



What people are saying about AVAMP

"As a mentor, you can really click with someone. They know you're not a lawyer or doctor, and they open up and speak freely. At first I was scared of prisons because of what you see in the movies, but once you get there and realise you have a lot of support, it's easy. I love it. It's very rewarding. I want to do this for a long time."

AVAMP Mentor, 2015

"AVAMP gave me a different outlook on life. I had no family that were visiting. My mentor was someone I trusted, I could be honest and talk with this person. It helped with how I think, helped give me direction."

AVAMP Mentee, 2016

Contact Us

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Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation working to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential.

AVAMP is funded by Corrections Victoria under the Pip Wisdom Community Corrections Grants.



African Visitation and Mentoring Program (AVAMP)



Jesuit Social Services
Building a Just Society

Justice and crime prevention



What is AVAMP?

The African Visitation and Mentoring Program (AVAMP) is delivered by Jesuit Social Services.

Since 2010, the program has provided voluntary mentoring and visitation support to people from an African background who have been imprisoned in Victoria, during and after their release from prison.

In 2016, AVAMP was re-funded to also provide service coordination support in the community for people who have recently exited prison, or who are completing parole or other community-based orders.

Who is it for?

AVAMP is for men and women from an African background who are in need of support, either:

- During their time in custody
- After their release from prison, or
- While completing parole or other community-based orders.

Where is it delivered?

AVAMP operates in Port Phillip Prison, the Metropolitan Remand Centre, the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, the Melbourne Assessment Prison, Barwon Prison, Marngoneet Correctional Centre and other prison locations depending on need.

The program also operates in the community across metropolitan Melbourne.



How does AVAMP work?

AVAMP participants are given one-to-one, ongoing support by a trained and carefully matched mentor who visits them on a fortnightly or monthly basis.

Mentors provide practical and emotional support, a listening ear and aim to develop a positive relationship with the participant that will assist their transition back into mainstream community.

Service coordination support in the community includes:

- making referrals to specialist services
- providing information
- offering advocacy support, and
- delivering group work and creative workshops to engage participants in community.

AVAMP strives to create circles of support and increase social connection by encouraging participants to re-engage positively with community and family, with the aim of reducing recidivism.

How can I join AVAMP?

If you are from an African background and currently imprisoned in Victoria, speak with programs staff at your prison to obtain a referral.

If you have recently exited prison, are on parole or serving a community based order, contact the AVAMP Senior Project Officer at Jesuit Social Services' Brosnan Centre.

How can I volunteer as an AVAMP mentor?

AVAMP mentors are everyday men and women from diverse backgrounds who volunteer their time to participate in the program.

Our mentors are committed to supporting people in the justice system by providing mentoring and visitation support that is non-judgemental, supportive and positive.

We provide AVAMP mentors with comprehensive training, and ongoing supervision and support. We require a minimum 12-month commitment from mentors.

If you're interested in volunteering as an AVAMP mentor, please contact the AVAMP Senior Project Officer at Jesuit Social Services' Brosnan Centre.