



## **Restorative Justice**

### **Victim Offender Conferencing**

Working with victims of crime, offenders and the community for reconciliation and healing.

#### **What is Restorative Justice?**

Restorative Justice brings together those who have a stake in a specific offence, in order to:

- Collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations.
- Heal and put things as right as possible.

Restorative Justice puts the people most affected by crime, the victim, at the centre of the process.

Corrective Services NSW has a Restorative Justice Unit. The Unit specialises in Victim Offender Conferences and also facilitates a range of other restorative justice processes.

#### **Victim Offender Conferences take place:**

- After an adult offender is sentenced.
- In relation to a wide range of offences.

#### **A Victim Offender Conference will only take place if:**

- The offender accepts responsibility for the offence, demonstrates victim empathy and insight into their offending behaviour.
- Both the victim of crime and the offender agree to take part.

#### **What happens in a Victim Offender Conference?**

In a victim-offender conference the victims of crime and the offender talk about:

- What happened.
- How people have been affected.
- What could be done to repair some of the harm.

**Victim-offender conferences are:**

- Safe, private, and confidential.
- Facilitated by highly skilled and qualified practitioners.

In victim-offender conferences, victims of crime and offenders bring along the people who can provide them with support.

**What are the benefits of participation?**

People who are victims of crime are provided with the opportunity to have their say and focus on their needs.

Offenders have the opportunity to take responsibility for what they have done and have the chance to put things right.

People who have been victims of crime can empower themselves and move forward through:

- Having a voice and asking questions.
- Holding the offender accountable.
- Having a say in how the harm can be repaired.

Offenders can take positive steps through:

- Acknowledging responsibility for their actions.
- Hearing first-hand how their actions have affected others.
- Actively participating in deciding how the harm can be repaired.

**Contact the Restorative Justice Unit for more information:**

Phone. 8346 1054, 8346 1050

Fax: 8346 1141

Email: [restorative.justice@dcs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:restorative.justice@dcs.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [Click here for Corrective Services NSW web-site, go to Support programs and Services and select Restorative Justice](#)