

ACT Corrective Services

Walking with Women on the Pathway to Change

Principles

Gender Informed Approach | Human Rights | Culturally Responsive | Holistic Approach

Context

Legislation	Community Safety and Human Rights
JACS Strategic Priorities	Strengthen community safety and enhance access to justice
Demographics	Women Offenders in community and custodial settings
Healthy Prisons	Holistic

Key Issues for Women in the Correctional System

The strategies identified will address the experiences more commonly faced by women including:

- > Short term custody
- > Parenting/mother-child relationships
- > Experiences of trauma
- > Higher levels of community interventions and as a result,
- > More difficulty in accessing therapeutic communities.

Strategies

Responsivity

- > Providing tailored support and services to the individual's specific needs.
- > Responsivity incorporates targeted interventions matched to an individually assessed risk level and circumstances.
- > The level of intensity and inclusiveness is tailored to the individual learning style, motivation, abilities, and strengths.
- > Responsivity links the principles with the levers of relationships, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

Relationships

Developing and maintaining positive relationships between women, their support network and support services creates a foundation for change. Prosocial relationships that strengthen positive social connections (parenthood support, health and disability support) and are culturally responsive.

Rehabilitation

Exploring why women should lead a prosocial life and helping to build the foundations to do so. The way rehabilitative services are delivered needs to address the realities of women's lives.

Holistic strengths-based approaches that demonstrate individualised cognitive-behavioural interventions; respect, safety and dignity; trauma informed practice; and empower and self-efficacy.

Reintegration

Transitioning and providing the means for women to lead a prosocial life. Providing the best support possible is essential to enable women to build desistance.

Providing a continuum of care and community partnerships and collaboration.

Systemic factors

Systemic factors provide additional system wide levers that support and enable effective program and practice changes. Key systemic factors in the context of improving outcomes for women offenders are: approaches based

on therapeutic jurisprudence, an informed, capable and resilient workforce, effective program evaluation and improvement and strong cross sectoral partnerships.