







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	COATS provide assessment, treatment planning and broker treatment for individuals who have been in the criminal justice system with and alcohol or other drug problem.		
 Risk level	Moderate – high		
Program Summary			
 Purpose	The function of the COATS assessment includes to provide advice to courts, corrections and the parole board, guidance for treatment providers, to facilitate continuity of care and to provide a basis for treatment measures.		
 Focus	<p>COATS assessment appointments are conducted face to face and where required by VC or telephone. COATS assessment reports will include advice in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOD treatment needs of the person • Relationship between AOD use and offending behaviour • Factors influencing recovery (motivation, barriers) • Strategies to increase the likelihood of treatment attendance and completion. 		
 Assessment Tools	The Forensic AOD Assessment tool is designed to generate the data required to develop a report that addresses the needs identified above.		
 Length	Each assessment and subsequent report typically will take approximately 4 hours in total.		

Visit acso.org.au to learn more about programs at ACSO



Locations

There are COATS Assessors in all ACSO's Victorian offices. Assessments are conducted in all Victorian prisons, and ACSO co-locates 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.