

## ABOUT FORENSICARE

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health, known as Forensicare, is a statutory agency established in 1997 as the statewide specialist provider of forensic mental health services in Victoria.

We deliver mental health and behavioral change programs in Thomas Embling Hospital, prisons, and community settings.

Our purpose is to empower recovery for all Victorians living with mental illness who are at risk of entering or who have entered the justice system, helping them to lead safe and meaningful lives free from offending.

## CONTACT US

Barwon South West Regional Service

For more information

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Community Forensic Mental Health Services (Central intake)

All other referrals

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Forensicare

## BARWON SOUTH WEST REGIONAL FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE



**Forensicare**  
Safe pathways to recovery

## REGIONAL FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Forensicare's Model of Care 2021-26 outlines our commitment to providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place and by the right people.

The establishment of community-based forensic mental health teams in each of Victoria's eight mental health and wellbeing regions will help us meet this commitment.

Along with enhancements of the forensic clinical specialist program in area mental health and wellbeing services (AMHWS), the initiative addresses Recommendation 37.2 of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, which calls for an expanded forensic community model.

### Partnerships

Forensicare's regional services have a key role in supporting AMHWS to help consumers who need specialist forensic mental health input to reduce offending risks. They work in close partnership with AMHWS' forensic clinical specialists.

Regional services also support people with mental illness who are transitioning from Forensicare's prison and inpatient services.

Over time, regional teams will build capacity to assist non-AMHWS services with clients who present with high-risk problem behaviours, including those without severe mental illness.

### Our first regional team – Barwon South West

Our team provides services across the Barwon and South West region, based in Geelong and Warrnambool.

The team is multidisciplinary and includes mental health clinicians, peer workers, and psychiatrists.

### What the team does

The team provides services across four streams:

**Consultation and reports:** tertiary consultation (capacity building) to AMHWS, local mental health and wellbeing services, and other community partners; and primary and secondary consultation to AMHWS

**Case management and shared care:** sole case management of consumers on extended leave from Thomas Embling Hospital; and shared care with AMHWS for their consumers requiring specialist forensic mental health services

**Coordination, supervision, and support:** services for people on parole, community corrections orders, post-sentence supervision orders and those requiring transition support for mental health care following prison

**Forensic therapeutic interventions:** problem behaviour treatment for people with specific high-risk behaviours (with or without a mental illness); and peer support, including post-release transition support following forensic mental health engagement in prisons.

### Target group

The regional forensic mental health team provides services for, and to, people aged 18+ experiencing mental illness and/or problem behaviours who are:

- at risk of offending or who are currently exhibiting offending behaviours, including violence and aggression in AMHWS inpatient and other settings
- exiting Thomas Embling Hospital or prisons
- non-custodial supervision orders.

### Referral pathways

The regional service will accept consumer-related referrals directly from:

- AMHWS, via their forensic clinical specialists
- other Forensicare programs, including community, prison, and inpatient services.

Currently, all other referrals for Forensicare's community-based services, including problem behaviour treatment, should continue to be directed to the Community Forensic Mental Health Services' central intake team.

Contact details for referrals and enquiries are on the following page.