








Program Summary

Community Offender Advice and Treatment Service (COATS)



ACSO Division	As shown below, ACSO has four program divisions to support the differing needs of our clients and participants. The division our Community Offender Advice and Treatment Services (COATS) program falls under is shown below in green.		
Court Support Programs	Forensic Residential Services	Forensic Casework Services	Forensic Assessment and Coordination
Funding Body	Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria		
Program Background	Established 1997 in Victoria, ACSO’s Community Offender Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) is a state-wide forensic alcohol and other drugs (AOD) assessment treatment referral and brokerage service.		
Clients			
 Eligibility	Our COATS program supports adults (18 and above) who have come in contact with the criminal justice system and have an AOD concern. Our clients are post-sentence and subject to treatment conditions on orders.		
 Risk level	Moderate – high		
Program Summary			
 Purpose	In COATS, we have a unique, one-off opportunity to build rapport within an assessment interaction with people who may be ready for change. We work with people to begin this journey of change.		
 Focus	Our COATS team members perform face-to-face and video link assessments, followed by comprehensive reporting. Assessments cover mental and physical health, previous AOD treatment, as well as psychosocial and legal histories. Reports will include treatment plans and recommendations for each client. These are submitted to treatment providers and community corrections officers (CCOs).		
 Assessment Tools	We use assessment tools that address mental and physical health, psychosocial and legal histories, as well as previous AOD use and treatment histories.		
 Length	Each assessment and report typically will take 1-1.5 hours in total.		
 Locations	There are COATS Assessors in all ACSO’s Victorian offices. Assessments are conducted in all Victorian prisons, and ACSO co-locatess at CCS offices in both metropolitan and regional Victoria. Where work travel is required, our people have access to a pool of ACSO fleet vehicles.		

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