



Melbourne Citymission
Building Inclusive Communities

Reducing reoffending through Social & Economic participation



Sonia Chudiak

Melbourne Citymission

For 155 years, Melbourne Citymission has worked with disadvantaged people across Melbourne and Victoria. Every week we help over 4000 people build a clear pathway out of disadvantage, economic exclusion and social isolation.

Vision

A fair and just community where people have equal access to opportunities and resources.

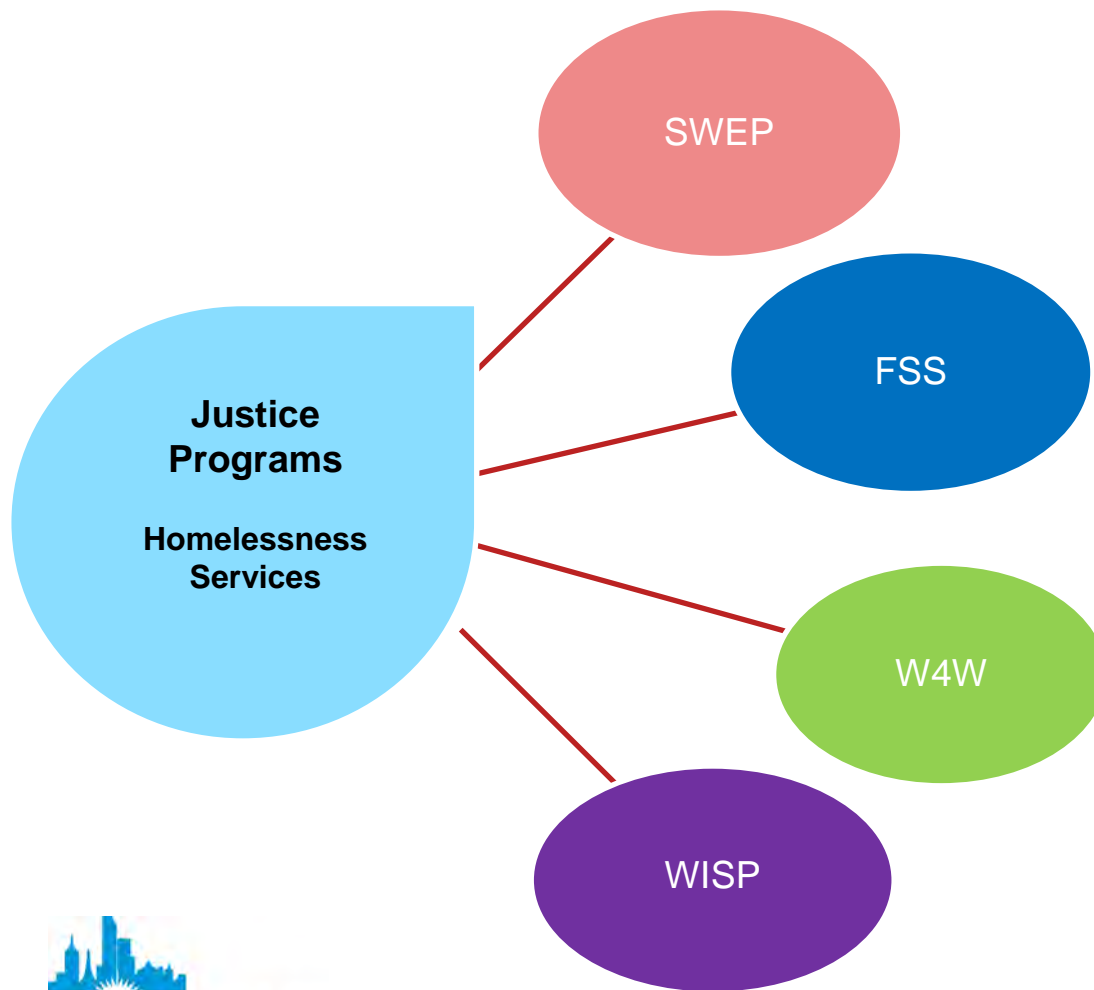
Mission

We build inclusive communities that overcome disadvantage.



