

Leaving Prison – VACRO ReConnect



Carla Trezise

Senior Case Manager – ReConnect Program
ctrezise@vacro.org.au

Georgia Morsley

Specialist Disability Practitioner and
Educator – ReConnect Program
gmorsley@vacro.org.au

August, 2022



About VACRO

- Non-denominational, non-government organisation.
- VACRO is one of Australia's oldest community organisations, founded in 1872.
We support people in contact with the criminal justice system and their families to create new beginnings and stronger communities.
- Website – www.vacro.org.au
- [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

ReConnect Program



- Final stage of Corrections Victoria's Reintegration Pathway.
- Voluntary outreach program for people being released from prison.
- Through-care approach focusing on reintegration back into the community.
- Empowering people to live independently and achieve their goals.

Leaving Prison

- What does leaving prison look like if you have mental health issues?
- How can we best prepare people with mental health issues to leave prison?
- How can we work to improve throughcare, to ensure that individuals are well supported once leave prison?

Case Study

- 25-year-old male with diagnosis of ADHD
- Presenting with psychotic symptoms in custody
- History of substance use, had self-medicated in the past
- No known substance use in custody or following release

Barriers to engaging services

- Lack of handover at discharge from prison
- Absence of throughcare models to support information sharing
- Delayed access to services

How did these barriers impact Frank?

- Stigma relating to leaving prison and past substance use
- “Missed the window” of opportunity
- Delayed access to services

Reducing barriers & improving engagement

- What can collaboration look like?
- Family inclusive support
- Engaging appropriate services pre-release
 - NDIS
 - Community mental health services
 - PDSI

Thank you

