

TURNAROUND NEWSLETTER



2012: Volume 28

NCS: Status of the NCS Service 2008-2012

Called **Chance to Change**, NICRO's non-custodial sentencing service (NCS) began in 2008. NCS did have a forerunner in the form of a Justice pilot in 2007, and the NCS service really gained momentum under funding from UKaid.

This monthly newsletter showcases the progress of the NCS project and discusses relevant issues.

Now about to enter its a fifth year, the **Chance to Change** project has reached the following milestones and targets:

- **Number of NCS sites: 45**
- **Number of active court stakeholders: 362**
- **Non-compliance rate: 13%**
- **Number of community members reached: 9 251**
- **Number of NICRO staff trained: 1 262**
- **Number of court stakeholder trained: 4 826**
- **Number of offenders referred to NICRO: 5 700**
- **Number of offenders sentenced to NICRO: 4 187**
- **Number of offenders currently receiving services: 3 702**



Well into Year 5

We are now in the fifth and final year of the DFID-funded NCS project, which comes to an end in March 2013. The NCS service will continue beyond the DFID project.

The independent impact evaluation has begun. 22 NCS sites will review the impact of the NCS service on 2 000 offenders. Five NCS sites have received an in-depth site assessment. Over 900 client tracking surveys have been obtained.

Court stakeholders should expect to receive a survey or be contacted for an interview in due course. The results of the research will be publically released in March 2013.

Volume 26

Educational Section	2
NICRO News	3
Photo Gallery	4
Meet The Staff	5
Success Story	6
Contact us	7

Educational Section: 2003—2012 Crime Statistics Analysis

The latest crime statistics from South Africa were released this month and this educational section will provide very brief analysis of the main trends.

**Robberies
at
residences
has
increased
from 9 351
to 16 766**

Long Term Increases

- Burglary at businesses has increased from 64 629 to 70 041
- Drug-related crimes has increased from 62 689 to 176 307
- Driving under the influence has increased from 24 886 to 69 441
- Commercial crime has increased from 55 869 to 88 050
- Robberies at residences has increased from 9 351 to 16 766
- Robbery at businesses has increased from 3 677 to 15 951
- Culpable homicide has increased from 11 096 to 11 788
- Public violence has increased from 979 to 1 152
- Kidnapping has increased from 3 004 to 3 874

Long Term Decreases

- Murder down from 19 824 to 15 609
- Sexual offences down from 66 079 to 64 514
- Robbery with aggravating circumstances down from 133 658 to 101 203
- Residential burglaries down from 299 290 to 245 531
- Carjacking down from 13 793 to 9 475

Most of the crime categories have seen either a short or long term decrease. However, we do need to take the following into consideration:

- People's emotions regarding and perceptions of the crime situation in South Africa are not informed by statistics, but by personal experience and anecdotal information garnered from friends, family and colleagues. One very bad experience that affected a person directly or indirectly can have a harmful impact over a period of years.
- Vicarious trauma is a reality. This is trauma that is incurred, not from personal and direct experience, but from the experiences of the people we have regular contact with.
- The long term increase in residential robbery is the most threatening aspect in the crime statistics. If people do not feel safe in their own homes, this affects their emotional, physical and mental health. If they are robbed in their own homes, regardless of whether they were injured or not, the effects of that are likely to be lifelong. They will never feel safe again.
- We do not know how many crimes are not reported. The previous Victims of Crime surveys conducted by the ISS have estimated between 40—60% of crimes are not reported, depending on the crime category. We can safely say that these statistics do not reflect the incidence of crime in South Africa, but simply a percentage of it as reported to the police.

The New NICRO Model: A Progress Update

In the last newsletter we spoke of the new NICRO service model. This edition will give a brief update on the progress made to date.

1. Limited clinical psychological services to people in conflict with the law who require intensive therapy have begun at the Cape Town Head Office, as a pilot programme.
2. First phase staff training on facilitation and curriculum development was conducted on the 21—25 May 2012 in Cape Town.
3. Internal training of clinical workers took in Cape Town from the 9th—28th July 2012.
4. Training of administration staff took place in the provinces during August 2012.
5. Piloting of the new developed programmes began July onwards.
6. Programmes that are 80% or more complete:
 - Child Sexuality: Understanding the difference between normative and precocious sexual behaviours
 - Child Sexual Abuse
 - Critical Thinking for Social Work Managers, Supervisors & Social Workers
 - Victim empowerment for civil society
 - Behaviour management of teenagers in care
 - Bullying for educators
 - Complete Victim Offender Mediation and Conferencing



NICRO is opening up new areas of service delivery: training, specialist services and development.



FOR A SAFE SOUTH AFRICA

Provincial NCS Statistics

The performance of the provinces regarding non-custodial sentencing referrals (2008—present) is as follows:

Gauteng: 1 666

Limpopo: 264

Mpumalanga: 283

North West : 160

KwaZulu-Natal: 424

Free State: 296

Northern Cape: 478

Eastern Cape: 1 616

Western Cape: 513

National Total: 5 700



Letter from an Offender: Letter of My Life

I am JJ. I was born in a township in 1993. I went to school on a farm school for grade 1 to five. After that I went to the secondary school in town. I failed grade 12.

