



SHINE for Kids®

About SHINE

SHINE for Kids has 40 years' experience delivering programs and services to children and young people affected by the criminal justice system. Children with a parent in prison are the invisible victims of crime. They experience significant psychological and emotional trauma, isolation, bullying, poverty, homelessness and fragmentation of care, education and family support. Nationally, SHINE delivers programs in 32 correctional centres and provides community programs in NSW, ACT, QLD, VIC and WA. SHINE is the leading organisation and the only national charity supporting children with a parent in prison.



The Challenge in Victoria



SHINE for Kids is funded in 3 state prisons supporting **749 children annually.**

30% of children that SHINE for Kids supports are **Aboriginal.**

It is estimated that 50% of people in custody are parents. There are approximately 7,151 prisoners in the Victorian prison system. That's **3,575 parents with children needing support.**

There are 14 correctional centres in Victoria with **SHINE funded to provide support 25%** in less than **25%**

Summary of Recommendations

SHINE Program Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Extend the funding and delivery of SHINE Invisits and Child Parent Days to Loddon Correctional Centre, Ravanhall Correctional Centre, Dame Phyllis Frost and Tarrengower Women's Prison.

Recommendation 2: Extend the funding and delivery of the Keeping Us Together program at Barwon, Marngoneet, Melbourne Remand Centre, Loddon Correctional Centre and Ravenhall Correctional Centre.

Recommendation 3: Extend the funding and delivery of Stay Together Play Together Playgroup at Barwon, Marngoneet, Melbourne Remand Centre, Loddon Correctional Centre and Ravenhall Correctional Centre.

Recommendation 4: Extend funding for RISE Education Program and Teacher Training in three areas of highest need based on SHINE for Kids data – Western Metropolitan, Northern Victoria and Northern Metropolitan.

Recommendation 5: Extend the funding and delivery of Ride By Your Side transport program to Dame Phyllis Frost, Tarrengower Women's Prison, Ravenhall, Loddon and Fullham Correctional Centres.

Recommendation 6: The Minister for Corrections Victoria encourages G4S Private Prison provider of Port Phillip Prison to meet with SHINE for Kids about services and supports for children with a parent in prison and parenting programs.

Transport and Capital Expenditure Recommendations

Recommendation 7: Corrections Victoria should invest in supported transport services for children with a parent in prison due to parents being imprisoned long distances from their children. This service should be available at all Victorian correctional centres.

Recommendation 8: Capital expenditure on building new correctional centres or modifying existing facilities prioritise infrastructure that supports family integration and child-friendly visiting areas including a dedicated Child and Family Centre at all Victorian correctional centres.

Training Recommendations

Recommendation 9: That the Minister for Child Protection and Family Services work with SHINE for Kids to introduce a training course to overcome the negative stereotypes of parents who are prisoners for all out of home care case managers who work with children of those parents. The proposed training program should be implemented as a matter of urgency and without delay.

Recommendation 10: That the Minister for Education work with SHINE for Kids to implement guidelines for teachers and school counsellors to assist them to recognise children whose parents are in prison and respond in an appropriate and sensitive manner.

Recommendation 11: That the Attorney General work with SHINE for Kids to develop and implement training for members of the magistracy and judiciary to enable them to take into account the impact a custodial sentence for an accused person may have on his or her dependent children. This training should

include the impact of colonisation, intergenerational dispossession, intergenerational trauma, the connection between a history of removal, being placed in care and subsequently incarcerated as an adult.

Recommendation 12: That the Minister for Corrections work with SHINE for Kids to institute a training program for all correctional staff to develop positive methods of interaction with the families, particularly the children, of inmates. SHINE for Kids currently provides officer training in New South Wales.

Governance and Policy Recommendations

Recommendation 13: Prison visits should be seen as an important opportunity to promote family bonds between the prisoner and their children rather than an incentive or punishment for parents in custody.

Recommendation 14: That the Premier urge the Prime Minister develops a 'Prevention of Intergenerational Involvement with Criminal Justice System Fund' to support the development of a Victorian strategy for children with a parent in prison and the rollout of a national strategy.

Recommendation 15: That the Premier develops a State Committee and urge the Prime Minister to commission a national study on children of prisoners to be undertaken by SHINE for Kids.

Recommendation 16: That the Minister for Corrections directs the Department Justice and Community Safety to meet with SHINE for Kids to develop policies and programs to meet the needs of children of imprisoned parents.

Data and Evaluation Recommendations

Recommendation 17: That the Minister for Child Protection and Family Services establish and maintain a data system on all children whose parents are in prison and who are in the substitute care system or are under the Minister's care. The data system should be used to assist the Department Justice and Community Safety to formulate practical and sensitive policies for this group of children. Data should be made publicly available to inform the appropriate development of programs and policies by the community sector.

Recommendation 18: That the Minister for Corrections collect data on the number of people in prison who are parents. Such data should be made publicly available and used to establish appropriate policies and practices that facilitate contact between people in custody and their children.

Recommendation 19: Corrections Victoria should work with Australian state and territory governments to develop an annual national survey on parenthood for people in custody to ensure early prevention services and support can be appropriately allocated.

Recommendation 20: All programs and policies implemented for children with a parent in prison need to incorporate rigorous monitoring and evaluation processes. Evaluations need to have Indigenous perspectives, methods and methodologies embedded to ensure outcomes.¹

(1) Indigenous Evaluation Strategy. Productivity Commission Issues Paper June 2019.

The Cost of Inaction

14 correctional centres
in Victoria



3575

people in custody have
children needing support

7151 people in custody,
50% have children



SHINE is funded to support
749 children in **3** state prisons,
less than 25% of the current need

\$200 the cost to support
one child per annum
across 3 correctional centres in Victoria

compared to

30% of children
SHINE for Kids
supports are
Aboriginal



\$110,000
the cost to keep one adult
in custody for 12 months

or

\$550,000
the cost to keep one young
person in juvenile detention



SHINE for Kids®



*My son will lose the bond with his father
and won't know who he is*

*My child is very distressed, it's affecting
his behavior and emotional wellbeing*

*Children are resilient but they miss holding
and talking to their father. The youngest one
cries after a talk on Zoom – she wants to hold
him. The younger one wants to hug him and play
games with him – affection is very important and
it has been hard for them not to have it.*