

## ABOUT ACSO

Established in 1983 as a drop in centre for ex prisoners, ACSO is a courageous organisation with a vision to create a safe and inclusive community freed of crime and prisons.

It's our goal to reduce re-offending and our mission is to help people transition from prison, assist them in the community, stop them from re-offending and divert others from committing crime. Our ethos is simply to create another chance; to promote recovery and to support rehabilitation and re-integrating people back into the community.

Our commitment to our vision and mission has seen ACSO become a "provider of choice" in the delivery of forensic services and programs for people who are transitioning from prison back into the community, along with those with complex and multiple needs who are in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

We offer innovative services responding to unemployment, mental illness, disability, homelessness, substance use and offending behaviour throughout the metropolitan area and regional Victoria. These services are delivered through our 'wrap around' service delivery model that integrates ACSO's Housing, Complex Care, Clinical, Employment and Community Enterprise Divisions to achieve better outcomes for our clients and the communities we serve.



### ACSO Head Office: How to find us

- Train:** North Richmond Station  
(South Morang and Hurstbridge Line)
- Tram:** No. 24 & 109. Tram stop no. 19
- Bus:** We recommend finding bus routes via [www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au)



ACSO acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government



### ACSO

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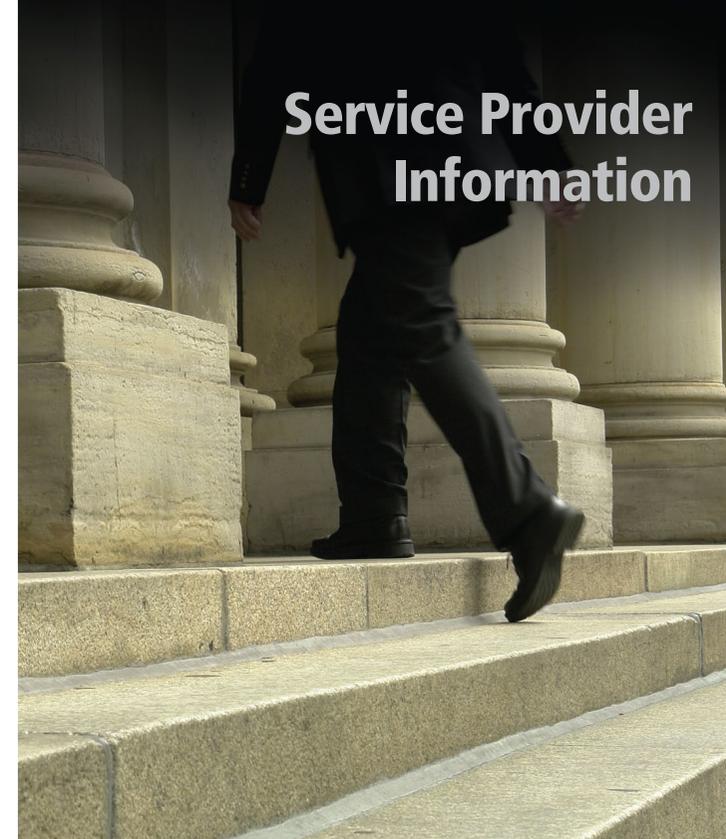
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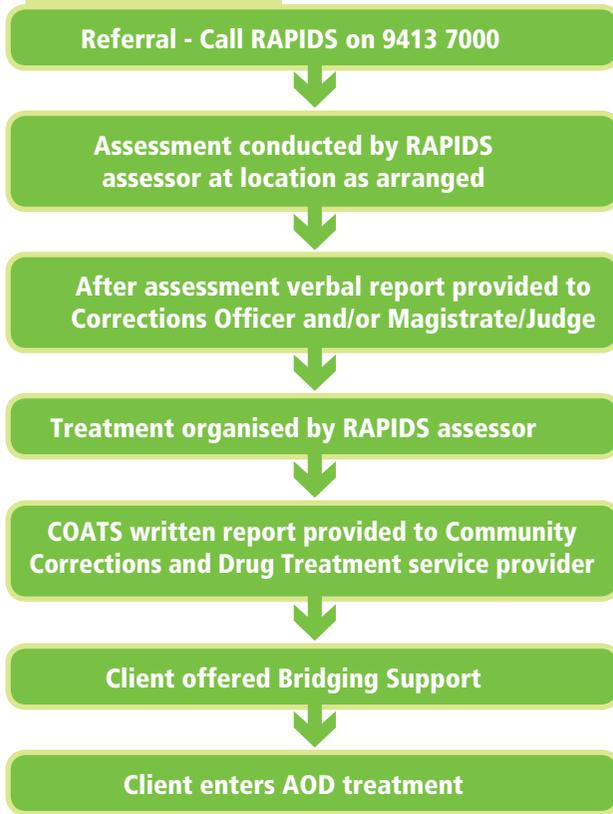
# RAPIDS

