

## DID YOU KNOW?

Prisoners could be eligible to receive a Video Visit if they have children.

The Video Visits program provides an opportunity for prisoners and their children to connect via a direct video conferencing link to an external site arranged by VACRO.

The Video Visit program does not intend to replace regular contact or professional visits but should be seen as another option for children and prisoners to stay in touch.

For more information contact the VACRO Video Visits worker on 9605 1922.

## ABOUT VACRO

VACRO works across the criminal justice system to create a safe and fair community, to respect and support individual and family dignity, and to make a positive contribution to reducing the harm done by crime.

### Other VACRO Services

- SKY (Child and Carer) counselling
- Video Visits (not for MAP)
- Family support @ Geelong court
- Family Support @ prison
- Information and resources to assist understanding of the criminal justice system
- Post-release support.

## VACRO

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LIFE CHANGING

# ABORIGINAL FAMILY VISITS PROGRAM

[VACRO.ORG.AU](http://VACRO.ORG.AU)

## WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

The Aboriginal Family Visits program (AFVP) aims to help family members remain in contact with their loved ones in prison.

VACRO recognises the financial difficulties for families in regularly travelling long distances to visit family members in prison.

The AFVP is available for family members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison within Victoria. It offers the opportunity for prisoners to:

- Stay connected with family
- Rebuild family ties and;
- Access family support.

This program is funded by the Koori Unit, Department of Justice and offers:

- Travel assistance
- Accommodation assistance
- Preparation and information for families about visiting prison

## WHO CAN WE ASSIST?

### To access this service:

- The prisoner must identify as being indigenous
- Family members must be listed on the prisoners visit list
- A maximum of five (5) family members can access assistance once (1) every six (6) weeks
- Family members must be travelling a long distance (not just within Melbourne).

VACRO will check eligibility with the prison before organising assistance.

**Note: If the prisoner does not identify as Indigenous, Aboriginal families are not eligible.**

### How to Apply

- Families contact VACRO to organise assistance
- Prisoners speak with your Aboriginal Welfare/Liaison Officer or Case Manager

## WHAT CAN WE ASSIST WITH?

### Travel

- V/Line train tickets
- V/Line bus tickets
- Reimbursement of petrol expenses
- Taxi reimbursement

\*Petrol reimbursement only where V/Line is not available or appropriate.

\*Reimbursement of petrol and taxi expenses must be approved by VACRO before travelling.

### Accommodation

A distance of at least three (3) hours travel from your home to the prison is required to be considered for overnight assistance.

- Assistance is provided for one (1) night only.
- Assistance can also be provided for families travelling from interstate.