



**Australian Government**

# **CSCINT010 Assess offender risks and needs**

**Release: 1**

# CSCINT010 Assess offender risks and needs

## Modification History

Release 1. This is the first release of this unit of competency in the CSC Correctional Services Training Package Release 4.0

## Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to assess offender behaviour, communication and presentation, assess risks and determine intervention approach.

Offender risks encompass many different aspects of offender health and safety, including:

- suicide and self-harm
- risk from others
- risk to others
- sexual abuse
- drug and substance use
- anger management
- domestic family violence
- nature of the offence
- media attention or public interest
- potential for repeat offence and re-offending
- trauma history
- mental health factors
- family crisis
- cultural and diversity factors
- housing/homelessness

This unit applies to correctional services staff responsible for the management and review of offenders. The role includes identifying immediate and longer-term risks and needs to ensure allocation and referral of offenders to suitable and effective intervention and support services.

A person undertaking this role may work autonomously or as part of a team with support from a range of established sources. The role is complex, drawing upon the candidate's ability to extract, analyse and interpret information.

The skills and knowledge described in this unit must be applied within the legislative, regulatory and policy environment in which they are carried out. Organisational policies and procedures must be consulted and adhered to, particularly those related to interaction with offenders.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to unit at the time of publication.

## Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable.

## Competency Field

Intervention

## Unit Sector

Not applicable.

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

#### **1 Assess offender behaviour, communication and presentation**

#### **2 Analyse nature and degree of risk**

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

- 1.1** Assess offender's emotional state within the context of known personal history and circumstances
- 1.2** Assess the physical presentation of the offender
- 1.3** Note discrepancies and inconsistencies in offender behaviour
- 1.4** Research and check information about offender's history, behaviour and emotional state from analysis of his/her information and behaviour and from offender files and reports
- 1.5** Make a general assessment of functioning according to recognised criteria and note indicators of risk, responsivity and need
- 1.6** Use a range of communication strategies to discover experiences, attitudes and needs of the offender
- 2.1** Check and confirm the offender's understanding of the nature of their circumstances using a range of communication and analysis strategies
- 2.2** Explore offender's perceptions of their capacity to influence the situation and evaluate this for

realistic and effective expectations

- 2.3 Assess offender's abilities and skills to handle or function within their situation and evaluate this for degree of risk to health and welfare of self and others
- 2.4 Assist the offender to identify current factors that would work for or against change and assess them for suitability and readiness to programs and services
- 2.5 Explore and determine offender's influencing formal and informal support systems
- 2.6 Identify and acknowledge offender's capacity to recognise and understand their situation and adapt according to new requirements and perceptions of their environment
- 2.7 Identify offender's motivation to change and assess according to level of reality, expectations and experiences

### **3 Determine intervention**

- 3.1 Collaborate with the offender to identify intervention strategies based on offender's ability and potential to cope with their situation
- 3.2 Make recommendations on intervention strategies and referral based on offender's risk factors, capacity and nature of the offending behaviour in accordance with organisational procedures
- 3.3 Negotiate conditions of intervention with key stakeholders, agencies and offenders in a manner that encourages agreement and collaboration
- 3.4 Provide advice and information to the offender using effective communication in accordance with organisational procedures
- 3.5 Record relevant information and case notes in offender's files and report to other agencies

## **Foundation Skills**

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

## Range of Conditions

Range is restricted to essential operating conditions and any other variables essential to the work environment.

Non-essential conditions may be found in the Companion Volume Implementation Guide.

## Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is equivalent to CSCINT004 Assess offender risks and needs.

## Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -  
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=114e25cd-3a2c-4490-baae-47d68dcd2fde>