



Evaluation of the Financial Counselling in Prisons Grants

Findings overview



Acknowledgement of Country



We also acknowledge the talent and artistry of Emma Walke, who designed the artwork for our acknowledgment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The design shows a story of connection to country and people, representing the breadth of work we do with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. The colours represent the land, and the lines in between represent the water that connects us all.

Agenda



Overview of the evaluation



Overview of program in Victoria



Program impact



Recommendations



How to find out more

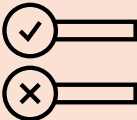
Evaluation KEQs

1. **Implementation** - How effective have different service delivery models been in delivering financial counselling for those incarcerated, on bail or on parole?
2. **Impact** - What outcomes were achieved for clients and potentially their families as a result of receiving financial counselling (during the evaluation period)?
3. **Promising practice** - What factors are important to consider in making decisions about the future delivery of financial counselling in the Corrections Environment?

Evaluation and methods

282

surveys returned



4

6-monthly progress data reports



14

case stories



100

total interviews



67

Incarcerated clients across 9 field visits



17

Host organisations and FCs



2

Formerly incarcerated clients



13

Central office program or policy area mangers



1

Family members of clients



17

Corrections centre staff

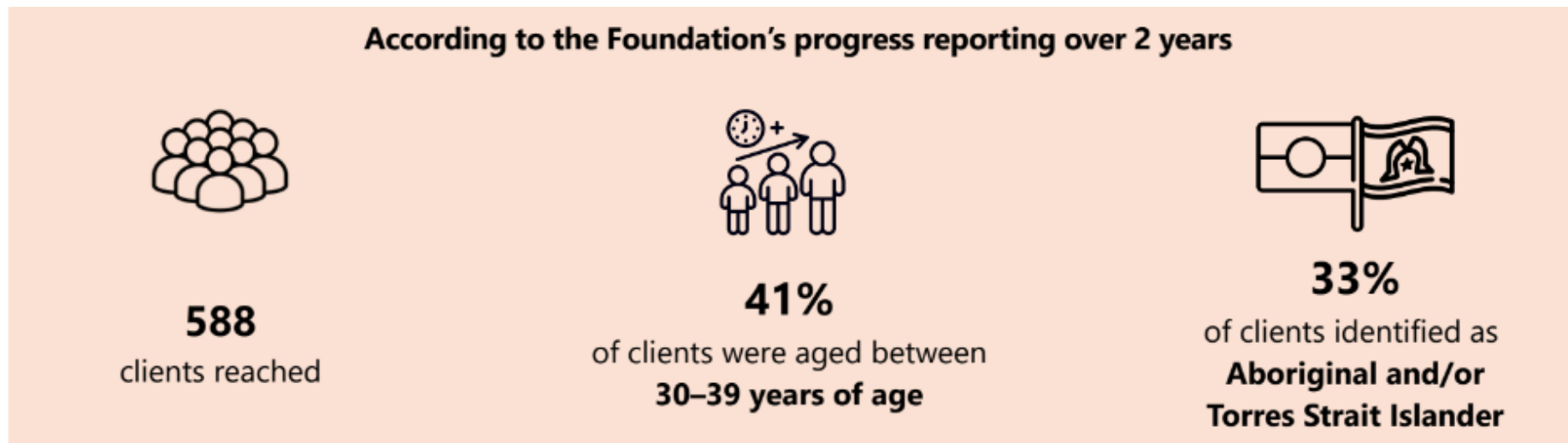
Service delivery in prisons



Implementation: Service model

In Victoria, the service model includes:

- **Referral:** Assessment Transition Coordinators, corrections officers, word of mouth
- **Triage:** Waitlist by urgency and availability
- **Consultations:** Barwon, Marngoneet, Kareenga (in person and video)
- **Follow-up and advocacy:** Calls, admin, banks and creditors

