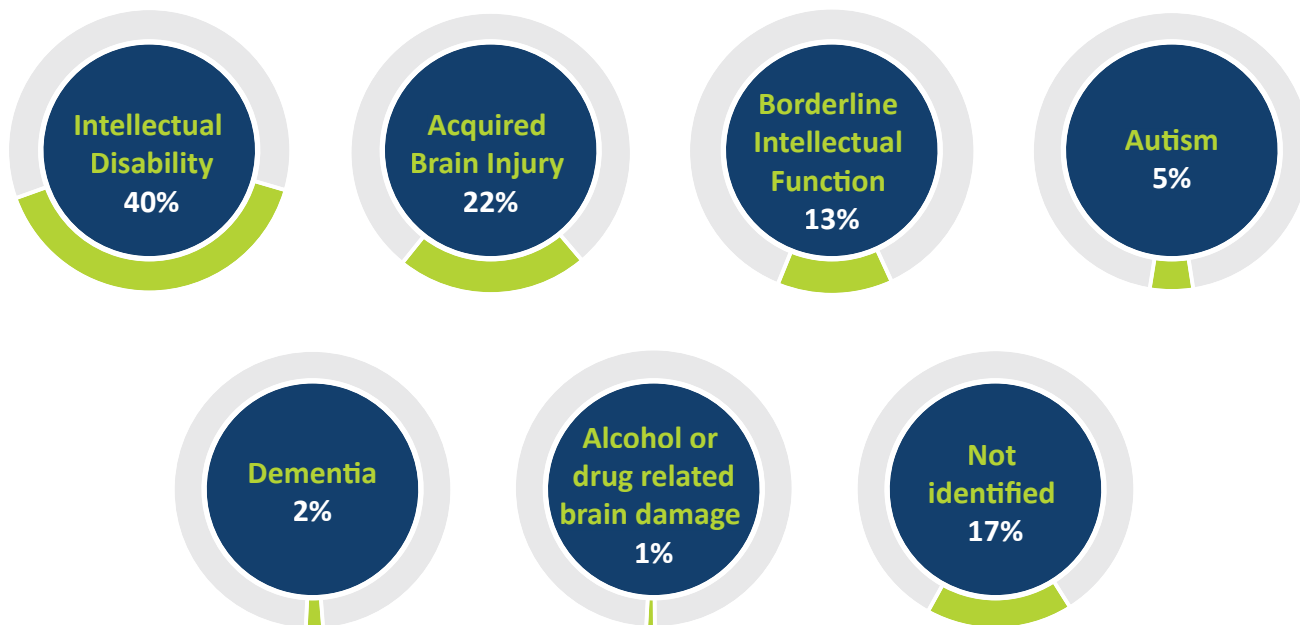


Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program

Primary and secondary disabilities



Co-morbidity



“

It's (CIDP) been amazing ... 101% the best thing ever it was that bad. It saved my life.

”

In addition to NDIS and disability services the main service areas which participants were linked to were mental health, general health, accommodation, legal advice, education, employment, counselling.

Outcomes

WestwoodSpice was engaged by the NSW Department of Justice to undertake a process analysis of CIDP. The evaluation found that in the first 12 months of operation CIDP had achieved significant results in its two core goals of:

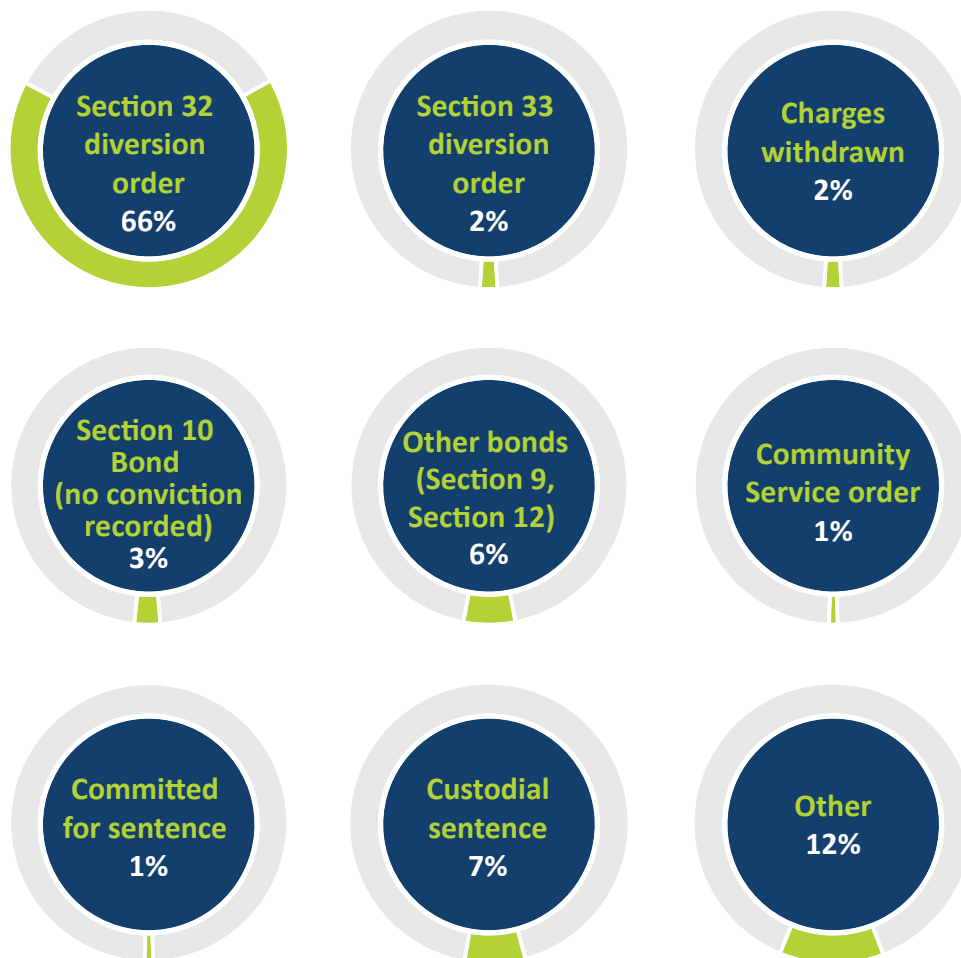
1. Diverting people with a cognitive impairment from the criminal justice system
2. Connecting people with the National Disability Insurance scheme and other services

