

## Fourth Annual Report Web Update

### GTF112 National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO)

The purpose of NICRO's GTF project is to help create a safe South Africa through penal reform, specifically through the provision of non-custodial sentencing (NCS) services to magistrate courts. NCS is an alternative to prison, and NICRO believes that NCS is more effective in changing offending behaviour than sending all offenders to prison. The GTF project consists of direct court services, as well as public and stakeholder education and awareness. NICRO's main achievements during the period 2011-2012, were as follows:

- Expansion to new court sites, giving a total of 44 NCS delivery sites.
- 1 314 external stakeholders were engaged in specific NCS lobbying and advocacy activities. Examples are: traditional leaders and community service placements sources.
- 297 NICRO staff members were trained in relation to NCS, on topics ranging from advocacy and lobbying, service delivery, risk assessments, statistics, community development, court etiquette, legislation and group work.
- Seven submissions were made to Parliament and other entities which promoted the wider use of NCS.
- Mini research projects related to furthering the knowledge base of NCS:
  - Non-compliance NCS service research 2011 - 2012
  - Phase 2 Public Attitude Research
  - Phase 3 Public Attitude Research
  - Social Workers Attitudes Research
- Growing the Facebook group membership to 294 as part of public education and awareness.
- Growing the Ning criminal justice online forum for stakeholders and staff to 128 members. This forum facilitates sharing knowledge and expertise on NCS within South Africa and abroad.
- Production of various publications such as booklets, newsletters, brochures, videos, research papers and presentations relating to NCS as part of knowledge dissemination and awareness-raising.
- 3 628 sentenced offenders have been reached since 2008. This illustrates the effectiveness of the lobbying and advocacy work undertaken to date.
- Significant radio, TV and newspaper coverage of our project worth more than R8 million since 2008. This reflects the amount of exposure we have achieved for NCS, which assists us in increasing public awareness of NCS and lobbying for greater support.
- Reaching 8 374 South Africans through various community engagement activities at the local and provincial levels since the start of the project. 75 community workshops were held to further public awareness and support of NCS during 2011 – 2012.
- Training 4 175 court stakeholders on NCS to date, 1 314 of which were reached during 2011-2012 through 104 workshops. This work sensitises court stakeholders to NCS as a sentencing option and explains the process that must be followed when making referrals.
- The above work all forms part of NICRO's drive to promote NCS as a viable sentencing option, not only with court stakeholders, but also with the general public. We have increased the number of courts where we deliver the NCS service. We have seen an increase in court referrals to our service. We have expanded the number of court stakeholders and members of the public we have reached through training, lobbying and advocacy activities.

For further information regarding NICRO, please visit [www.nicro.org.za](http://www.nicro.org.za) and to view this programme's fourth Annual Report, please visit: <http://www.nicro.org.za/2011-2012-annual-report-non-custodial-sentencing/>