

Transitional Release Program – Sponsors

ACT Corrective Services

What is an approved Transitional Release Program sponsor?

The Transitional Release Program (TRP) sponsor is someone chosen by a detainee to provide support during leave and external work in stage 2 and stage 3 of the program. Sponsors must apply for approval and meet specific criteria. ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) assesses sponsorship applications after the detainee begins the TRP.

There are two different types of TRP sponsors:

- **Personal sponsors** - usually family, friends or mentors from community organisations who support a detainee during leave.
- **Work sponsors** - provide support and supervision when the detainee is at work.

What are the criteria for becoming a TRP sponsor?

Applicants must provide information about:

- their identity. Sponsors must be 25 years of age or older (sponsors aged 18-24 may be considered on a case-by-case basis)
- where they live
- their occupation
- their relationship with the detainee
- any previous court matters
- any current court matters or pending criminal charges
- any relevant medical conditions
- any other relevant matters relating to the detainee

Applicants must undergo a national police check. The Victims Register and ACTCS' Intelligence Unit may provide input during the assessment process.

Application outcome

All information is carefully considered. Both the applicant and the detainee are notified of the outcome.

If a sponsorship application is not approved, the detainee can appeal the decision.

What are the responsibilities of a TRP sponsor?

Approved sponsors must sign a TRP sponsorship agreement, which explains their responsibilities. Sponsors must ensure the detainee follows all of the leave requirements in their leave permit (see fact sheet '*TRP – Leave and Employment*' for more information about TRP leave and leave permits).

TRP sponsors are responsible for:

- supervising the detainee while on leave
- ensuring that the detainee follows TRP rules
- complying with the TRP sponsorship agreement
- following the approved itinerary during community leave
- reporting any behaviour concerns or emergency
- collecting and returning detainees to the Transitional Release Centre on time
- informing ACT Corrective Services immediately if any TRP leave rules are breached

A sponsorship agreement can be cancelled if the sponsor breaks any of the rules. In serious cases, the sponsor may face criminal charges if they commit a crime or assist the detainee in committing crimes while on leave.

Work sponsors

In Stage 3 of the Program, detainees may be allowed to work in the community. All potential employers are checked to ensure safety and security standards are met. Transitional Services staff visit worksites and maintain regular contact to ensure compliance.

Approved employers must nominate work sponsors to supervise and support the detainee at work. These sponsors are usually the employer and one or two other staff members. Work sponsors must complete the full sponsor approval process and follow all conditions of the TRP Sponsorship Agreement.