

Transitional Release Program – General information

ACT Corrective Services

What is the Transitional Release Program?

Many detainees find it challenging to move from custody back into the community. The Transitional Release Program (TRP) helps detainees who have between 1-2 years left on their non-parole period to prepare for release.

The TRP provides opportunities for reintegration activities and access to support services before leaving the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). It helps detainees find work, housing and connections to support and treatment services, as well as other resources they need to reintegrate successfully.

Through the TRP, detainees can apply to take leave to reconnect with family, work or study in the community, and prepare for life after custody.

Eligible detainees must apply to join the TRP. If approved, male detainees move to the Transitional Release Centre (TRC), located on the AMC grounds, to participate in the program. Female detainees can also participate in the TRP but remain in the women's centre within the AMC, as there is only one TRC facility and male and female detainees cannot be housed together.

How are detainees managed in the TRP?

When starting in the TRP, detainees sign a contract agreeing to follow TRP rules. These rules cover behaviour, managing personal belongings, safety, security and positive participation. Breaking the rules or committing any offences while in the TRP may result in the detainee being suspended from the program, removal from the program or potential criminal charges.

A Correctional Officer is stationed at the TRC during the day, and detainees are secured in the facility overnight. ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) uses strict security procedures to manage detainees in the TRP.

What does the TRP facility look like?

The TRC is a cottage-style building on the AMC grounds. Detainees have individual rooms and share communal spaces such as the living room, kitchen and bathroom.

Has the TRP been effective?

The TRP provides valuable reintegration support for detainees and provides extra opportunities to prepare for a successful transition back into the community, which contributes to TRP detainees being less likely to re-offend and return to custody.

What are the TRP stages and how do they work?

The TRP follows a stage-based progression model with three stages. Detainees advance through these stages by meeting program expectations. At each stage, they are assessed and may move up a stage, remain longer, be moved back a stage or may be removed from the program if expectations are not met.

As detainees progress, they gain access to more reintegration activities, such as community jobs, approved home visits and overnight leave. All activities follow strict rules and ACTCS procedures.

The TRP is tailored to each detainee's reintegration goals, but some activities are common to every stage.

Stage 1 – First 4 weeks (Induction Period)

Detainees meet with their Transitional Services Case Coordinator and learn program rules and expectations.

Activities include:

- Family visits at the TRC facility
- Work onsite at the AMC

External leave is not permitted except for approved activities, such as attending medical appointments and rehabilitation programs. An ACTCS staff member will escort the detainee to attend support services or appointments in the community.

Stage 2 - Weeks 5 – 8

Detainees continue regular meetings with their Case Coordinator.

Activities include:

- Family visits at the TRC or in the community with an approved sponsor
- Work onsite at the AMC or join the TRP Work Crew
- Attend support services or appointments in the community with an ACTCS staff escort

Overnight leave is not permitted in Stage 2.

Stage 3 – Week 9+

Detainees continue regular meetings with their Case Coordinator. Activities include:

- Work onsite at the AMC or TRP Work Crew, or start a job with a community employer
- Request external leave for approved activities that support their rehabilitation and personal needs with an approved sponsor. This may include visiting a shopping centre, going to the bank, organising future accommodation or recreational physical activities.
- Apply for overnight leave for a pre-approved period of time with an approved sponsor