



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Grimley asks Government to Fund Men's Behaviour Change Programs to Reduce Lengthy Wait Times

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State leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley has called on the government to fix the discrepancy between Community Corrections Orders and Men's Behaviour Change programs, and to address the wait times for Men's Behaviour Change programs by funding them properly.

According to the [Family Violence Implementation Monitor Report](#) handed down in May, there can be hundreds on the waiting list for Men's Behaviour Change programs in the community. Further, the No to Violence's survey of 16 Victorian member organisations in August 2020 found there were 1,100 clients on waiting lists, with an average wait time of more than 13 weeks, with the longest wait time being an appalling 40 weeks.

The Monitor also said: "The number [of family violence offenders] participating in behaviour change programs as part of their community corrections order remains low at only 359 in 2019–20, compared with 1,576 referrals in that year" due to demand exceeding available places.

"It is astounding that we can have so many offenders on a wait list for important programs. Not only does it put the community at risk, it's not rehabilitating these men" says Grimley.

Mr Grimley says that if an offender wants to attend a program or is *required to* by their sentence, they should have access to address their offending appropriately. There seems to be a major issue in funding these programs, which is clearly not keeping up with the demand.

The Monitor Report also highlighted that it is not uncommon for some men to have their Community Corrections Order *expire* before being able to complete a behaviour change program. This is a huge concern, as it infers that someone's sentence could "be effectively useless" according to Mr Grimley.

Mr Grimley's question to the Minister:

Minister, in the 2019-20 year (or the 2020 calendar year if it's easier to calculate) how many offenders have finished their CCO without completing a men's behaviour change program as part of their sentence?

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"There seems to be a massive issue with funding for men's Behaviour Change Programs. It is shocking that we can have up to 500 offenders on a wait list to attend these programs.

How can we have Community Corrections Orders expire before Behaviour Change Programs are completed? We can't have men not completing programs because the Government won't fund them appropriately.

I'm calling on the government to fix both of these major issues. It is simply not acceptable that we have offenders not being able to access Behaviour Change Programs, and if able to access them, not being required to finish them due to their Community Corrections Order expiring."

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