In our work with the families and children of offenders, CSNSW is committed to:

- Understanding and recognising the pressure on families with a relative in prison
- Promoting the value of family connections throughout an offender’s contact with the corrections system
- Recognising families as an important source of support for inmates while in prison and a motivating force to desist from reoffending
- Working with a flexible definition of family that includes people that provide emotional and other support as well as direct family
- Understanding the importance of kinship and culture to Aboriginal offenders and their families
- Understanding the unique challenges that children face when a parent or primary carer is sent to prison

Three key priority areas have been identified and serve as reference points by which CSNSW will focus its efforts to promote family connections and underpin further research on the impact of family support on reducing reoffending. These priority areas are:

**PRIORITY AREA:** Case management and reintegration support

We will continue to build on existing work such as the new Case Management Units, Family Community Agency Expos and the NEXUS pre-release program.

We will expand our focus on employment transition plans with our Funded Partners and the ‘Time to Work’ Employment Service and introduce family contact sessions into the High Intensity Program Units reintegration planning activities.

We will explore ways to enhance our services by trialling mentors and family engagement workers for post-release support, schedule family reunification meetings prior to release and proactively send families information on visits, case management, changes to policy and support available.

**PRIORITY AREA:** Supporting parents and children

We will continue to build on existing work including the Mothers and Children’s Program, the Family, Friends and Children’s Visitor Support Service, and Family case work through our Funded Partners.

We will expand our High Intensity Program Unit family support, promote participation in domestic violence programs and expand the range of information available on the CSNSW website.

We will explore ways to enhance our services by providing support for Aboriginal women offenders that addresses the impact of violence and trauma, and investigate ways to improve social and parenting skills for offenders and increase the opportunities for greater involvement in their children’s lives.

**PRIORITY AREA:** Visits

We will continue to build partnerships with community organisations to provide activities such as child care facilities and Child/Parent activity days.

We will expand our Visitor Information Volunteer Scheme and improve our use of technology to allow better access to information, online booking, and video visits.

We will explore new resources for inmates, staff and families, examine new design standards for visiting facilities, and investigate opportunities to provide support for inmates with limited family or social support.

“**The benefits of maintaining and strengthening family relationships are well known and can extend to both the offender and family members.**”

Find out more: www.justice.nsw.gov.au