Many prisoners experience significant challenges in reintegrating after their release from prison. These challenges can be compounded by social disadvantage and complex needs related to drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, acquired brain injury, homelessness and unemployment.

The Corrections Victoria Reintegration Pathway provides pre-release programs responsive to each prisoner’s transitional needs on entry to prison, throughout their prison sentence and to assist with returning to the community. Post-release support is available to prisoners who require more intensive support.

With the objective of reducing risk to the Victorian community, the Corrections Victoria Reintegration Pathway targets seven critical domains as the key drivers of effective and successful reintegration:

- housing
- employment
- education and training
- independent living skills
- mental health
- alcohol and drugs
- family/community connectedness.

**Pre-release programs**

Transitional activities commence on entry and continue throughout a prisoner’s incarceration, with each stage building on achievements and interventions of previous stages.

Upon reception into custody, all prisoners receive the Reception Transition Triage (RTT) assessment which aims to manage debt and take action to address any existing housing arrangements that, if left unaddressed, would lead to increased debt and future housing problems.

For remandees and prisoners serving sentences longer than 18 months, a Case Planning Transition (CPT) assessment is conducted four weeks after being received at their classified prison. The CPT builds on issues identified in RTT, providing assistance and referrals for transitional needs that can be addressed during their sentence.

A dedicated pre-release program titled ReGroup is available to all sentenced prisoners and begins up to 18 months before release, or immediately after reception for prisoners serving shorter sentences. ReGroup provides general information and referral services to prisoners who are streamed into services or sessions most relevant to their needs.

**Targeted pre-release programs**

Building on ReGroup, a contracted program, ReLink, is run by the Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO) and is available for prisoners nearing release.

This program has two components, which provide practical advice and tailored transitional support, particularly to women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, and those serving longer sentences:

- **Group Program:** Facilitated group sessions focus on practical strategies and provide the opportunity for positive behaviour change influenced by peers, while allowing for modelling and practicing positive skills.

- **Individual Program:** This program supports individual transition case planning for prisoners identified in the group program as having significant transitional needs. It includes intensive planning around goals identified in the transition plan and formulating these into manageable steps for the prisoner to work through. Other support, including medical assessments, Office of Housing applications and referrals to post-release support agencies before release, is covered in this program.

**Post-release services**

ReConnect provides targeted (up to four weeks) and intensive (up to 12 months) reintegration outreach services for serious violent or sex offenders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and women prisoners and prisoners with high transitional needs. It is designed to provide responsive, tailored and flexible support.

For further information, please email corrections@justice.vic.gov.au.