

Funding

Funding to scope the Miranda Project was provided by Ann Symonds AM, member of the Miranda Project Advisory Group, past member of the NSW Legislative Council, past chair of the CSNSW Women's Advisory Council, current patron of SHINE For Kids and the CSNSW Mothers and Children's Program. Funding provided by the Richard Southan Memorial Trust enabled establishment of the Project and the employment of a part-time Director and part-time Manager. Funding for the full-time Miranda Program Coordinator position was provided by CRC.

Project staff are seeking funding for the Miranda Centre, enabling the lease of a house near a train station, and a full-time Manager.

EMAIL: miranda.project@crcnsw.org.au

WEB: www.crcnsw.org.au/miranda-program

Facts & Figures

- 2017 began with the highest number of women there has ever been in custody in NSW;
- Of the 1033 incarcerated women in December 2016, 43.5% were on remand. Of these, 30% were Aboriginal;
- 582 women were serving sentences and of these, 214 (36.7%) were Aboriginal;
- Between 1985 and 2014 there has been a 131% increase in the imprisonment rate for women;
- The majority of women in custody are mothers, and the majority of men in custody are fathers;
- Children of male prisoners are most likely to be cared for in the community by their mother (84%), in contrast to 28% of children of women in custody who are most likely to be cared for by their father in the community.

Founded in 1951, the Community Restorative Centre (CRC) is the leading community provider of support services to people affected by the criminal justice system in NSW.

All CRC programs aim to reduce crime and break entrenched cycles of disadvantage, offending and imprisonment.


CRC is an incorporated association and a registered charity.

Our Mission

CRC aims to change lives positively by supporting people affected by the criminal justice system.

We aim to improve our clients' quality of life by providing a range of practical and emotional support services, as well as assisting people to build sustainable pathways out of the criminal justice system and into the community.

We aim to reduce crime and the impact of incarceration on individuals and the community through a range of services and targeted projects.

 facebook.com/CommunityRestorativeCentre

 twitter.com/CRCNSW



THE MIRANDA PROJECT



An innovative, gender specific approach to crime prevention for women with complex needs who are at risk of breaking the law or reoffending.

 **CHANGING LIVES
REDUCING CRIME**
COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CENTRE

THE MIRANDA PROJECT

The Miranda Project is an innovative, gender specific approach to crime prevention for women with complex needs who are at risk of breaking the law or reoffending. The Project offers a holistic, inclusive support service.

The Miranda Project is an initiative of the Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Council and a project of the Community Restorative Centre (CRC). Modelled on women's centres in the UK that have been evaluated and found to have positive impacts on women's lives, the Miranda Project is a first for NSW and Australia. The success of the UK model resulted in the closure of two women's prisons during the first eight years of the service.

The service here in NSW aims to assist women to desist from offending, function as a diversionary program, and provide post-release support for those returning to the community.

The Miranda Project provides:

- A pre-sentence option for women on bail
- A community based sentencing option
- A support service for women on parole
- Ongoing support following sentence completion.

Miranda Project Values

The values of the Miranda Project are inclusion, empowerment, collaboration, trust, diversity, equity, safety, equality and flexibility. Our values are underpinned by the belief that every woman is deserving of respect and opportunity.

Project Management

An Advisory Group provides guidance for the project. Membership includes current funders, UNSW researchers, representatives of Women's Health NSW, Community Corrections, Aboriginal Strategy and Policy Unit (Corrective Services NSW), Mental Health Coordinating Council, Women's Justice Network, Lou's Place, and the Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Council.

The Miranda Project has two staff members. Overall direction is provided by Project Director Deirdre Hyslop. Inga Lie is the Miranda Program Coordinator. Samantha Redding is the volunteer lead for the Miranda Works arm of the Project, focusing on employment.

Participants in the Miranda Project will be given support to:

- Address factors underlying offending behaviour
- Gain resilience to break from a cycle of reoffending
- Make positive connections and engage in positive activity to become a productive member of the community.

The Miranda Program

Designed as a diversionary option, the Miranda Program offers support and guidance across identified areas of risk/need such as alcohol and other drug misuse, financial support and emotional regulation.

The Program content is continually being reviewed to ensure that it meets the needs of all women, particularly Aboriginal women, who are significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system.

Women can be referred to the Program if they are 18 years and over, and currently engaged in the criminal justice system, either in custody or in the community. Self-referrals are also welcome.

The pilot sites for the Miranda Program are: Lou's Place (Kings Cross), Central West Women's Health Centre (Bathurst), Penrith Women's Health Centre and Leichhardt Women's Health Centre.

To discuss referrals or make other enquiries please contact the Miranda Program Coordinator, Inga Lie.

PHONE: **(02) 9288 8724** or **0429 467 588**

EMAIL: **miranda.project@crcnsw.org.au**

WEB: **www.crcnsw.org.au/miranda-program** to download the Referral form

The Miranda Centre

The Miranda Project is based on the successful UK model which has drop-in centres for any woman in need in the community. Funding to establish the Miranda Centre in Sydney is currently being sought. The Centre will be a 'one stop shop' and is a key component of the Miranda Project vision. The Miranda Centre will allow for a holistic approach to support, whereby visiting and co-located services will work together to enable women to get help on a range of issues in the one place.

Miranda Works

Unemployment is widespread among women entering the criminal justice system, and is a recognised risk factor for reoffending. A criminal record is a further barrier to gaining employment. The Miranda Project recognises the critical importance of real employment pathways for people in the criminal justice system and has identified Miranda Works as an important pillar of the Project.

The Miranda Project Employment Strategy sets out the approach to this complex issue, including a central aim to define a model for achieving positive employment outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. We would really like to hear from individuals or relevant services interested or active in this space. Email Miranda Works at miranda.project@crcnsw.org.au.