Court Diversion Programs- A collaborative Approach

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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