Justice Programs

- The Justice programs have grown from a single program of offering accommodation and transitional support into an integrated suite of programs that assist women to address a range of needs;



Supporting Women Exiting Program

Provides support to women to address Social Isolation & build self esteem. The program offers women short term support & counselling and support to women residing in long term social housing

Family Support Services

Provides liaison, support, resources, encouragement, education, information, referral and practical assistance to mothers in prison

Women 4 Work

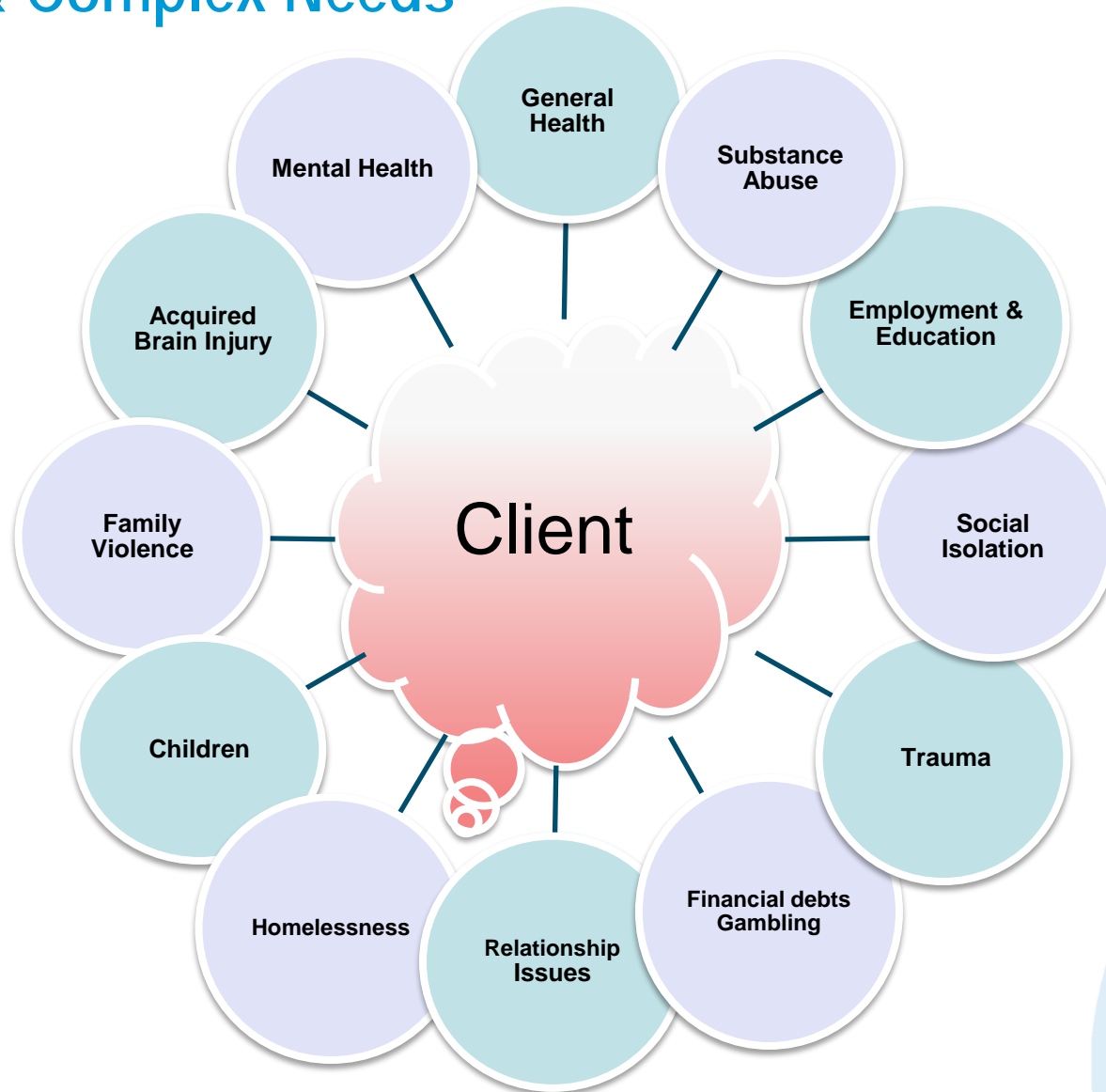
Provides intensive employment to women exiting prison and serving Correctional Orders. Support to develop resumes, interview skills and job seeking is offered.

Women's Integrated Support Program

WISP is an intensive pre & post release program that provides support to women with high & complex needs.



