Partnerships that work

Since 1977, offender community work projects have made a valuable contribution to Western Australian communities. Community work allows adult offenders to repay their debt for the crime they have committed, develop new skills to help them integrate into society and it saves taxpayers’ money. Thousands of projects have operated successfully in Western Australia since 1977.

The Department of Corrective Services is continually looking to expand the program and develop new partnerships with community organisations. These partnerships provide a greater number of meaningful work opportunities for offenders, and for the community. This brochure provides information on community work projects and how your organisation can become involved.

Who is eligible to host a community work project?

Any community organisation, ranging from local councils, churches and aged care facilities to sporting groups and not-for-profit organisations, can 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.

How does it work?

Community work projects rely on the participation of community organisations and people associated with them to provide meaningful work opportunities for offenders. The Department’s Adult Justice Service division assigns offenders to undertake a range of agreed work tasks for a set period. This enables offenders to work the required amount of time on their order and for community organisations to have a level of ongoing and consistent support.

For large-scale projects, an Adult Justice Service supervisor may be provided to manage a work team.

The facts

- Community work projects can help provide valuable labour for under-resourced community organisations.
- The program frees up resources and enables completion of many worthwhile projects that otherwise wouldn’t get done.
- Just over 3500 adult offenders were subject to community corrections orders with a community work component in 2012/13.
- About 26% (around 900) of those ordered for community work are women.
- About 28% (around 76,000 hours) of hours ordered relate to fines repayments, where the offender was unable to pay and was required to undertake community work as an alternative penalty.
- The average cost of keeping an adult offender in custody in WA is about 10 times the cost of supervising an offender in the community.
Expressions of interest

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

Community work projects consist of individuals or teams of offenders assigned to community organisations to undertake meaningful community work. Work takes place on nominated days for agreed periods. It needs to be monitored by either the Department of Corrective Services or the community organisation.

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 Department and offenders.

If you are interested in nominating your community or organisation to host a community work project, please complete the attached expression of interest form and return to your local Adult Community Corrections Centre.

Applications

Project recruitment is ongoing, so proposals can be made at any time.

Further information:

For more information about community work projects, contact your local Adult Community Corrections Centre or email communitywork@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au.

To apply, complete and return the attached form.

Submit applications to your local Adult Community Corrections Centre
Or via email communitywork@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au.
It is advisable to read in full the Repay WA Community Work Project Information provided before completing this form.

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

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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
Asst. Community Corrections 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 _________________