I grew up at the farm. I worked hard for school. I lived there on the farm with my uncles, my grandmother and my nine brothers. There are seven of us at home. My mother was also staying with us, but then she began a relationship with this man and she left to go live with him on the same farm. She left me with my uncles, my grandmother and my brothers. I lost control for a while because my mother left me to stay with these other people.

After that I asked my mother and grandmother, "Where is my father?". They could tell me nothing about my father. I went to school and I did garden service work to make money for me because everything that I need they said I must leave school to go and work if I need something.

I needed money for school fees. But there are many of us at home, so that is why I needed my father, my real father to help me. After that I said that God is my father. Everything that I need requires money, for shoes, clothes, school fees etc.

My uncles needed me to go work hard because I don't have a father to support me in any way. I was alone when I had to walk the cows to the veld when the school closed. The others must read and there are books needed for school. When I went back to school I failed grade 12. I left school then and I went to go work in order to support my family. My mother had three other children with that other man – a girl and two boys.

That other man died and my mother took the girl to my grandmother and left the two boys with her. The little girl was sick, very sick because she was born that way and it affected her brain.

It was up to me to take all that control and responsibility for the family and it is me that has to work hard so that they can all eat.

I got married and took my wife to come live with me. My mother came and stayed with my wife and I in Bloemfontein. My life was terrible because I had to support two families at one time.

I don't know my father. Everyone they don't know my parents and my family. If my son asks me where my father is, I don't know what to tell him because he will hate him badly.

I don't know why I went stealing at the farm because I was not born to be a criminal. I swear I will not do that again. It was the devil spirit that took hold of me there. I won't do it again. God bless you, Magistrate.

I worked at a security office in order to study. I can say to people that crime does not pay for your life because jail is not good for a person like us.

I want to be a good person and work hard at work and be respected by my family and by others.

I can say to people that they must work and think before they do wrong against the law because the court or jail will work hard in your mind.

I think now I must work to get a house for my family to live in, and I don't think about crime. I want to live like a respectable person like at court in the law. And I want to advise people against breaking the law, that they must respect the law. I really want to change and NICRO changed my life, really.

I respect NICRO from my side and for my family I love NICRO very much. I want to say "Thank you" to the magistrate and NICRO's partners. I love you very much, NICRO. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.



Letter from an Offender: Letter of My Life Continued

I don't want to smoke drugs again or use alcohol anymore. I love my child and my wife and my parents. I said "Thank you very much, magistrate. I love you."

Help me to get that job, please. I like it and I don't want to work in security anymore. Please help me so I can work with my hands.

I want to change. Please, I love my family and my parents and I said sorry, please, sorry. I don't want to go to court again or act against the law.

I love my brothers who supported me during this terrible time. And NICRO gave me support also. I pray to God always. I love NICRO to change my life and for me not to go to jail.

I love my self very much. I love NICRO very much and do not steal. Ask for food if you don't have money. Do something, don't be against the law.

NICRO changed my life. I love NICRO.



Photos from The Administration Training Aug 2012



Meet the Staff!

I am 34 years, married with two kids. I am the social worker at NICRO- Polokwane stationed in the Sekgosesse Area.

I first heard of NICRO in 1987 through the advert on TV-advertised NICRO / NIMRO. However, I was still very young and good with numbers and everybody encouraged me to become a doctor.

I grew up at Bolobedu region of the former Lebowa government. I attended a farm school at Tsaneng Combined School up to Grade Nine. It was a nice experience attending school at a farm, even though they used to use corporal punishment! During the harvesting times we also used to harvest in the farm and earn some money during school days or after school hours.

I completed Grade 12 at Mogaka Senior secondary School in 1996 and studied Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Along the way I lost interest in engineering. I decided to pursue a degree and I chose to study social work at University of Limpopo.



Social work was not a bad choice because they equip you with all the necessary skills and knowledge required to assist other people to help themselves. It also helped me to discover the unleashed potential in me. For example, I am a people centred person, creative and prefer hands-on approach.

I was firstly employed at CMR as a social worker where I dealt with poverty relief programmes, alternative care placements and community outreach programmes. I came to NICRO in 2010 where I started at Springs. There I had a wonderful mentor Ms Them bani Simelani-Nkosi. I was later transferred to Nigel and then later transferred to Polokwane, where I am now.

I enjoy working in the non-custodial sentencing (NCS) project because you work with people who need help. Such people acknowledge that they have obstacles that stand on their way of social adjustment and need to reform in order to live an effective life.

Furthermore, NCS give you as the practitioner exposure to criminal court procedures. This makes it easy to see the role that NICRO plays in bringing about change in national policies as well as in individuals' lives.

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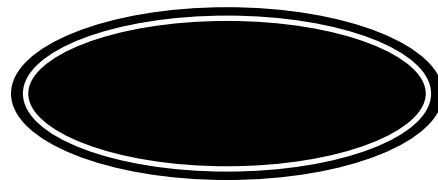
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Started in 1910, NICRO specialises in reintegrating offenders back into society. NICRO works closely with courts and schools to access children and adults who are in need of services.

NICRO's specialises in behaviour change programmes designed to reduce reoffending. NICRO's main service streams include diversion, non-custodial sentencing and prison work.

NICRO's ultimate goal is to create a safer South Africa for all.



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