Participants who took part in focus groups as part of the evaluation described the impact of CIDP in ways that went way beyond their contact with the criminal justice system. They spoke about receiving help with problems they had struggled with for years. They spoke of the importance of feeling listened to; of having access to support that doesn't let you down; the possibility of positive involvement in the community and feeling hope for the future.

Court Outcomes

Court outcomes for CIDP participants demonstrate a high level of diversion at the two courts where CIDP is based.

Court outcomes for CIDP participants



Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program



Case Study - Tony: Opening doors to a new life

Tony is in his 20s. He was before the local court on 5 charges when referred to CIDP. He had a history of previous conviction and his solicitor had told him a custodial sentence was likely.

The CIDP Neuropsychologist assessment identified that Tony had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Tony knew he had problems but had never had an explanation for his difficulties before.

CIDP referred Tony to a Psychologist who helped him to understand what his new diagnosis meant for him and to identify his strengths and challenges. He was given strategies to cope with and manage the challenges associated with his disorder and more specifically his feelings of being overwhelmed. This was an empowering journey for him and has led to him wanting to support others who face the same challenges.

Tony successfully completed the Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment (MERIT) program and has continued to cease his long term Cannabis use.

CIDP supported him to apply for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and he received a funding package to help him achieve his goals:

- I would like help to develop my capacity to complete all my daily activities independently
- I would like help to locate suitable housing and live independently
- I would like help to increase my skills to secure employment and eventually build my own business
- I would like help to improve my overall health and wellbeing

Tony is on a path to achieving these goals. He was supported by CIDP to enroll in a Cert III Community Service course at TAFE and was linked with enhanced educational supports tailored to his needs. He recently completed his Cert IV.

He is currently seeking part-time youth support worker employment whilst he continues to attend TAFE.

Tony had never received any form of Centrelink payment throughout his adult life despite being unemployed, as he struggled to navigate the system. CIDP helped him to successfully apply for Austudy payments.

He had significant fines with the State Debt Recovery and was supported to commence a Work Development Order. He continues to reduce his fines by attending TAFE.

Tony would like to build a youth mentoring business focused on sports and physical activity, for people with Autism. He has commenced New Business Assistance training with the New Enterprise Assistance Scheme and is receiving personalised mentoring and support to help him put his business idea into practice.

Tony and his CIDP case manager developed a Support plan for the court. The plan outlined his new supports and additional supports he agreed to and how those supports would reduce his likelihood of future charges. The magistrate dismissed his 5 charges under a S32 diversion order with no conviction recorded.



Case Study - Mark

Mark is a young Aboriginal man. He had been diagnosed previously with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and ADHD. His assessment by the CIDP Neuropsychologist found that he has intellectual disability which had a major impact on his functional abilities but had not been identified before. He was homeless, had substance abuse problems, had no form of income and was wary of becoming involved with CIDP.

Mark had been in Out of Home Care for most of his childhood and had experienced severe sexual, physical and psychological abuse at the hands of foster parents and carers.

Based on his life long experience of abandonment by services, Mark had no his trust in any support services.

CIDP supported Mark to secure temporary accommodation and to re-establish his Centrelink benefits. CIDP worked with Mark to develop trust and supported him to consider applying for NDIS and to seek medical assistance as well as psychiatric therapy and counselling.

Eventually Mark agreed to apply for NDIS and identified his goals as

- I would like to be supported to access suitable housing
- I would like to develop my independence to allow me to successfully participate in day to day life
- I would like to be supported to identify appropriate strategies that will enable me to make positive choices
- At the conclusion of the plan, I would like to be exploring employment opportunities

He chose an Aboriginal service organisation to provide his NDIS services.

The court did not agree to a Section 32 diversion order and Mark received a Community Corrections Order for all court matters.

Mark has a place to live, income and remains engaged with his new service provider.

“

If CIDP hadn't rocked up
I wouldn't understand
and would keep doing
what I was doing. I feel
like I am getting heard,
my voice counts.

”