

### *Court Link – helping people make positive changes*

#### **What is Court Link?**

Court Link is a single, generic integrated court assessment, referral and support program.

Court Link assists participants by connecting them with treatment and support services to address housing, employment, drug and alcohol, health and other social needs.

Court Link is underpinned by a therapeutic approach and a risk-need-responsivity model which seeks to improve community safety through working with participants to address individual needs.

#### **Who can be referred to Court Link?**

A person can be assessed to participate in Court Link if they are before the Magistrates Court charged with any criminal offence, regardless of whether they will plead guilty or not guilty.

Referrals can be made by a magistrate, the police (including at the watch house), the individual, their legal representative, family or others.

The person should require assistance with issues that contribute to the frequency or severity of their offending including:

- drug and alcohol dependency or misuse
- physical and/or mental health issues
- impaired decision-making capacity
- homelessness or risk of homelessness.

Participation is voluntary. There is no limit to the number of times a defendant may be referred to Court Link.

#### **What happens next?**

##### **Triage**

Professionally qualified Court Link officers assess referred persons to determine the level of service required based on their presenting risks and needs.

##### **Community referral**

Persons deemed of lower risk and needs, who are not already involved with treatment or support services will be referred to appropriate community based services.

##### **Case management**

Court Link officers can provide case management services, for approximately 12 weeks, to individuals deemed to have moderate to high risk and needs. This will include working with the individual to develop a case plan and coordinating referrals to community-based services for support and assistance.

A person must be on bail to participate in case management.

Some Court Link locations have place-based treatment and support services available. Court Link officers can provide further information.

Court Link aims to avoid duplication of service delivery, therefore where individuals are receiving case management elsewhere, recommendations to participate will be on a case by case basis.

## ***Judicial monitoring***

If participation in Court Link case management is confirmed by the court, a condition will be placed on the defendant's bail requiring program participation.

A participant's engagement with Court Link case management will be regularly monitored by the court.

Court appearances will be determined by the court, via adjournments, at which the Court Link officers will provide participant progress updates.

The court will receive the Court Link reports, oversee participants' progress and provide guidance and encouragement to assist participants to reach their case plan goals.

A final report will be provided to the court at the final Court Link mention. The court may consider a participant's positive engagement when determining a sentence.

## ***Failure to engage and participate***

Failure to engage and participate in Court Link case management may be reported to the court and result in removal from the program.

Failure to participate will not result in an offence under the *Bail Act 1980* for breach of the participant's bail.

## **Further Information**

### **Website**

[www.courts.qld.gov.au/court-link](http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/court-link)

### **Brisbane Court Link**

Email: [courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)

Phone: (07) 3738 7111

### **Cairns Court Link**

Email: [cairns.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:cairns.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)

Phone: (07) 4280 6076

### **Southport Court Link**

Email: [southport.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:southport.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)

Phone: (07) 5675 7150

### **Ipswich Court Link**

Phone: (07) 3470 7340

Email: [ipswich.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipswich.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)

### **Caboolture Court Link**

Phone: (07) 5294 8077

Email: [caboolture.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:caboolture.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)

### **Maroochydore Court Link**

Phone: (07) 5376 5141

Email: [maroochydore.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:maroochydore.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)

### **Redcliffe Court Link**

Phone: (07) 5294 8077

Email: [redcliffe.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:redcliffe.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)

### **Mount Isa**

Phone: (07) 4740 3002

Email: [mountisa.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:mountisa.courtlink@justice.qld.gov.au)