

ENGAGE | All locations

Referrals | Partnerships

ENGAGE Officers continue to receive a high level of referrals from court and non-court stakeholders and we note that higher rates of workshop completion are observed for Magistrate, Police, Legal and Community Corrections referrals. We are thankful for the ongoing support from all referring partners including: *Bankstown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Sutherland, Blacktown, Penrith and Maitland Community Corrections, Bankstown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Blacktown, Penrith and Newcastle Legal Aid NSW Offices, private legal practitioners, Courts and Tribunal Services, local court Magistrates, Blacktown and Nepean Police Area Commands, Port Stephens Hunter, Hunter Valley and Newcastle City Police Districts, Hunter New England and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Districts, Bankstown, Penrith, Cessnock, Mayfield and Maitland Community Services NSW Centres (DCJ), MERIT, ReInvest, Relationships Australia, Baptist Care, Catholic Care, Salvation Army, Carrie's Place, Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services and community leaders.*

ENGAGE Officers are continuously working to expand and grow referral pathways and working in close partnership with local services and agencies to deliver ENGAGE more effectively.

New sites | Wollongong and Raymond Terrace expansion

ENGAGE commenced at Wollongong and Raymond Terrace with Relationships Australia delivering workshops from February 2020. It is noted that COVID-19 situation has significantly impacted on the implementation of ENGAGE at Wollongong which is reflected in low participation rates.

Workshops | COVID-19

ENGAGE workshops were suspended in March 2020 in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation. Consequently, where ENGAGE Officers receive referrals they maintain client information on a waiting list and advise that they will be contacted immediately upon workshop delivery recommencement.

Recommencement of workshops will be managed according to Department of Health guidelines and we will ensure participant safety in collaboration with NGO providers.

CASE STUDY

34 year old male client referred to ENGAGE by Community Corrections.

Following the completion of the ENGAGE workshop with Relationships Australia (RA), the ENGAGE Officer referred the client to the *Taking Responsibility Program (MBCP)* with RA. The client has reported that he continues to see a psychologist and has advised the following:

"The workshop helped me break down barriers of 'being a bloke' and really helped me find my real truth. I have learnt so much about myself and I know I need to continue to learn about myself and work on me to change my behaviours. The facilitators were amazing and created a group that was very real, intimate and safe; they made the workshop what it was. One of the facilitators basically held my hand while I was lead down a path to face things that I had put walls up around me and didn't want to face the reality. I have taken responsibility for my actions. I realise that I need to be a good role model for myself, my wife, my kids and my community and continue to work on myself. I don't want my sons to walk the road that I have walked, or my daughter to be a victim of abuse".

Contact | More information / referrals

ENGAGE Coordinator

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ENGAGE | All locations

ENGAGE | Statistics

*ENGAGE workshop suspension from March 2020 has impacted the rate of assessments, workshop completions and referrals to additional services.

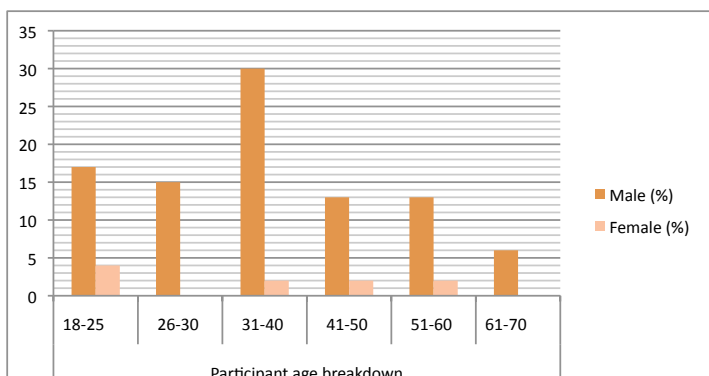
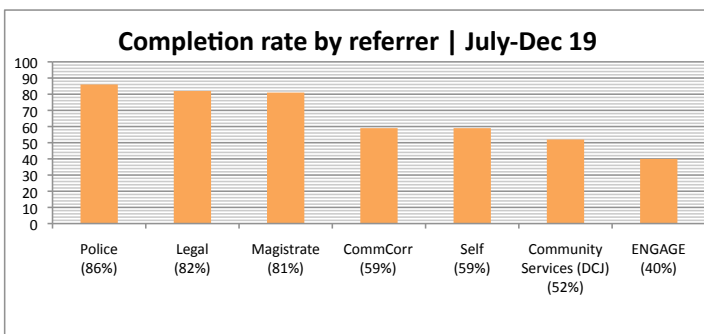
For period 1 July 2019 to present, **464** participants completed an ENGAGE workshop

Participant feedback after completing a workshop:

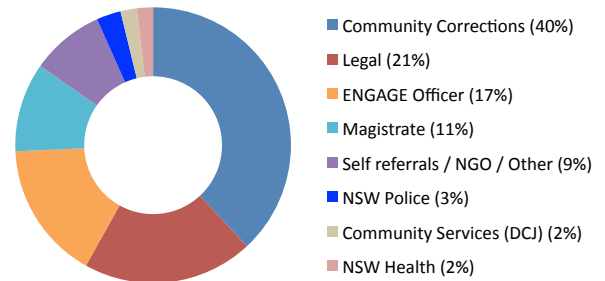
- **72%** reported using what they had learned to make changes
- **73%** reported that they were doing things differently
- **62%** reported interest in participating in other programs
- **27%** reported engaging with other programs and services when contacted 6 weeks after completing a workshop