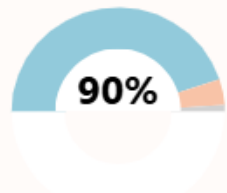


Outcomes achieved: Cultura

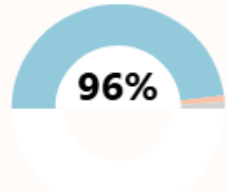


Financial situation and knowledge

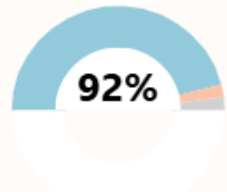
Figure 3. Agreement with statements. 'The financial counselling service gave clients...'



a greater sense of control over finances



an improved financial situation

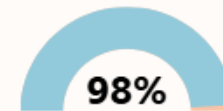


a better understanding of finances

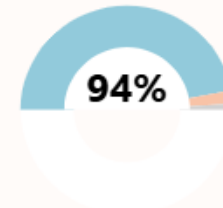


Wellbeing

Figure 4. Agreement with statements. 'The financial counselling service supported clients to be...'



hopeful

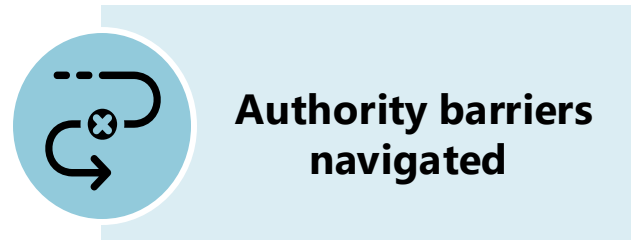
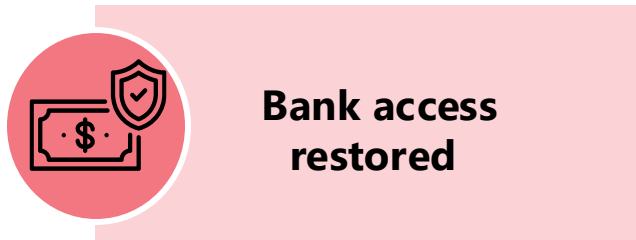
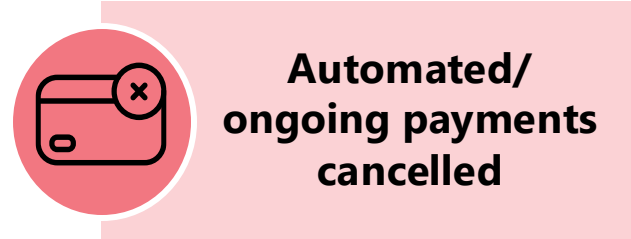
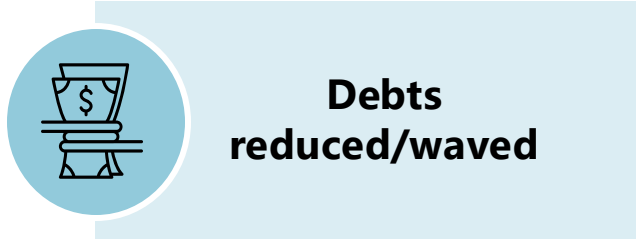


less stressed and/or worried

■ Better ■ The same ■ Worse ■ Don't know

Impact: Tangible outcomes for clients and families

Outcomes are practical, immediate and stabilising



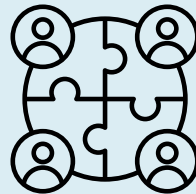
*It's been a huge weight off
my shoulders getting that
SPER debt cancelled ... I
feel like there is hope.*

Client

Impact: For families

Financial counselling can support prisoners to support their families

- Reduce expectations on families
- Ensure financial stability
- Support healthier family dynamics

