



# Drug Court Policy 13

## Travel by participants

---

### Table of Contents

1	Purpose .....	2
2	Definitions .....	2
3	Scope .....	2
4	Policy statement.....	2
	4.1 Travel .....	2
	4.2 Gaol visits .....	3
5	Document information.....	3
6	Version and review details .....	3

## 1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- To regulate and ensure the safe and appropriate travel arrangements for participants of the Drug Court of New South Wales program.
- To establish guidelines for obtaining approving travel, specifically the procedures for travel interstate, intrastate and gaol visits.
- To guide the maintenance of the well-being and stability of participants while upholding the integrity and effectiveness of the program.

## 2 Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Act</b>	means the <i>Drug Court Act 1998</i>
<b>Community Corrections Officer</b>	means a Community Corrections officer assigned to a participant
<b>Drug Court</b>	means the Drug Court of NSW
<b>Drug Court program</b>	means the conditions that a participant has accepted under section 7(3)(a) of the Act
<b>Drug Court team</b>	means a Drug Court Judge, the Registrar, the Legal Aid NSW (LA) solicitor, the solicitor from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Police Prosecutor, the Community Corrections Court Coordinator, the Aboriginal Casework Coordinator and the Justice Health NSW clinician attached to the Drug Court, and/or the alternate delegates for each.
<b>Participant</b>	means a person dealt with under sections 7(2) and (3) of the Act.

## 3 Scope

This policy applies to travel by participants of the Drug Court of New South Wales program.

## 4 Policy statement

### 4.1 Travel

- 4.1.1 Any travel which impacts on a participant’s program must be approved by the Drug Court in advance, even if no overnight stay is required.

- 4.1.2 Each individual trip requires specific approval. Approval will depend upon the current stability of the participant, the importance or validity of the purpose of the trip, an assessment of the difficulty involved in the planned travel, and whether adequate and proper arrangements can be put in place.
- 4.1.3 The participant is to complete Community Correction’s “*Travel Check List*” and discuss the details with their Community Corrections officer. The “*Travel Check List*” addresses such issues as travel times and mode of travel, urinalysis arrangements, contact addresses and phone numbers, and any pharmacotherapy arrangements required.
- 4.1.4 Participants considering any interstate or intrastate travel should not purchase plane or other tickets prior to approval being discussed with the Drug Court.
- 4.1.5 Interstate travel will only be approved in exceptional circumstances, and overseas travel will not be approved.

## 4.2 Gaol visits

- 4.2.1 The Drug Court accepts that it may be appropriate for a participant to be allowed to visit a person who is in a NSW gaol. The prisoner to be visited must be a close relative or a person who is significant in the participant’s life. The participant will be required to provide their Community Corrections officer with the details of the person to be visited.
- 4.2.2 The participant will be required to complete the “*Travel Check List*” referred to above if the visit is in a regional location.
- 4.2.3 The Drug Court may support, or not oppose, the participant visiting a prisoner, however such approval does not in any way indicate that the Governor of the Correctional Centre will or should approve the visit.
- 4.2.4 The Drug Court may decide to support a gaol visit as a “once only” visit, or express support for ongoing visits. The Drug Court can withdraw support for gaol visits at any time.
- 4.2.5 The Drug Court will not approve any visits to a gaol interstate.

## 5 Document information

Document name	Drug Court Policy 13 – Travel by participants
Applies to	All Drug Courts of New South Wales
Policy administrator	Senior Judge of the Drug Court of NSW
Approval	Senior Judge Mottley, October 2024

## 6 Version and review details

Version	Effective date	Reason for amendment	Due for review
1	03/10/2024	Policy reviewed, updated and re-formatted.	03/10/2024