

# Do you have a disability and need support?

**Information on the Cognitive  
Impairment Diversion Program  
for people with disability who  
are going to court**

Easy Read Version





# How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This document has been written by the New South Wales Department of Justice. When you see the word 'we', it means the New South Wales Department of Justice.



Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 13.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at **[www.localcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://www.localcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au)**



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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# About the Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program



Sometimes people with **cognitive impairments** are charged with a crime.

A cognitive impairment is when someone finds it hard to:

- think
- communicate
- understand
- remember.



When someone is charged with a crime, they are called a **defendant**.

## The Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program helps people:



- get support instead of going to jail



- access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)



- connect with support services.

We usually call this the CIDP.

# Who can join the CIDP?

To join the CIDP, you need to:



- be over 18 years old



- be charged with a crime for which you can receive a **community order** – this is a type of ruling from a magistrate and we explain it in more detail on page 13



- have a cognitive impairment



- agree to be part of the CIDP.



You can join the CIDP at Penrith and Gosford Local Courts.

## How do you join the CIDP?



You can ask to join the CIDP at the police station. Or someone can ask for you.

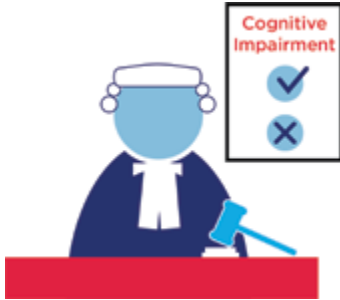
People who can ask for you include:



- a family member



- a friend



- a **magistrate** – an officer of the court who will make a decision about your case



- a **solicitor** – a type of lawyer



- a person who works for a Local Health District



- a community organisation.

## How does the CIDP work?



Once you join the program, there are steps you need to go through.



Firstly, a **clinician** will write a report about your cognitive impairment.

A clinician is a doctor or other medical specialist.



Then the clinician will give the report to the court.



The magistrate will read the report and decide if you have a cognitive impairment.



If the magistrate agrees that you have a cognitive impairment, your lawyer can ask the court to pause the case.

This will give you time to work through the rest of the steps.

You will be given a CIDP support worker.

They will:



- help you access the NDIS



- ask for a new plan if you are already part of the NDIS



- help you work out any other services or support you need



- help you start using those services.



When the plan and support services are in place, the CIDP support worker will write a report.



The magistrate will read the report.



They will decide what happens next.



You may need to work with a **Community Corrections Officer**.



This is a person who works with the court.



Together, these steps can help people with intellectual impairment get the support they need instead of going to jail.

## Word list



### **Clinician**

A doctor or other medical specialist.



### **Community Corrections Officer**

A person who works with the court.



### **Community Order**

In NSW, this is an order from a magistrate that explains the punishment somebody will receive.

It often involves options other than jail time. It might be work in the community, home detention or a special type of program.



### **Cognitive impairment**

When someone finds it hard to:

- think
- communicate
- understand
- remember.



## **Defendant**

The name for a person who has been charged with a crime.



## **Magistrate**

An officer of the court who will make a decision about your case.



## **Solicitor**

A type of lawyer.

## Contact us



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