



Monitoring and compliance

Program compliance is closely monitored by the Drug Court. All participants undertake supervised drug testing and appear at court to report to the Judge. The Judge has access to information about the participants. This includes their progress, instances of non-compliance and drug test results.


The Drug Court can impose sanctions on participants for non-compliance. Compliance can lead to reduced restrictions and rewards.

Program completion or termination

When a Drug Court program is completed or terminated, the court will determine the final sentence. At final sentence, the Judge can confirm the initial sentence or set aside and impose another sentence. The sentence is not increased.

The court will decide whether a participant has substantially complied with their program. If so, the final sentence is likely served in the community.

Further information


 drugcourt.nsw.gov.au

 Drug.Court.Registry@justice.nsw.gov.au

Parramatta Drug Court

 02 8688 4525

Sydney Drug Court

 02 9287 7305

Hunter Drug Court

 02 4935 8338

Dubbo Drug Court

 02 6885 7680

DRUG COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES



THE DRUG COURT OF NSW

The Drug Court of NSW is a specialist court based at Parramatta, Hunter, Sydney CBD and Dubbo. It supervises the rehabilitation of eligible drug-dependent offenders.

The Drug Court helps people to reduce or overcome drug dependency and criminal offending. The Drug Court also promotes the positive reintegration of eligible offenders into the community. The objectives of the Drug Court deliver an overall benefit to the community.

Multi-disciplinary approach

The Drug Court Judge leads a multi-disciplinary team. The team works together to supervise and monitor participants. They deliver treatment and support to assist in their rehabilitation.

The Drug Court team includes:

- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- NSW Police Force
- Legal Aid NSW
- Community Corrections NSW
- Justice Health NSW
- treating Local Health District(s)

Who is eligible to participate?

To be eligible for the Drug Court a person must:

- be charged with an eligible offence
- have pleaded guilty, or indicated they will plead guilty, to the offence
- be highly likely to be sentenced to a full-time imprisonment if convicted
- be dependent on the use of illicit drugs
- be 18 years of age or over
- be willing to participate
- be referred to the Drug Court by a Local Court or District Court in NSW

The person must also live in one of the following Local Government Areas:

- Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Campbelltown, Cessnock, Cumberland, Dubbo Regional, Fairfield, Georges River, Hawkesbury, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Lake Macquarie, Lane Cove, Liverpool, Maitland, Mosman, Newcastle, North Sydney, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Stephens, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sydney, the Hills Shire, Waverley, Willoughby or Woollahra.

Who is not eligible to participate?

A person is not eligible if they are:

- charged with an offence involving violent conduct
- charged with a sexual offence or some drug offences
- suffering from a mental condition that could prevent or restrict participation

How is a person referred to the Drug Court?

The Local Court and District Court must refer offenders who appear to be eligible. Once referred, the Drug Court will assess the person's eligibility and appropriateness. The Drug Court will then determine the outcome of the referral.

Limited program places are available. Where there are more referrals than available places, a randomised ballot is conducted.

What happens after a successful referral?

After a successful referral to the Drug Court, a person must complete detoxification and assessment in custody.

The person is then brought to appear before the Drug Court to confirm a plea of guilty. The Drug Court imposes an initial sentence of imprisonment and makes orders for a suspended sentence. The person is then released to undertake their program, subject to the conditions imposed by the Court.

What is the Drug Court program?

Each participant's program has three phases. Each phase has distinct goals the participant must achieve to progress to the next phase. The program is a minimum of 12 months long.