Transition from Custody to Community:

Transitional Support for

People Leaving Prison

June 2001

Prepared by Lisa Ward
for the
Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner, Victoria
# Contents

**Executive Summary**

1. Introduction 3
   - 1.1 Purpose 3
   - 1.2 Terminology 3
   - 1.3 Approach 4

2. Context 4
   - 2.1 Purpose of Transitional Support Services 4
   - 2.2 Background: Why a Focus Now? 5
   - 2.3 Recent Trends 6

3. Impact of Transitional Support Services 8
   - 3.1 State of the Literature 8
   - 3.2 Pre-Release Preparation 9
   - 3.3 Temporary Leave/Work Release 11
   - 3.4 Release with Residential Supervision 12
   - 3.5 Release with Community Based Supervision 13
   - 3.6 Bridging (Post-Release) Support 16
   - 3.7 Overview of Research Evidence 22
   - 3.8 Summary 23

4. Discharged Prisoners in Victoria 24

5. Current State of Victorian Transitional Support 26
   - 5.1 Service Framework 26
   - 5.2 Service Delivery 28
   - 5.3 Summary 32

6. Making a Commitment to Transitional Support 33
6.1 The Case For Change 33
6.2 Capturing the Commitment 34

7. Developing A Service Framework 36
7.1 Objectives 36
7.2 Principles 36
7.3 Service Elements 41

8. Service Development Priorities 50
8.1 New Initiatives 50
8.2 Service Re-development 53
8.3 Responding to Particular Sub-Groups 54
8.4 Overview of Exit Pathways 55
8.5 Implementation Pre-Requisites 56

9. Summary 58

Summary of Recommendations

Appendices
I  System Design and Service Delivery Principles
II  Service Elements

References