



FACTSHEET

Children's Koori Court



KOORI COURT

Children's Koori Court

The Koori Court is a part of the Children's Court which has the power to deal with young Koori people who have been charged with a criminal offence.

The Children's Koori Court was established because Koori young people are over-represented in the criminal justice system – more so than any other group in our community.

Goals of the Koori Court

The Koori Court is not as formal as the mainstream Children's Court so you, the accused, can speak for yourself. The Koori Court Elders or Respected Persons, your family, the Koori Court Officer and any other person in the courtroom can have a say too. The Koori Court wants to:

- involve family and the Koori community in discussion about your offending;
- make it easier for you to come along and have your say in court;
- reduce or stop offending behaviour; and
- reduce the number of Koories going to prison whenever possible.

Can I go to the Children's Koori Court?

To go to the Children's Koori Court, you must:

- be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
- want to have your case heard in the Koori Court;
- NOT be charged with a sex offence; and
- be pleading guilty to your offence or be found guilty of your offence.

What questions might the court ask me?

The Koori Court is special because you will be able to speak about your feelings and explain to the court why you are there. The court may ask you questions like:

- Why have you chosen to come to Koori Court?
- Who is your mob and where are you from?
- What do the colours on the Aboriginal Flag mean?
- What is going on in your life to make you get into trouble with police?
- What help do you need so that you can do better and stay away from court?
- What are your hobbies and interests?
- Where do you work or go to school?

What will the court do to me?

What happens to you is decided by the Judge or Magistrate, not the Koori Elders and Respected Persons. The Koori Elders and Respected Persons are there to talk to you and give the Judge or Magistrate cultural advice about your situation.

The aim of the Koori Court is to make sentencing orders that are culturally appropriate to Koories and reduce the rate of re-offending. Information about sentencing is available on the Children's Court website.

Can I get my case heard in the Koori Court?

You should talk to your lawyer about whether you are eligible to have your case heard in the Koori Court. You or your lawyer could also talk to the Children's Koori Court Officer.

Children's Koori Court contact details

You can speak to a Koori Court Officer at any one of the following court locations:

Melbourne Children's Court

477 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000
Koori Court Officer ☎ (03) 8638 3377

Mildura Court

56 Deakin Avenue, Mildura 3500
Koori Court Officer ☎ (03) 5021 6000

Latrobe Valley Law Courts

134 Commercial Road, Morwell 3840
Koori Court Officer ☎ (03) 5116 5213

Bairnsdale Court

Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale 3875
Koori Court Officer ☎ (03) 5152 9222

Warrnambool Court (also for Portland and Hamilton)

218 Koroit St, Warrnambool 3280
Koori Court Officer ☎ (03) 5564 1112

Swan Hill Court

121 Curlewis Street, Swan Hill 3585
Koori Court Officer ☎ (03) 5032 0803

Shepparton Court

14 High Street, Shepparton 3630
Koori Court Officer ☎ (03) 5821 4633

You can also get information by contacting the Koori Court Unit on ☎ (03) 9032 0942.