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**I HAD A MENTOR FOR 13 MONTHS. IN THAT TIME, I HAVE SET UP MY OWN HOME, FINISHED MY PAROLE PERIOD, AND AM NOW LEADING A POSITIVE, INDEPENDENT LIFE.**

39 YEAR OLD MENTEE

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# WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK

**THE DAY I ASKED FOR A MENTOR I MADE A LIFE CHANGING CHOICE**



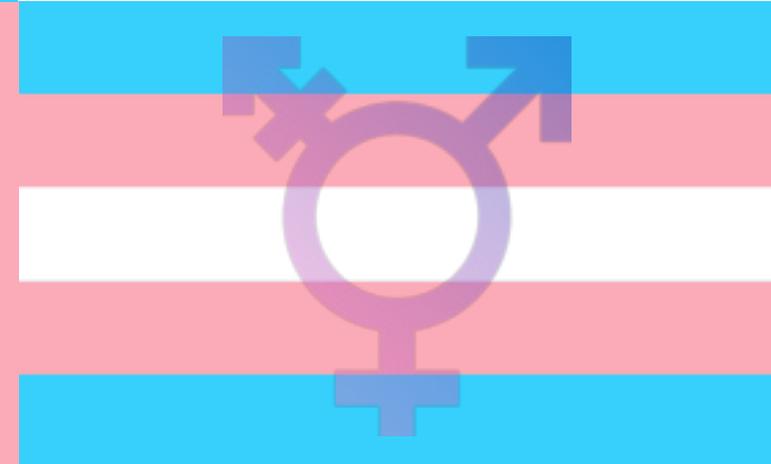
**WJN**

[www.womensjusticenetwork.net.au](http://www.womensjusticenetwork.net.au)  
Photos used are stock photos using models

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# YOUR STORY

The Women's Justice Network supports transgender women and understands that due to a lack of awareness and education many transgender women may suffer isolation and misunderstanding in society due to their gender transition.

Understanding the unique needs of transgender women, the Women's Justice Network is appropriately trained in these issues to deliver effective services to support transgender women engaged with the criminal justice system.

A great deal more needs to be achieved to improve conditions for transgender women engaged with the criminal justice system, to divert them from criminal pathways and to ensure their success reintegrating into society following periods of incarceration. Almost all of the issues facing transgender women are the same for all women; accommodation, employment, education and social support.

The Women's Justice Network aims to assist transgender women who are engaged with the criminal justice system and to divert transgender women from prison sentences by advocating for and providing support services which build on personal strengths and networks.

A great deal of resources are allocated for cisgender prisoners but few are available or suited to transgender and gender-diverse women. The Women's Justice Network aims to improve the lives of all women engaged with the criminal justice system, and to support all women overcome social, economic and legal inequality.

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# WHAT IS MENTORING?

Mentoring is the relationship between two women. Mentors are volunteers who undertake specialised training to understand their role in mentoring. Mentee's are women who are or have been affected by the criminal justice system. Mentors are non-judgemental and can provide someone who can listen and emotionally support you. Each mentoring relationship is different and is guided by your personal goals and interests.

# HOW CAN A MENTOR HELP ME?

- You will have regular contact with someone to reach out to who cares about you
- You will learn new skills that will assist you to stay out of prison
- You will have someone who you can confidentially share your needs without being judged
- You will have someone who can advocate for you and help to find local services
- You will have someone who can support you with your appointments

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**A MENTOR/  
MENTEE  
RELATIONSHIP  
IS A SAFE  
RELATIONSHIP,  
FREE FROM HARM  
& JUDGEMENT.**  
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# WHY DO I NEED A MENTOR?

- Mentoring can provide positive guidance and support during 'tough times'
- Mentoring provides an opportunity to create a deep and respectful relationship
- Mentoring can provide a new way to reconnect within the community, which can be challenging and stressful
- Mentoring can help the Mentee's personal growth and sense of achievement
- Mentoring can develop new skills that can help in living a life free of crime