

The Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program revised fact sheet

For participants and their family/ friends

The Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program (CIDP) can help a defendant avoid gaol by connecting them with services that help manage their condition. This process is called diversion.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for CIDP, a participant must:

- be an adult (18 years+)
- be charged with a less serious offence in Penrith or Gosford Local Courts
- be assessed as having, or presenting as likely to have, a cognitive impairment
- voluntarily agree to participate in the CIDP

How can CIDP help?

CIDP can support defendants who have a cognitive impairment by:

- Providing a formal clinical assessment, which can help them access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), if eligible.
- Providing a support plan connecting them to support services in their community

Who can make a referral to CIDP?

Anyone can make a referral to CIDP by contacting the Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS). A defendant can apply to the program more than once.

How does CIDP work?

1. A CIDP case manager screens the defendant to confirm their consent and their suitability to participate in CIDP.
2. If suitable, the defendant's legal representative will apply for an adjournment

to allow time for a clinical assessment and to engage community-based services.

3. A clinician will assess a defendant to confirm if they have a cognitive impairment and prepare a report for the Magistrate.
4. A CIDP case manager will assist the defendant by connecting them with community support services, including the NDIS.
5. If the defendant has an existing NDIS plan, the CIDP case manager requests a plan review to ensure it meets the defendant's current needs.
6. Once the defendant's clinical assessment and support services are in place the CIDP case manager prepares a Support Plan for the court, to help the defendant's legal representative apply for a diversion order.
7. The Magistrate reviews the Support Plan at the next hearing and decides whether to divert the defendant from gaol.
8. Once the Magistrate takes a decision the CIDP case manager will hand-over the defendant's support coordination to a responsible person (usually a psychologist, NDIS support coordinator or a family member).

To make a referral please contact

Phone: 9265 6300 or Email: cidp@idrs.org.au

For more information

Email: cidp@justice.nsw.gov.au

You can also visit

www.localcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au