



# Juror Support Program Factsheet

## A professional counselling service is available for people who may need support after serving on a jury

You have just completed Jury Service and in doing so, you have played a central role in the administration of our justice system. As a juror, you were given the opportunity to represent your community and to bring community standards and values to the administration of justice in this State.

### After Jury Service

Now you have completed your Jury Service, you are probably feeling relieved to get back to your workplace, home or routine.

Most jurors leave Court with a feeling of achievement. However, it is also common to feel a bit detached or confused after the intensity of the Courtroom experience and the concentration it required of you. It can also feel unusual returning to your daily activities after being confined with a group of strangers and removed from your usual routine.

You won't necessarily experience any adverse reactions or feelings once you complete Jury Service. Some people feel it is 'business as usual' while others may feel distressed, which is a normal reaction to a difficult situation.

### Finding out about the sentence

If the jury finds a person guilty, the Judge will decide what sentence should be imposed. The sentence hearing will probably not occur immediately after the verdict is given. Most judgements are listed on the Caselaw website: [www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au](http://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au)

You may call 1300 722 574 to enquire about the sentence imposed by the Court.

### Varying responses to Jury Service

When discharged from a trial, you may feel:

- anxious for the victim or the accused and their families;
- concern about a verdict and the impact of that verdict;
- curious as to the sentencing or appeal process;
- frustrated or confused by the legal process
- like replaying events and questioning your decision;
- that memories of personal experiences have been triggered;
- upset about the dynamics of the jury room.

These feelings are a natural response to a different and challenging situation, and they generally pass in a couple of days or sooner.

However, if you do experience distress or have questions about your reactions, the **Juror Support Program** may assist you.

### Access to services

If you were empanelled on a NSW jury and have subsequently been discharged, you are entitled to access up to three counselling and 'debriefing' sessions. To access this service, you must have finished serving on the trial.

If you experience distress or have questions about your reactions, the Juror Support Program may assist you.

The **Juror Support Program** employs the services of Converge International which offers trauma and critical incident stress debriefing services, employee assistance and training, which conforms with Australian and international quality standards.

With an average of ten years' experience, Converge International consultants are experienced in the delivery of mental health and psychological support, particularly in the assessment, delivery of psychological support and appropriate referral of clients where required.

When you make an appointment, you will be asked to provide your name and the Courthouse you attended for Jury Service.

This information is for administrative reasons only - no personal records will be revealed to the Office of the Sheriff of NSW and will remain strictly confidential.

### Free juror counselling sessions

- The Juror Support Program can be contacted on **1300 687 327**
- Office hours are 8:00am—6:00pm Monday to Friday.
- Services are available 24 hours, seven days a week, to facilitate enquiries, booking requests and to provide assistance in crisis situations.
- Crisis counselling is available over the phone, via Zoom or conducted at one of Converge International sessional offices, or with one of our extensive network of consultants across Australia.
- Face-to-face counselling is available.
- Counselling services are confidential.