Multiple & Complex Needs

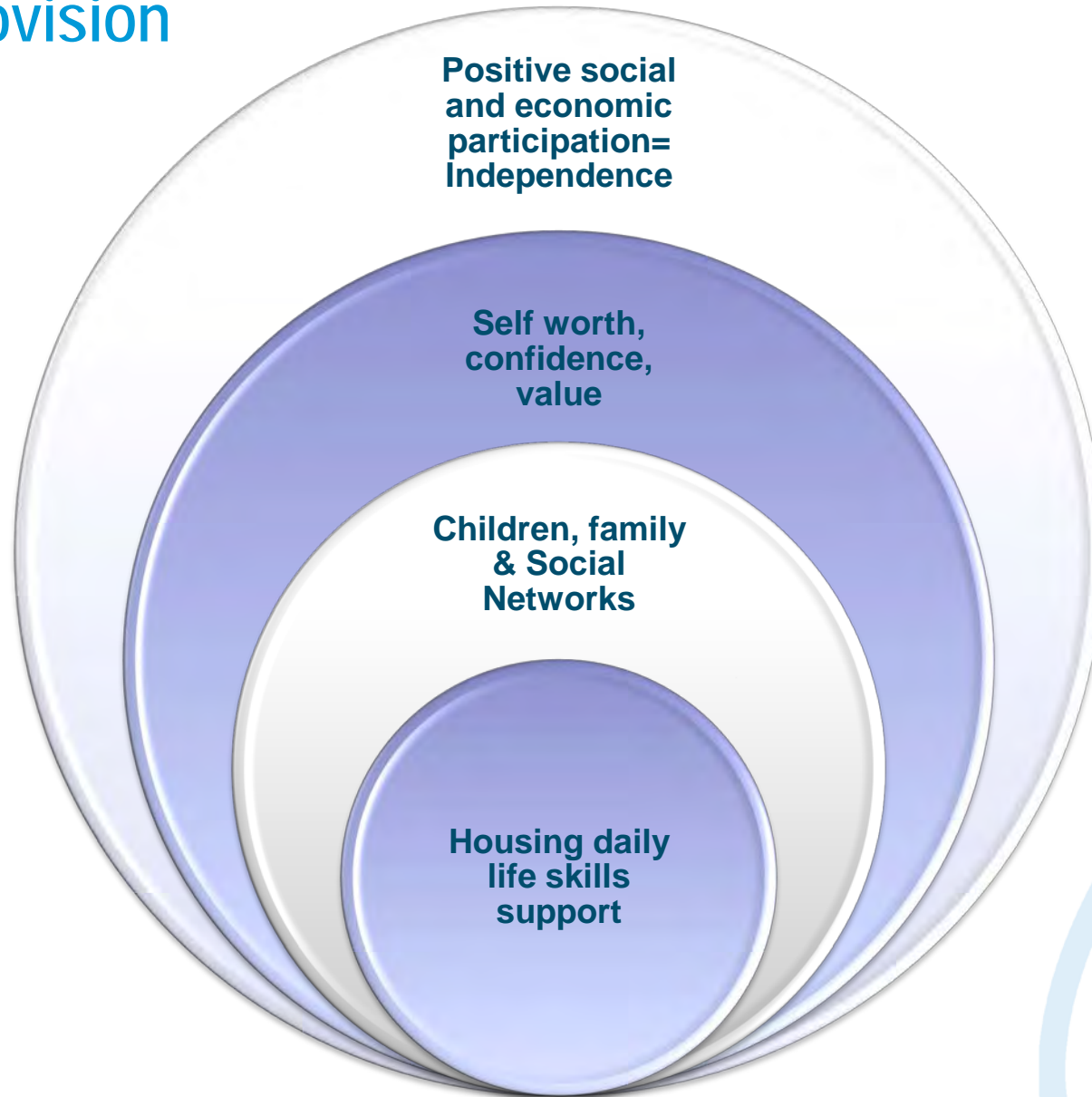


Issues

- Over 80% require support with housing on exit from prison
- 67% in receipt of govt income support
- 10.5% completed secondary schooling
- 50.4% were unemployed on prison reception
- 39% presented with diagnosed mental health issues
- 16% undiagnosed
- 21% present with physical health issues
- 88% have issues with drug and alcohol abuse
- Limited support networks, including family ties
- Low self esteem and confidence



Service Provision





Social Isolation



SWEP- Addressing Social Isolation

- Aims to increase community links
- Aim to improve relationships
- Aims to increase self esteem and confidence
- Aims to improve skills to interact within their communities

These outcomes emphasise current social policy in inclusion. Amongst this population SWEP is a frontrunner in recognising the importance of self esteem and confidence in creating social and economic participation.



"Women About has been my connection to the world.."

