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Intensive Treatment & Support (ITAS) Service

The Intensive Treatment and Support (ITAS) Service has been created by Disability ACT in coordination with Mental Health ACT to meet the needs of people who have a dual disability with high and complex needs*. Dual disability means having an intellectual disability, combined with a mental disorder or dysfunction.

Objectives

The Intensive Treatment and Support Service (ITAS) has been established to provide the range of service responses required to meet the needs of people in the ACT who meet, or have the potential to meet, the following criteria:

- ❑ diagnosis of a dual disability;
- ❑ high and complex needs;
- ❑ at risk of criminally offending or re-offending, and
- ❑ are 17 years or older.

Principles & Strategies

ITAS service delivery emphasises the principles of responsibility, inclusion & participation. Effective service delivery will be achieved through maintaining people in their normal community setting; providing timely assessment and treatment; ensuring support for informal and professional carers; supporting social service input; and linking efficiently with specialist services when required.

Individualised Treatment Programs

Individualised Treatment Programs will be developed for each person receiving ITAS services. The 'Intervention Model' combines several proactive strategies, including assisting the individual to develop their independent living skills, making changes to





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the individual's environment and implementing focused treatment and support strategies. The focus will be on adding support to existing supports.

Staff and Location

The ITAS program is managed and led by a highly skilled professional, the ITAS Service Manager, with service delivery co-ordinated by a specialised team of professionals, comprising psychologists, social workers, direct support officers, and a training / professional development officer.

The ITAS Team is located at Nature Conservation House, Emu Bank Belconnen, with accessible parking and toilets available. ITAS mailing address is PO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601. Further information in relation to ITAS and other Disability ACT services is available on our website at www.dhcs.act.gov.au.

Referral Information

Referrals can be made directly to the ITAS Service Manager – Sue Watson on 6205 3533 or at sue.watson@act.gov.au. Admission to the service will be determined by a panel, consisting of the ITAS Service Manager, Team Leader Dual Disability and an independent 3rd party.

***High and complex need:** This is a multidimensional concept that refers to the support needs of people with a disability who:

- Have a profound activity restriction in at least one of the core areas of self-care, mobility or communication, and consequently always require assistance for those activities, and
- Require an across agency response because at least one of the following additional areas of support need have been identified:
 - Secondary or multiple disabilities that require ongoing and sustained support **and/or**
 - Medical/health/mental health needs that require specialised support **and/or**
 - Assistance is of a highly specialised nature, **and/or**





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- Pose a threat to themselves, their carers or the general community.

People with high support needs may at times be considered as 'high and complex' when these additional supports are required but at other times would not fall within the 'high and complex' category.

