



Funding

Funding to scope the project was provided by Ann Symmonds AM, past member of the NSW Legislative Council, past chair CNSW Women's Advisory Council, current patron SHINE For Kids and CSNSW Mothers and Children's Program. Funding for initial employment of staff was provided by the Richard Southan Memorial Trust.

Project staff are currently seeking funding for the next phase of the Project including Program implementation and licensing across NSW and the establishment of the Drop-in Centre.

Project Management

An Advisory Group has been established for the project, with membership including current funders, UNSW, Women's Health NSW, Community Corrections, WIPAN, Social Ventures Australia, Mental Health Coordinating Council, Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Council.

For further information please contact Project Director, Deirdre Hyslop or Project Manager, Megan Etheridge OAM.

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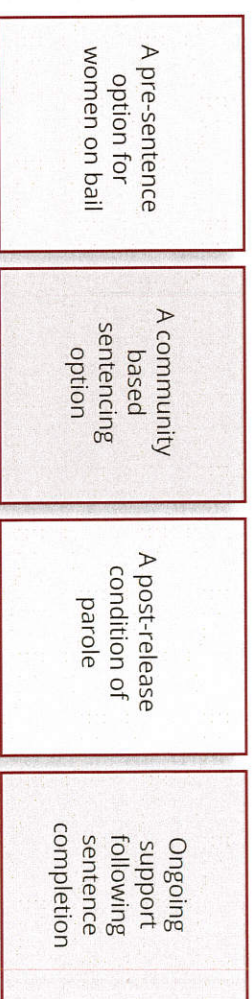
W: www.crcnsw.org.au

The Miranda Project is an innovative, gender specific approach to crime prevention targeting women with complex needs who are at risk of breaking the law or re-offending. It aims to do this through the establishment of a holistic inclusive support service.

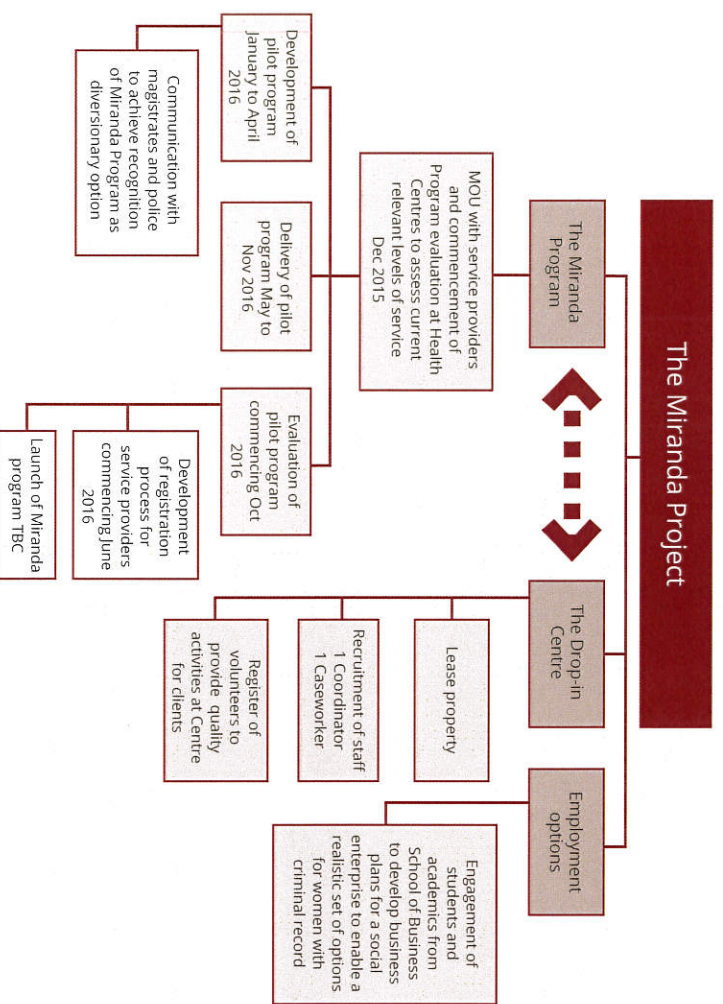
The Project is an initiative of the Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Council and a project of the Community Restorative Centre. Modelled on women's centres in the UK that have been evaluated and found to have positive impacts on women's lives, the Miranda Project is a first for NSW and Australia.

The service will assist women to desist from offending, function as a diversionary program and provide post-release support for those returning to the community

The Miranda Project is



The Project Model



1 The Miranda Program

Designed as a diversionary option for police and magistrates, the Miranda Program offers support and guidance across identified areas of risk/need such as alcohol and other drugs misuse, financial support and attitude/emotional self regulation.

The Project is in partnership with five women's health and support services and a pilot study aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of the Program will commence mid 2016. Once evaluated and reviewed, it is envisaged that Women's Health Centres and other appropriate services across NSW will be empowered to become licensed providers of the Program, making it available to more women as a diversionary option and a support service to reduce re-offending.

2 The Miranda Drop-in Centre

The Miranda Project is based on successful UK models that operate as drop-in centres for any women in need in the community. The Miranda Drop-in Centre will model their approach offering Program services as well as skills development opportunities in a supportive environment.

3 Employment Options

Unemployment is widespread among women entering the criminal justice system, is a risk factor for re-offending and a criminal record is a further barrier to gaining employment. The Miranda Project has established a partnership with University of Sydney Business School to examine options for addressing this complex issue.

The University of NSW has agreed to undertake an evaluation of the Miranda Project.

Participants in the Miranda Project will

- address factors underlying offending behaviour
- gain resilience to break from a cycle of re-offending
- make positive connections and engage in positive activity to become a productive member of the community.

Facts and Figures

- Over the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, a total of 1861 women were released from custody. Of these, 93% had served 12 months or less.
- 39% were Aboriginal women.
- 70% of the women released had served prior episodes in incarceration.