

Transitional Release Program - Consultation Paper

The Review

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is reviewing the Transitional Release Program service offering and policy. The review will look at what is working and what needs strengthening, before reporting to the Executive Leadership Team with options for the development of approaches that reflect contemporary better practice and the needs of participants and operations.

Consultation

We are consulting with government and non-government agencies between **July and August 2026**. This will include both in-person focus groups as well as a written feedback process. A separate consultation process will also capture the views and experiences of current and former detained people and ACTCS staff. Questions that may help inform your feedback to the Review are below.

Context for the Review and Consultation

The Review applies to the ACTCS Transitional Release Program (TRP) which has been operating for over 15 years as a key component of ACTCS' efforts to reduce reoffending and support community safety through the successful reintegration of detained people into the community. The program helps approved participants build community support, experience more independent living, and develop decision-making skills.

Overview of the TRP

Male participants are accommodated in a 15-bed facility on the grounds of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). Female participants are accommodated within the Women's Community Centre within the AMC.

Through approved leave arrangements participants can undertake structured community activities such as:

- employment or work experience
- education or training
- accessing services
- maintaining family and community connections.

People in the program are in custody at all times. They must follow ACTCS rules even when they are outside the AMC on approved leave. Their participation can be stopped if they break the rules.

To take part in the TRP, under the [current policy](#), detained people at the AMC must meet specific eligibility requirements. These criteria relate to overall sentence length, time until

release from custody, security classification, behaviour and participation in programs while in custody.

If eligible, the detained person's Case Manager helps prepare and submit the application. A TRP application includes: a detailed risk assessment; evidence of participation in programs and behaviour while in custody, offence-related information, a description of the person's reintegration needs and goals, a personal statement from the detained person and statement(s) from registered victim(s) where provided.

Three stages of the TRP

The TRP uses a three-stage model to support detainees to safely reintegrate into the community. Progression depends on meeting program expectations, with regular assessments at each stage. Based on performance, detained people may move forward, stay longer in a stage, move back, or be removed from the program. As they progress, they gain increasing access to community activities, all managed under strict rules and supervision.

In Stage 1 detained people undertake activities in preparation for stages 2 and 3 and do not leave the Transitional Release Centre. During Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the program, sponsors provide crucial supervision and support for detained people during leave and external work. Sponsors may be a family member, friend, mentor or employer, and must be approved by ACT Corrective Services after identity, police and risk checks. Approved sponsors sign an agreement and are responsible for supervising the detained person, helping them follow all leave conditions, sticking to approved plans, reporting concerns or breaches, and ensuring the person returns to the centre on time.

The policies and operating procedures related to the TRP are Notifiable Instruments available through the ACT Legislation Register at: [Corrections Management Act 2007 Regulations and Instruments](#).

Questions to guide submissions and consultation

Consultation during the Review will help inform advice on:

- better practice in relation to the assessment of eligibility, readiness and suitability to participate in the TRP
- types of actions needed to ensure adequate monitoring of participation and outcomes for detained people
- opportunities to engage community partners as sponsors and to support the reintegration needs of participants
- possible methods and content to inform community stakeholders about the program and what it delivers.

We are interested in your views on the above matters regarding the TRP. This will help the Review to identify options for areas that require strengthening to ensure stakeholders and participants can be confident that detained people, supported by ACTCS through this reintegration initiative, are being managed in an appropriate way.

The suggested questions that follow may help inform your feedback to the Review. You do not need to answer all the questions to make a submission, and you can include further comments and suggestions beyond answers to the questions listed.

Guiding questions — eligibility and assessment

How do current eligibility criteria support community safety while still allowing people to prepare for release?

Are there groups who could benefit but are currently excluded? What are the risks and benefits of expanding or reducing eligibility?

How can ACTCS seek input from victim survivors in a way that minimises trauma or distress?

Guiding questions — monitoring participation and outcomes

What does “effective monitoring” look like in practice for this program?

Which indicators best show whether a participant is progressing or struggling?

How well does current monitoring balance accountability with rehabilitation?

Guiding questions — supporting reintegration needs

What are the most common barriers participants may face when moving back into the community?

What changes to the program would most improve outcomes without increasing risk?

How can ACTCS garner support from employers?

Guiding questions — communicating the purpose and benefits

What outcomes matter most to the community when judging whether this program is successful?

What stories or evidence help people understand how the program improves community safety?

How can ACTCS demonstrate and improve accountability in how the program operates and evolves?

Next Steps

The Review team will prepare a listening report based on information received during the consultation process. The listening report will provide a high-level analysis of what we heard during focus groups and through written submissions.

Contact for more information

For more information on the Review or to request a more detailed paper to inform your feedback, contact the ACTCS Policy Unit at: Email – ACTCSPolicy@act.gov.au.