**Responsive Assessment,  
Planning, Intervention &  
Diversion Service**

**Service Provider  
Information**



## RAPIDS PROCESS



## BACKGROUND

The Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) is a state wide service funded through the Victorian Department of Health (DOH). Its role is to provide a comprehensive drug and alcohol assessment and treatment plan for forensic clients who have come before the criminal justice system and have a treatment component to their Community Order. COATS then purchases appropriate treatment from DOH accredited agencies.

It is vital in some cases due to the client's substance use, that an assessment occurs as quickly and as seamlessly as possible. Thus the establishment of the Responsive Assessment Planning, Intervention & Diversion Service.

## What is RAPIDS?

The Responsive Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Diversion Service for individuals with alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues.

RAPIDS provides an immediate link between all Victorian Courts, Corrections and the Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD) treatment sector, to ensure a seamless transition from initial assessment to treatment with a community agency for the highest risk forensic clients.

We will provide same-day AOD assessments, dependent on receiving referrals within agreed time frames, and written reports brokering treatment to community based providers within 2-5 days, depending on the offender's circumstances.

Where appropriate, a same day assessment can be conducted by a Regional COATS assessor.

Verbal feedback is provided to the Judge, Magistrate, or Corrections Officer (CO), along with a written report to AOD treatment providers and the CO within two working days.

RAPIDS clients receive priority appointments for treatment dependent on the treatment agencies' clinical guidelines.

RAPIDS assessors will screen for, identify and recommend the need for additional 'bridging support'. This support will be provided by RAPIDS assessors and is a brief intervention service designed to assertively engage and ensure optimal AOD outcomes for high risk or high needs client

## Bridging Support

Allows RAPIDS assessors to provide the following types of support to clients:

- Brief intervention, including motivational interviewing and support, to address treatment readiness

- Advocate and provide additional support and referral to community agencies
- Provide material aid where required
- Bridging support can take place in person or via phone

## Who can make a referral?

Pre-sentence: The Judge/Magistrate can request a RAPIDS assessment prior to sentencing.

Corrections Officers (COs) based at Court will have an option to request a RAPIDS assessment when a Magistrate has requested a Community Corrections Order Assessment and attached a drug and alcohol treatment condition to the individual's order, if the individual meets the RAPIDS eligibility criteria.

COs, located at Community Corrections locations across the state, have an option to request a RAPIDS assessment when a Community Corrections Order is imposed and a drug and alcohol treatment condition is attached to the individual's order, if the individual meets RAPIDS eligibility criteria.

## Eligibility Criteria

- An individual must be on a Community Corrections Order with an Assessment & Treatment for Drug & /or Alcohol condition
- An individual that presents with multiple & complex needs such as Dual Diagnosis and/or Dual Disability
- An individual is at risk of harm to self (ie. overdose)
- An individual who is at risk of harming others due to their AOD issues
- An individual who is at risk of reoffending due to their AOD issues