

# GETTING OUT

## ID

Many people lose their personal ID when they have been in custody. It can be difficult to replace when you get out as you often need some form of ID to get other types of ID. It is really important to keep hold of your Release Certificate. We understand that you may not want people to know you have just been released and showing people the certificate can be distressing, particularly when many services and organisations do not recognise it as official ID. But sometimes this is a really important starting point. Never forget that you are much more than someone who has been in prison – you are a person, like everyone else, who needs and deserves help. Your release certificate can be useful in helping you to get a birth certificate, which can then help you get photo ID. You can call CRC on (02) 9288 8700 to have someone help you work out what you need to do to get ID.



### I have just got out of prison and I don't have any identification. How do I get some ID?

If you were born in NSW call Service NSW on 13 77 88. You will be able to speak to NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages or your closest Service NSW office. If you were born in another Australian State or Territory, you will need to call Births, Deaths and Marriages there. If you were born overseas, you will need to contact that country's consulate. You can call CRC on (02)9288 8700 and we will help you work out what number to call.

If you are asked to go into Births, Deaths and Marriages or Services NSW, take your Release Certificate. The Births, Deaths and Marriages Research Team can help you to get a copy of your birth certificate. You can also ask Service NSW for help to get a replacement Medicare card. If you are receiving Centrelink payments, you should be able to get a replacement Pensioner Concession Card.

If you have any other forms of ID at all, keep them safe as they may be useful. Examples include a citizenship certificate, bank card, TAFE ID card, home utilities bill from the past 3 months, any work-related licences.

### What identification do I need to access Centrelink or get a mobile phone or bank account?

You need 100 points of ID to open a bank account, or access Centrelink benefits. Different types of ID are worth different points. This usually means that you need to have a birth certificate, or a passport, or a citizenship certificate. These are all worth 70 points. These forms of ID prove that you are an Australian citizen and have a right to benefits.



### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and ID

If you are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and you don't have enough identification for a payment, you can sign a Confirmation of Identity form with Centrelink. You might need to ask for this, because it isn't always something that Centrelink staff will offer. Signing this form allows up to 12 weeks to obtain the ID needed for Centrelink without payments being suspended. A link to this form is [here](#).

### Websites and phone numbers for further information:

Service NSW: 13 77 88

NSW Births Deaths and Marriages [www.nsw.gov.au/births-deaths-marriages/products-and-services](http://www.nsw.gov.au/births-deaths-marriages/products-and-services)

Service NSW locations: [www.service.nsw.gov.au/service-centre](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/service-centre)

