



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Corrective Services

# Young Offender Community Work Projects

Repay WA

Partnerships that work



# Repay WA

## Young offender community work projects

Offender community work projects have contributed to the Western Australian community since 1977.

Young offenders help repay WA for offences they have committed, and in the process, develop new skills to help them adopt law-abiding lifestyles.

A range of strategies has significantly reduced the number of young offenders appearing before the courts.

Young offenders have great potential to mature and change, and community work provides them with opportunities for rehabilitation, personal growth, education and skills development. It can assist young offenders to successfully integrate into the community and improve their lifestyles



At any one time, about 400 community work projects are underway in WA. This includes work by both adult and young offenders.

The Department of Corrective Services is continually looking to expand the Repay WA program and develop new partnerships with community organisations.

There is a particular need for opportunities to place individual young offenders in one-to-one work situations, where they will benefit from being part of a typical work environment and have the

opportunity to experience and develop positive work and life skills to get back on track.

This brochure provides further information on community work projects and how your organisation can become involved.

## The facts

- Community work can help provide valuable labour for under-resourced community organisations.
- The program frees up community resources and enables completion of many worthwhile projects that otherwise wouldn't get done.
- The average cost of keeping a young offender in custody is about 10 times the cost of supervising them on projects in the community.

## Who can host a community work project?

Any community organisation, ranging from churches and aged-care facilities to sporting groups and not-for-profit organisations, may be eligible to host a community work project.

Partnering organisations will be required to provide all materials, equipment and tools needed to undertake the work. They also need to provide someone with a police clearance to act as a supervisor for the young offender while they undertake the work.

## The aim of community work projects

There are four main objectives to having young offenders engage in community work. These are to:

- provide offenders with meaningful work that is socially useful and allows them to fulfil their sentence obligations to the court and community
- enhance their work and social skills and demonstrate alternatives to offending
- offers an alternative to imprisonment for young offenders and keeps them away from more serious criminal influences
- increase community benefits through lower costs of imprisonment and more community work.

## Who is eligible for community work?

- Young offenders who have been sentenced to between 10 and 100 hours of community work are eligible to take part in community work projects.
- Male or female offenders aged between 12 and 18 years. Offenders of compulsory school age need to do their community work after school and on weekends.



## What type of work is suitable?

Offenders who undertake community work orders come from a range of backgrounds and skill levels. Because of this, the type of work they can do varies in scope and complexity.

Activities can include gardening, tree planting, painting, grounds maintenance, cleaning, recycling projects, clothes sorting, kitchen duties, and basic administration.

Young offenders cannot work on the same project as adult offenders and projects can not last for longer than three months. This is because an offender must complete his/her hours within three months, and another offender could take his/her place within that time. Work can be done on a regular or project basis.

The work undertaken by offenders must not be work that would normally be done by paid employees under a commercial arrangement, and the community organisation cannot make any direct financial gain as a result of the work.



## Health and safety

The Department and the community organisation have a duty of care to ensure that offenders only work in areas that are healthy, safe and adhere to the relevant legislation.

It is the responsibility of the community organisation to ensure offenders receive adequate training and supervision when performing work tasks and are not exposed to unnecessary risks or hazards.

The community organisation is responsible for property insurance and other liability safeguards. Gender issues must also be considered when individuals are taken on to work with your staff. Ask your local Youth Justice Centre for more information about this safety standard.



## Materials, equipment and tools

The Department provides only the labour required to undertake work projects. Community organisations are responsible for providing all materials, equipment and tools required to undertake the work.

## Benefits for community groups and offenders

The benefits community work projects provide to offenders are significant. They allow offenders to:

- make a contribution to local communities as part of their rehabilitation (this is a key component of the Government's commitment to community safety and security)
- develop valuable new skills while repaying society for their offences
- enhance their self-esteem, develop positive work values and a greater sense of responsibility
- embrace a constructive alternative to imprisonment while boosting valuable opportunities for training.

In return, the program provides valuable labour resources for often under-resourced community organisations and enables completion of many worthwhile projects that otherwise wouldn't get done.

## Expressions of interest

The Department of Corrective Services welcomes expressions of interest from local community organisations interested in hosting a community work project for young offenders.

Community work projects consist of individuals or teams of offenders assigned to community organisations to undertake meaningful community work. Work takes place daily for agreed periods of time that need to be monitored and reported on by the supervising authority.

A community work project is a partnership between the Department and the local community organisation. The arrangement carries certain responsibilities and obligations as well as many benefits for the individual community organisation, broader community, the justice system and offenders.



## Applications

For more information or to nominate your organisation to host a community work project for young offenders, contact your local Youth Justice Centre.

## Further information:

For more information about community work projects contact your local Youth Justice Centre or

Email:

[communitywork@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au](mailto:communitywork@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au](http://www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au)

Organisation / Agency:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: (provide evidence with application)

Voluntary Organisation

Incorporated

Other (please specify)

Local Government

Not Incorporated

\_\_\_\_\_

State Government

Registered Charity

Insurance: (provide evidence with application)

Describe the type of insurance cover

Public Liability

Personal Accident

Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

Goals:

Describe the organisation's main aims

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Funding / Proposed Funding Sources:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Project:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Work Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Description:

Describe the project, potential benefits to the community, how offenders can participate, who would usually complete this work, the project's current status and any other relevant information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Maximum number of workers per day \_\_\_\_\_ Access to public transport? Y / N

Details \_\_\_\_\_

Child care facilities available? Y / N

Details \_\_\_\_\_

Details of safety equipment/ training to be provided \_\_\_\_\_

Details of special equipment/ materials required \_\_\_\_\_

Project requirements and conditions (eg lunch provided) \_\_\_\_\_

Weekend or evening work available? Y / N Details \_\_\_\_\_

Availability to accommodate: Disabled workers? Y / N Males Y / N Females Y / N Young offenders Y / N

Any special project requirements? Details \_\_\_\_\_

Any exclusions? (eg offender type) \_\_\_\_\_

Details of project availability

Days	Start time	Finish Time
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

How regularly is work available? (eg every week; during school terms) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in a Department-supervised work group? Y / N

Would you be interested in any publicity and/or promotion for the project? Y / N

Would you be prepared for your project to be listed on the Department's website? Y / N

Signature of person requesting project \_\_\_\_\_

Promotional opportunities:

If my application is successful, I agree to release the details of my organisation as well as the project scope, and work with the Department of Corrective Services to help it promote the partnership in media outlets.

Please circle Yes No

I have read the information on community work projects and wish the Department of Corrective Services to formally consider this proposal for a work project in our organisation.

Signed: ..... Name: .....

Position: ..... Organisation: .....

Office Use Only

Case Support Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved? Y / N Any exclusions? \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Final endorsement: Centre Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency ID \_\_\_\_\_ Data Entry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Project ID \_\_\_\_\_ Data Entry Officer \_\_\_\_\_



Current as at March 2014

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