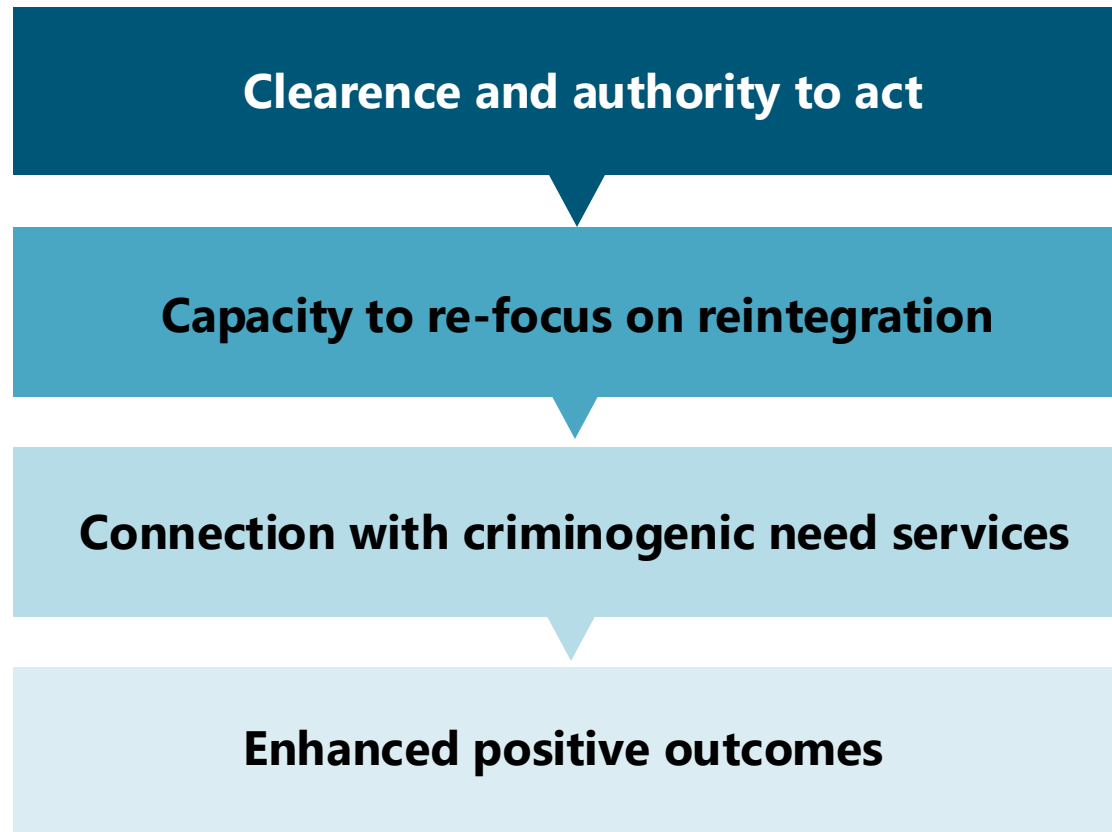


It's distressing ... there were times where I was tossing and turning, it wasn't about getting the money, it was about helping the kids.

