

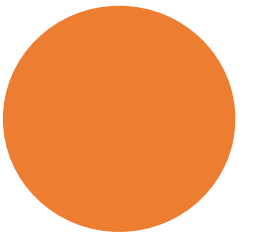


Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**
North Metropolitan Health Service Mental Health

Hope in the Court Room: The Start Court Approach

Content

- History and purpose of mental health courts
- Start Court
 - History
 - Key stakeholders
 - Meet the team
- Participant journey
- Statistics and success rates
- Case example





Why do we need mental health courts?

To assist individuals with mental health issues in the criminal justice system.

Origins in USA early 1980's.

Addresses root causes of maladaptive behaviours.

What is a mental health court?



Specialised voluntary court program



Problem solving/solution focused



Utilises a clinical screening and assessment process



Judicially supervised



Rewards for participation vs consequences for non-participation

History of Start Court

Established on 18 March 2013



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graph TD; A[Established on 18 March 2013] --> B[Based out of Perth Magistrate's Court]; B --> C[Joint initiative between key stakeholders]; C --> D[Pilot project for eight years]; D --> E[Permanent funding in 2020]
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Based out of Perth Magistrate's Court

Joint initiative between key stakeholders

Pilot project for eight years

Permanent funding in 2020

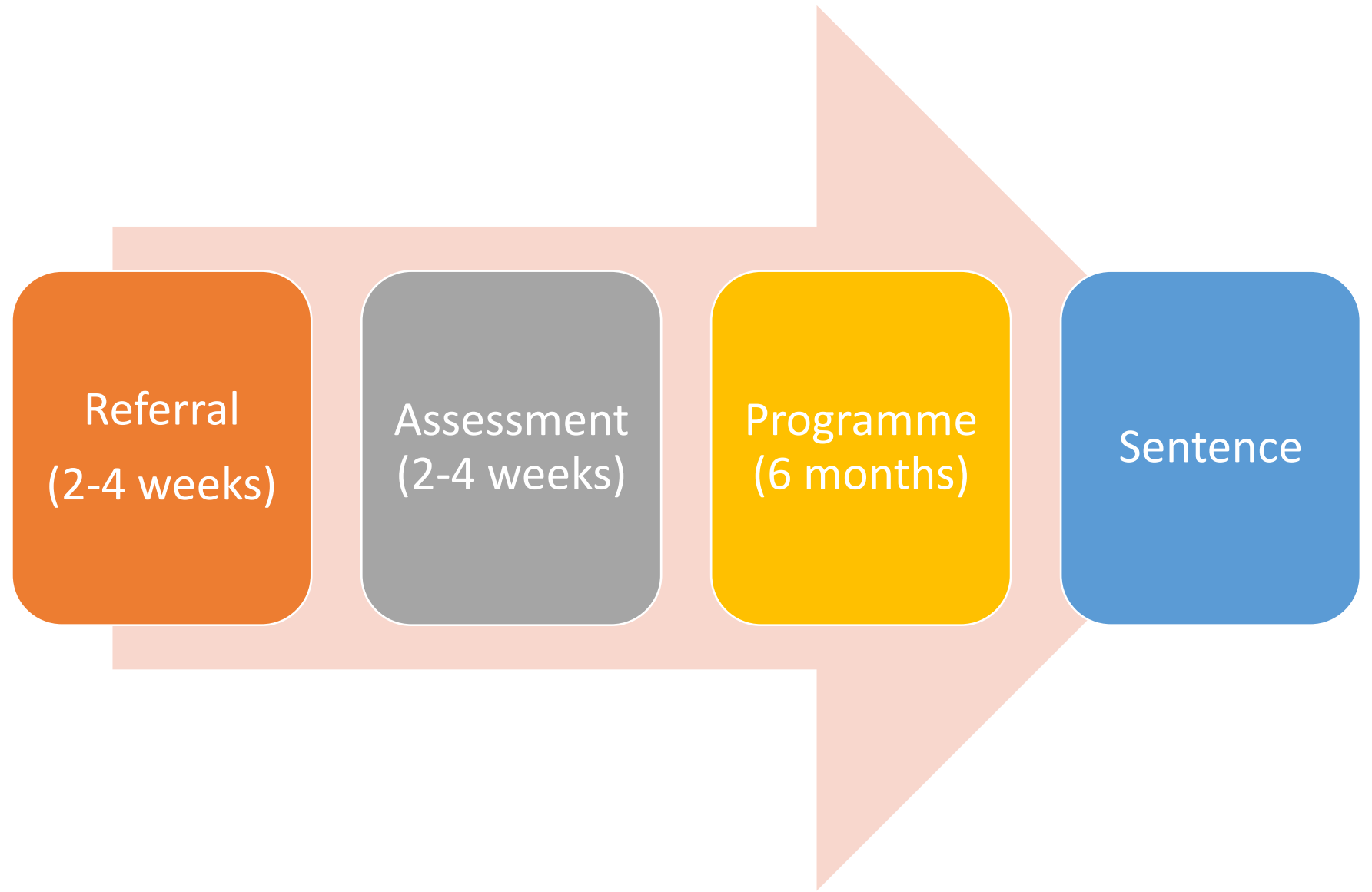
Key Stakeholders





Meet the Team

Participant Journey



Stage One - Referral



Initial court appearance



Legal suitability



Mental health diagnosis



Risk issues



Book into Information Session or
referral back to other court

Stage Two - Assessment



Joint assessment between Health and Outcare



Legal issues



Alcohol and other Drugs



Psychosocial



Mental Health



Support people encouraged to attend



Court report



Participant plan

Stage Three - Programme

Legal

- 6 months (Bail Act)
- Fortnightly court 'check-ins'
- Supervised urinalysis

Mental Health

- Treating team (public & private), GP, psychology
- Consultant reviews, causal link assessment

AOD

- Counselling, detox, rehab

Psychosocial

- Groups - Wellness group, SMART recovery group, tax clinic, Money Minded course, etc.
- Peer Workers
- Case management



Sentencing

Factors taken into consideration at sentencing:

- Early pleas
 - Everything achieved throughout time on program
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- Recovery plan
- Graduation

Key Program Statistics



2000+
Applicants

73%
Suitable following
assessment

30% Female
70% male

39 years
Average participant age

5.7 months
Average support period

Cultural identity
16% Aboriginal
84% non-Aboriginal

Diagnosis
31% Schizophrenia
21% personality disorders
13% BPAD
10% Drug induced psychosis

Success Rates

- Decrease in arrest rates post enrolment
- Prolonged periods to rearrest (if rearrested)
- Decreased scores on measures of symptom severity
- Increased access to number of support services
- Fewer hospital admissions, including less emergency and inpatient treatments
- Less reported violent behaviours



Case Example

Application

- Hannah, 40-year-old single woman
- Diagnosis: complex PTSD
- 50+ hospital admissions, two extended per year, plus multiple brief admissions
- Concerns about suitability - stability, re-traumatisation

Outcome

- Graduated
- Job
- Home
- No admissions

Final Points

- Who can refer
- Reoffending
- Can someone reapply?
- What happens if someone just does not want to participate anymore?
- Medicinal cannabis

Questions

