

# Transitional Release Program – Leave and Employment

## ACT Corrective Services

### What are the types of leave in the Transitional Release Program?

Detainees can apply for different types of leave during their time in the Transitional Release Program (TRP). Leave can be used:

- to work in the community
- to spend time with family and friends
- to attend a medical appointment
- to attend training, education or a program
- to access community or government services
- to attend activities that support the detainee's reintegration goals and prepares them for life in the community. This may include visiting a shopping centre, going to the bank, organising future accommodation or recreational physical activities.

Detainees must be escorted by an ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) staff member or an approved sponsor for most types of leave. Detainees may be able to access unescorted leave to attend education or vocational study.

### How can a detainee apply for leave?

TRP detainees must submit a new leave application each time they want to take leave (except for ongoing employment leave). Each application must:

- identify the purpose of the leave
- confirm the approved sponsor/s
- provide a detailed itinerary of their intended activities

If the detainee has a registered victim, ACTCS will notify the ACT Victims Register of the leave applications ahead of time, and the leave will not go ahead without prior notice.

If leave is approved, the detainee will be issued with a leave permit.

### Leave permit conditions

A detainee that is approved for leave will be issued with a leave permit. A leave permit outlines the conditions that the detainee must follow whilst on leave. These conditions include:

- carrying their leave permit at all times
- remaining in the vicinity of their approved sponsor

- participating only in the activities listed on the leave permit
- exiting and returning to the TRC at the approved times
- behaving appropriately and lawfully
- not entering any licensed premises, driving a car or motorcycle, gambling or consuming any alcohol or drugs (except those prescribed by Justice Health Services)
- not accessing or using a mobile phone, landline or the internet
- not having any unsupervised contact with children

## Employment and employment leave

Detainees in Stage 3 of the Program can work in the community at an approved workplace. Employers and work sites are checked for safety, security and suitability requirements.

Detainees are usually matched with jobs based on their interests, skills and reintegration goals and will typically attend an interview and, if successful, a work trial first. While at work, detainees are supported and supervised by approved work sponsors and must follow leave permit conditions. They cannot leave the workplace without prior approval from ACT Corrective Services.

## Family ties leave

In the TRP, a detainee can apply for 'family ties' leave to develop or re-build their connections with family members in the community. When on leave, detainees must follow the conditions on their leave permit and always remain with their approved sponsor.

## Overnight leave

In Stage 3, detainees can apply for overnight leave at a pre-approved residence. ACTCS staff will inspect the property to ensure it is safe, suitable and meets program standards. A personal sponsor must supervise the detainee on overnight leave, and both must follow the conditions in the leave permit.

## Interstate leave

In Stage 3 of the Program, detainees can apply for interstate leave if it supports their reintegration goals or to attend a specific event. Detainees may apply for interstate leave:

- to visit a family member who is unwell or unable to travel
- to attend a funeral
- to participate in education/ training or an intervention opportunity
- to attend a medical appointment
- to organise interstate accommodation for release

Detainees must explain their reasons and plans for interstate leave and include a detailed itinerary. Safety and security risks are assessed and each application for interstate leave is considered on a case-by-case basis. ACTCS staff will alert the relevant state or territory government of any interstate leave permit before it occurs.