



## Court Diversion Programs- A collaborative Approach

Belinda Maloney, Project Coordinator AOD Service Operations, Department of Health  
Jo Beckett, Program Manager, CISP & CREDIT/Bail Support Program, Department of Justice



# Stages of Partnerships

- Getting to Know Each Other
- Working to Achieve Mutually Valued Objectives
- Developing and Implementing Programs Together

Mullinix BB (May 2001) *Nurturing Partnership: A Southern African Continuum of Flexible Stages in Partnership Development*



# Getting to Know Each Other

- Two Government Departments
  - DHS; provider of drug treatment, focussed on addressing substance use under harm minimisation framework
  - DoJ; law enforcement, administration of civil and criminal justice and public safety, responsible management and regulation of gaming and racing and providing an effective framework for consumer affairs



# Getting to Know Each Other

- WoG response to substance using offenders
  - 1997 Implementation of COATS
  - DHS purchase assessment and treatment for offenders
  - Priority access
  - Supervision and case coordination by CCS
  - DHS and DoJ (Corrections) talking to each other



# Working to Achieve Mutually Valued Objectives

- 1998 CREDIT program implemented
- 2000 Commonwealth funding for pre-sentence (diversion) drug treatment
- 2005 CREDIT/Bail support program



# Developing and implementing programs together

- CREDIT/Bail program
  - Better supports; housing, welfare, advocacy, vocation
  - Philosophy further aligned
  - DoJ moving away from being wholly law enforcement focused
- Service delivery to court in Bendigo
- Access to residential rehabilitation for women
- DoJ approach DHS to develop CISP program
- Joint treasury bid



# Learnings

- Sometimes needs a push- WoG response
- Baby steps
- Meet part way
- Based on individual relationships
- Does require commitment
- Don't need to be romantic to make it work



## Where to from here?

- Review of forensic drug treatment system
- Development of principles
- Strengthen need for integrated approach
- More emphasis on evidence-based treatment with focus on offending behaviour
- Build a new framework