

The Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program

Revised Fact Sheet for court-based stakeholders

The Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program (CIDP) is a court based program aimed at diverting low level defendants with a cognitive impairment from the criminal justice system and into appropriate community-based services.

Where does CIDP operate?

CIDP has operated at **Penrith and Gosford Local Courts** since October 2017.

Who is eligible?

A CIDP defendant must:

- be an adult (18 years+)
- appear 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 is a referral made?

Referrals can be made by contacting the Intellectual Disability Rights Service (a CIDP case manager) via phone or email or verbally when available at court.

Referrals to the CIDP can be made by anyone, including a police officer, Magistrate, solicitor, Local Health District, non-government organisation, friend or family of the defendant or the defendant themselves.

Defendants may be referred to the program on more than one occasion.

How does it work?

The five elements are a part of CIDP:

1. **Screening:** A CIDP case manager screens a defendant for program eligibility and possible cognitive impairment (CI)
2. **Assessment:** If the defendant does not have reports supporting their CI, diagnostic assessments from a private clinician may be brokered.
3. **Support Planning:** A CIDP case manager will develop a Support Plan, by linking the defendant with community support services and if applicable the NDIS.
4. **Court Outcome:** The CIDP case manager provides the defendant's Support Plan along with diagnosis report(s) to the defendant's legal representative. These are used to support the defendant's Section 32 application.
5. **Transition and Exit –** Once the Magistrate takes a decision the CIDP case manager will hand-over the defendant's support coordination to a responsible person (specified in their court order).

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