SWEP participant of 12 months



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In 2008 The SWEP Women About Group:

- 33 planned events
 - 11 Life Skills
 - 18 Community Based activities
 - 4 Craft groups
- 24 Different clients
- 20 /24 attended more than once
- 9 attended 5 or more times

4 returned to custody -2 short sentences



Women 4 Work- Economic participation

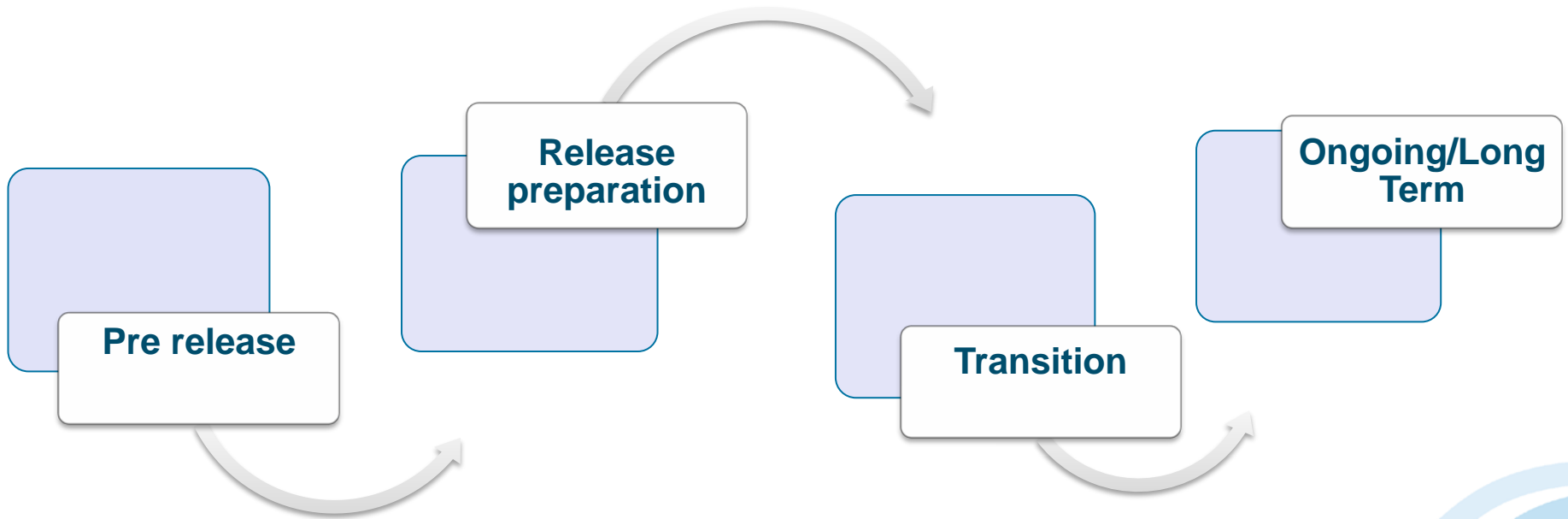
- Also women who engaged in this program were more likely to have had stable accommodation and positive social network or family support.
- Key factor for women not reoffending
- 50 women were successful in achieving an outcome (16 weeks) did not return to prison

Of these;

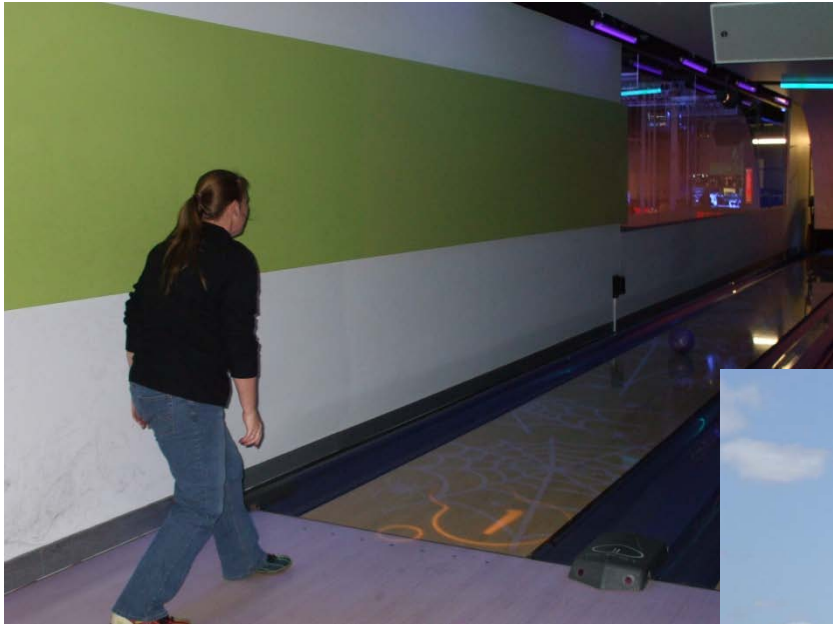
- 38% had completed either year 11 or 12
- 34% had completed year 10
- 8% had completed a tertiary qualification



Continuum of Care







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