Quarter 1 January - 31 March 2020

- **270** participants were assessed as eligible and scheduled into an ENGAGE workshop
- **160 of 270** participants completed an ENGAGE workshop representing a **59%** completion rate
- **35%** of participants who completed a workshop were referred to additional services including mental health, drug and alcohol services and MBCPs.
- **7%** of South-West Metro Region participants required interpreter services to complete a workshop (Samoan, Arabic & Vietnamese)
- Approximately **19%** of Northern Region participants identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

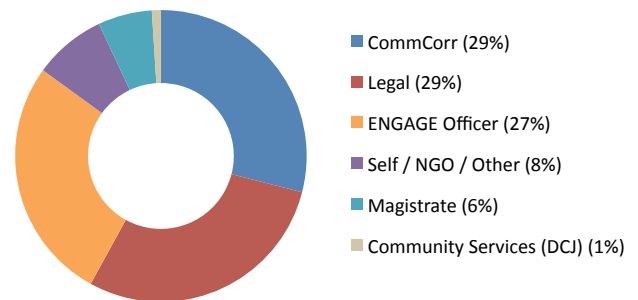


Referral sources – All locations



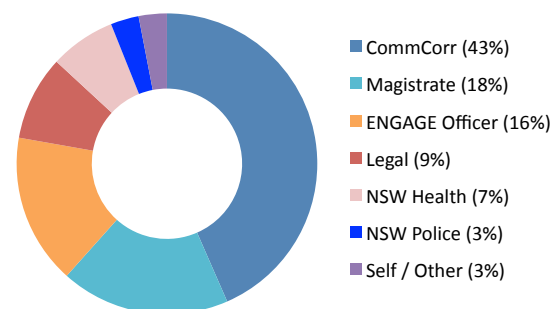
Total referrals (n) = 270
 Total completed workshop (n) = 160
 Workshop completion rate (%) = 59

SWM Metro Region - Referral sources



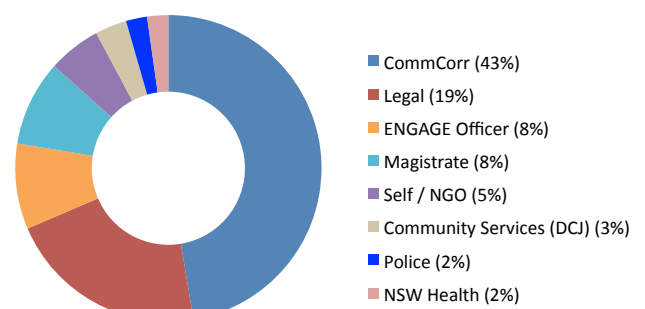
Total referrals (n) = 97
 Total completed workshop (n) = 55
 Workshop completion rate (%) = 57

NWM Region - Referral sources



Total referrals (n) = 76
 Total completed workshop (n) = 51
 Workshop completion rate (%) = 67

Referral Sources - Northern Region



Total referrals (n) = 87
 Total completed workshop (n) = 52
 Workshop completion rate (%) = 60

ENGAGE | All locations

ENGAGE remains a key intervention under the Premier’s Priority to reduce domestic violence (DV) reoffending.



Reduce the number of domestic violence reoffenders by 25% by 2023

Intervening earlier

Research supports the need to provide interventions to DV perpetrators earlier, as almost 50% of DV reoffending occurs prior to court finalisation (approximately 4 months).

ENGAGE

ENGAGE is a trial of a brief voluntary intervention that aims to address a gap in early intervention options for DFV perpetrators – it is available to persons charged with a DFV offence or referred by non-court stakeholders where DFV is an issue. It involves participants attending a free six hour workshop delivered by NGOs registered to deliver Men’s Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP); and being offered referrals to support services, and longer term MBCPs.

ENGAGE is delivered at: **Bankstown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Wollongong** (South-West Metro Region), **Blacktown, Penrith** (North-West Region), **Cessnock, Maitland and Raymond Terrace** (Northern Region).

How it works

1. Recruitment

The ENGAGE Officer attends local court on DV list days to recruit participants and receives referrals from court and non-court stakeholders. Referrals to support services may also be made following assessment by the ENGAGE Officer.

Referrals for Penrith and Wollongong are received by phone and email only.



2. ENGAGE workshops

ENGAGE workshops delivered by skilled facilitators trained in delivering MBCP completing **six modules**. Participants who complete the workshop receive a certificate that can be presented to the court or other agencies.



Coping <i>Managing emotions, distress, tolerance</i>	Change <i>Identifying abuse, changing behaviour</i>	Communication <i>Skills, assumptions, judgements</i>
Caring <i>Healthy lifestyles</i>	Choices <i>Action planning</i>	Connection <i>Family, community, friends</i>

59% workshop completion rate

3. Post-workshop outreach

The ENGAGE Officer contacts participants at 1 week and at 6 weeks following workshop completion to follow up on referrals made and/or offer further referrals to additional services including MBCPs.



29% of workshop participants referred to additional services