Client

Impact: Outcomes for service providers and centre-based corrections staff

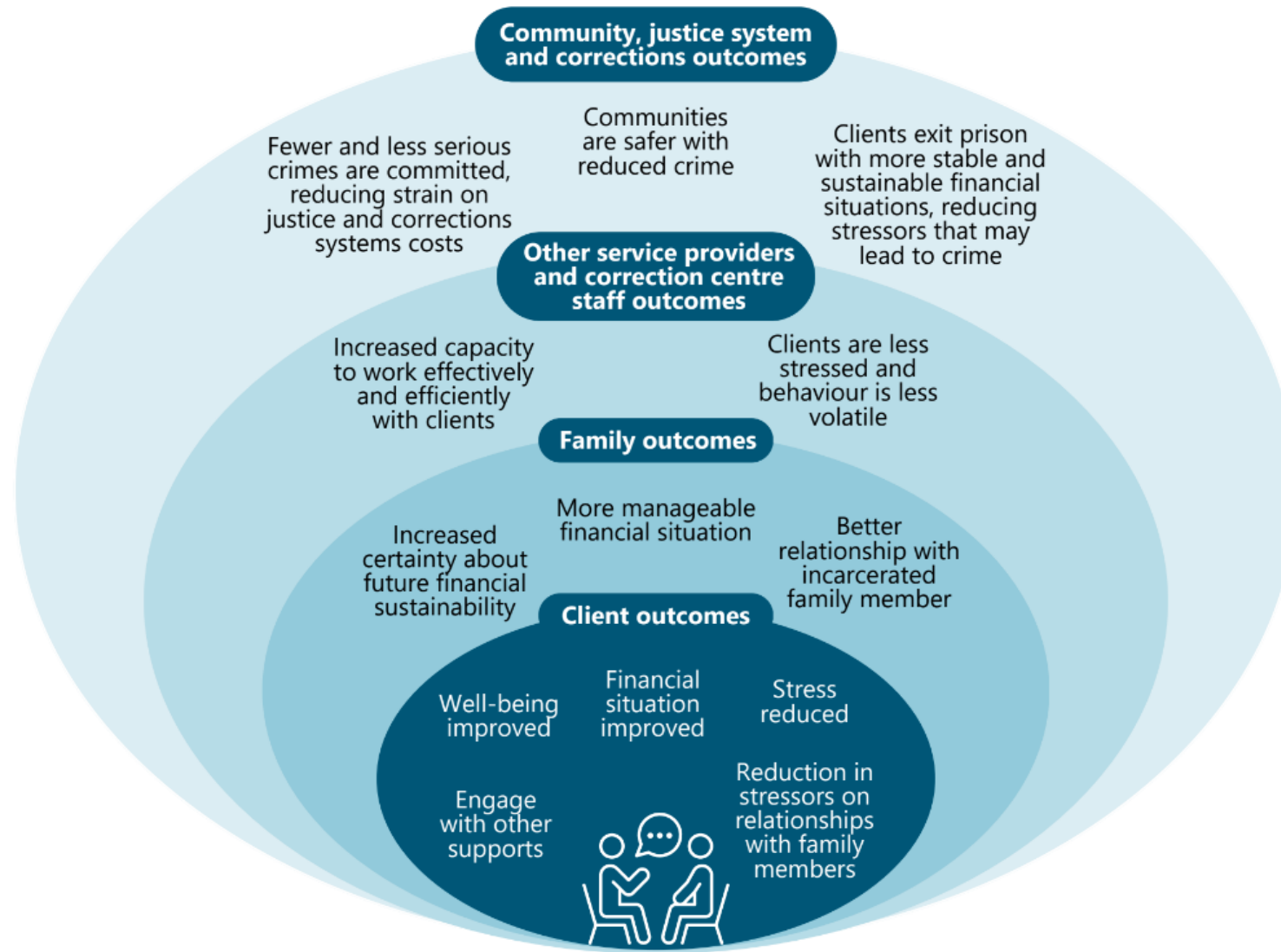
Financial counselling supports efficiencies for the provision of other services for prisoners



Impact: Outcomes for corrective services and the justice system

The evidence from this evaluation corroborates earlier research indicating the importance and **potentially transformative impact** of financial counselling and its **potential to reduce reoffending**.

Impact: Outcomes for corrective services and the justice system



Recommendations

1

Promote financial counselling as a criminogenic program

2

Scale the delivery of this service type

3

Deliver financial counselling services alongside or embedded within case management and/or re-integration services

4

Offer financial counselling services as part of post-release support

5

Provide dedicated funding to support systems change advocacy work

6

Undertake further research and evaluation

More information

- Cultura Report
- Social Impact Evaluation of the Financial Counselling in Prisons Programs

Contact us:



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Child safety



Criminal
justice



Family, domestic
and sexual violence

See the full report here:



https://074bfc2a-c62e-4c67-9b88-69577db18cba.usrfiles.com/ugd/074bfc_9a7baed59f764ee4837c70449b3cb08b.pdf

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