

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice brings together those who have a stake in a specific offence, in order to:

- collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations, and
- heal and put things as right as possible.

Restorative Justice puts the people most affected by crime, the victims, at the centre of the process.

The NSW Department of Corrective Services has a Restorative Justice Unit. The Unit specialises in victim-offender conferences and also facilitates a range of other restorative justice processes.

Victim-offender conferences take place:

- after an adult offender is sentenced, and
- in relation to a wide range of offences.

A victim-offender conference will only take place if:

- the offender accepts responsibility for the offence, and
- both the victim of crime and the offender agree to take part.



What is a Victim-Offender Conference?

In a victim-offender conference the victims of crime and the offender talk about:

- what happened
- how people have been affected, and
- what could be done to make things better.



Victim-offender conferences are:

- safe and private, and
- run by trained facilitators.

In victim-offender conferences, victims of crime and offenders bring along the people who can provide them with support.

What are the benefits of participation?

People who are victims of crime are provided with the opportunity to have their say and focus on their needs. Offenders have the opportunity to take responsibility for what they have done and to try to put things right.





To apply for Restorative Justice Unit programs and services or for more information:

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Select Restorative Justice in the Offender Management drop-down menu.

People who have been victims of crime can empower themselves and move forwards through:

- having a voice and asking questions
- expressing how they have been affected
- holding the offender accountable, and
- having a say in how the harm can be repaired.

Offenders can take positive steps through:

- acknowledging responsibility for their actions
- hearing first hand how their actions have affected others, and
- actively participating in deciding how the harm can be repaired.



A victim offender conference facilitator can answer your questions, send you a DVD or arrange to visit you to talk further about the programs.

The Restorative Justice Unit team look forward to hearing from you.

VICTIM OFFENDER CONFERRNCING



**Working with victims
of crime, offenders and the
community for reconciliation
and healing**