



Court Assessment and Treatment Service

What is the Court Assessment and Treatment Service (CATS)?

The Court Assessment and Treatment Service (CATS) is a specialist Community and Youth Justice team that helps support people in Perth's Drug Courts.

The team is divided into two groups:

- Senior Youth Justice CATS Officers who work with young people within the Children's Court Drug Court
- Senior Community Corrections CATS Officers who work with adult participants within the Perth Drug Court.

Why is this service needed?

Drug Courts help people make changes to improve their lives. We know that taking part in a Drug Court program can reduce re-offending in people with drug-related offences.

How does the service work?

The CATS team works closely with the Drug Courts, writing assessment, progress and final sentencing reports.

CATS team members assess people referred to the Drug Courts to see whether they are suitable and willing to take part in a Drug Court program.

The assessment report includes a recommendation about the best form of treatment and a referral to treatment and support services.

Once a person is accepted into a Drug Court program, the CATS team monitors that person's attendance at counselling and other services.

What is the significance of a CATS report?

CATS provides ongoing reports and advice throughout the Drug Court program and a final report when the program is finished.

In sentencing the person, the judge takes those reports into consideration.

People who successfully finish a Drug Court program may not have to go to prison and may be given a community sentence instead.



Who does the CATS team work with?

The team works closely with many drug rehabilitation specialists and other treatment and support services. This is to make sure Drug Court participants get the support they need to stay on track.

Who benefits from this service?

By working with rehabilitation and support services and supervising Drug Court participants, the CATS team helps offenders change their lives and reduce their offending behaviour that has been linked to drug use.

This benefits many people including: participants, families, victims and potential victims of crime, and the broader community.

What drug programs come under CATS supervision?

In both Drug Courts, the programs are usually run on a pre-sentence basis, with participants subject to conditional bail.

At the Perth Drug Court, Senior Community Corrections CATS Officers supervise adult offenders who take part in these programs:

- Metropolitan Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime (Metro STIR)
- Drug Court Regime (DCR)
- Pre-sentence Order (PSO).

At the Children's Court Drug Court, Senior Youth Justice CATS Officers monitor young people who take part in these programs:

- Youth Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime (YSTIR)
- Drug Court Regime (DCR).