month? (eg extent of physical symptoms and bothered by illness)

How would you describe your **mental health** over the last month? (eg feelings of anxiety, depression, and problem emotions)

How would you describe your **quality of life** over the last month? (eg able to enjoy life, get on with family and partner, satisfied with living conditions)

Defendant name:



## Defendant's offending

This section of the report describes changes in the factors thought to contribute to the defendant's offending.

When we first spoke, you said you committed your offences because:

What are you doing now to try and stay out of trouble?

Are there still times when you sometimes make poor choices?

Yes  
↓

No (go to next question)

Why do you think you sometimes make poor choices?

Has Murri Court helped you stay out of trouble?

Yes  
↓

In what way has Murri Court helped you to stay out of trouble?

What will you do when you leave Murri Court to stay out of trouble?

What impact do you think your offences had on the victim and/or community?

Don't know

Do you have someone to support you when you go to Murri Court for sentence?

No

Yes →

Who will support you?

Have you been punished for your current charges by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander lore/law?

No

Yes  
↓

Please describe

## Treatment and other support services

Are there any issues you would still like assistance with?

None

Is there anything that might stop you from attending treatment or other support services? (tick all that apply)

- Lack of transport
- Language difficulties
- Ill health
- Caring for family
- Financial difficulty
- May be facing prison/detention for other offences
- Other (please describe)

Defendant name:



**Murri Court Support Plan (add more lines if required)**

Talk to the defendant about what the defendant has achieved in Murri Court and what services the defendant may choose to remain engaged with when he or she leaves Murri Court.

**Goal 1:**

Action	Timeframe to achieve action	Complete			Reason (where no/partial)	Could the defendant continue this activity post-sentence?	
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No

**Goal 2:**

Action	Timeframe to achieve action	Complete			Reason (where no/partial)	Could the defendant continue this activity post-sentence?	
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No

**Goal 3:**

Action	Timeframe to achieve action	Complete			Reason (where no/partial)	Could the defendant continue this activity post-sentence?	
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No
		Yes	No	Partial		Yes	No

Defendant's name:





## Murri Court Assessment Panel outcome (PANEL USE ONLY)

This section of the report is for the Murri Court Assessment Panel to provide recommendations to the Murri Court magistrate.

### Murri Court Elders' / Respected Persons' Recommendations

In the Murri Court Assessment Panel's opinion, what are the underlying contributors to the defendant's offending?

In the Murri Court Assessment Panel's opinion, what services are **most** likely to support the defendant to reduce (or stop) their offending when they leave Murri Court?

In the Murri Court Assessment Panel's opinion, are there services that may help the defendant to reduce (or stop) their offending that are **not currently available** in the community?

No

Yes

Don't know



Please describe

Is there any further information the Murri Court Assessment Panel believes is important for the Murri Court magistrate to know prior to sentencing the defendant (please describe)?

### Murri Court Assessment Panel appraisal of the defendant

This section of the report describes the stages of change a defendant may move through when working to address the underlying causes of his or her offending. Ratings on this scale reflect the Murri Court Assessment Panel's opinion. It is important to remember that the Murri Court Assessment Panel is not clinically qualified, and that their views reflect a personal judgement based on their prior experience.

In your opinion, at what stage of change is the defendant?

**Stuck:** not feeling able to face problem/s or accept help

**Accepting help:** hopes to address problem and wanting someone to assist to sort it out

**Believing:** starting to help themselves

**Learning:** starting to initiate problem solving strategies themselves

**Self-reliance:** managing without help from services, but may still need assistance

Has the defendant expressed remorse?

No

Yes

Don't know

If yes, please describe what the defendant has done to express remorse:

Defendant's name:



## Murri Court Assessment Panel endorsement of this report

In signing, the Murri Court Assessment Panel members agree that they were present during the assessment and that this report accurately reflects the information told to them by the defendant.

Panel member name	Conflict of interest to declare	No	Yes ↓
Signed <input type="text"/>	Date		Describe conflict
Panel member name	Conflict of interest to declare	No	Yes ↓
Signed <input type="text"/>	Date		Describe conflict
Panel member name	Conflict of interest to declare	No	Yes ↓
Signed <input type="text"/>	Date		Describe conflict

## Murri Court Assessment Panel operational statistics

<b>Assessment date</b>	<b>Assessment start time</b>	<b>Assessment finish time</b>
<b>Court File number (if known)</b>		
<b>Murri Court sentence date</b>		

Once completed, a copy of the report should be provided to the defendant or the defendant’s legal representative, the prosecutor, the Murri Court magistrate, and the Murri Court Elders. This should occur at least 48 hours prior to the defendant’s Murri Court sentence. A copy of the report should also be provided to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General ([murricourt@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:murricourt@justice.qld.gov.au)) for the purpose of updating the central program database.

Defendant’s name: