

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

- Child Care and Transport Subsidies for women on correctional orders
- Information and resources for families of offenders
- Video Visits Program
- Aboriginal Family Visits Program
- Family Therapy
- Family Support @ Geelong Court.

WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS SAY?

"I didn't know what to expect, but when I did meet up with my mentor, we just clicked, we couldn't stop talking."

"She makes me feel wanted, appreciated, and worthy."

"My mentor is useful and informative, and is there for me."

"My mentor helped me with computer skills and then to get a job."

VACRO

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LIFE CHANGING

VACRO WOMEN'S MENTORING PROGRAM

VACRO.ORG.AU

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

The VACRO Women's Mentoring Program aims to assist women who are either exiting prison or on Community Correctional Orders to integrate successfully into the community by being matched with a volunteer mentor.

A mentor is someone:

- You can talk to
- Who can provide information and encouragement
- Who can help you explore options
- Who can help you work towards goals.

Things you can do with your mentor

- Work out things you might like to do together
- Discuss your future plans
- Visit places of interest
- Have a coffee
- Learn new skills
- Go bargain hunting
- Go to a class together to make new friends.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

How do I get involved?

You are eligible if:

- You are currently in prison and have three months or less to go before you will be released OR
- You have just left prison (up to six months ago) OR
- You are on a community correctional order, or parole.

In order to match you with a face-to-face mentor, you also will need to have stable housing in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

If you live in regional Victoria we can discuss phone mentoring with you.

Is there a waiting list?

In some areas there may be a wait while a mentor is found to match you with. In this time, you will be supported with phone calls and meetings with VACRO.

HOW IT WORKS

Referrals can be made by:

- The TAP Coordinator at your prison
- Your Community Corrections Officer
- Self-refer by phoning VACRO on 9605 1900 or Freecall 1800 049 871.

A VACRO worker will meet with you to discuss the program and answer any questions that you might have.

What happens in the first meeting?

You will be introduced to your mentor by the VACRO worker. You and your mentor will discuss some boundaries and expectations, and come up with a mentoring plan. Generally this involves agreeing to meet once a week or once a fortnight.

What if things aren't working out with my mentor?

If you or your mentor has a problem you can discuss it with the VACRO worker. They will assist you to work through the issue, or if necessary look at matching you with a new mentor.

How long can I have a mentor for?

You may choose to leave the program at any time. After six months you and your mentor will meet with the VACRO worker again to reflect on your time together, and make a new mentoring plan for the next six months.