



Thriving
Communities
Partnership

Making it easier for people in prison to look after their money and debts



Easy English Report



This is a report about how to make it easier for people in prison to look after their money and debts.

Hard words

This report has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **bold**
- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this report

You can get someone to help you



- read this report
- know what this report is about



- find more information.

About the report



We work at Thriving Communities Partnership.



Thriving Communities Partnership is a group of people who want to make sure everyone can use the **essential services** they need to be happy and healthy.



Essential services include

- water



- electricity



- phone and internet



- transport



- banking

- **Insurance.**

Insurance is something people buy to protect them from losing money.

We did **research**.



Research is looking for an answer to a problem.

The problem we wanted to answer was



- how can we make it easier for people in **prison** to look after their money and debts.



Prison is a place people have to live if they do something that is against the law.

Why we did this research



It is hard for people in prison to look after their money because

- they cannot go to the bank
- they cannot get to their money to pay bills
- they cannot use the computer or phone much
- They cannot tell **companies** that they are in prison. Companies are a group of people that sell a product or service.
- They end up owing money to companies because they cannot pay their bills. This is called **debt**.





We talked to companies who want to help people in prison, including



- banks



- companies called **trustees** that help people look after their money



- **water companies.**

A water company is a group of people that make sure you have water to use.

Sometimes companies are not very good at helping people in prison.



We also talked to other people and groups who want to make it easier for people in prison to look after their money and debts, including



- **financial counsellors** who help people look after their money and debt.



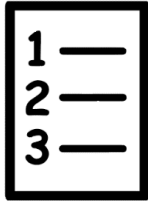
- **lawyers** who help people when they have problems with the law.



- a group of people that make sure companies follow the law and help them do better. These people are called **regulators**.



- other workers who help people in prison.



We wanted to make a list of



- things that make it hard for people in prison to look after their money and debts



- things that help people look after their money and debts when they are in prison

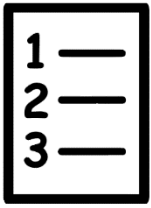


- ideas to make it easier for people in prison to look after their money and debts.



This list might help companies make it easier for people in prison.

Our list



Our top five things that make it hard for people in prison to look after their money and debt were



1. Some people in prison need someone to help them look after their money and debt.



2. It is hard for people to tell companies they are in prison because they cannot use the phone or computer much.



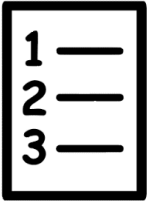
3. It is hard for people to talk to companies when they are in prison for a short time. They have to send letters or get someone to help them which takes a long time.



4. Companies do not know when people go to prison so they cannot help them.



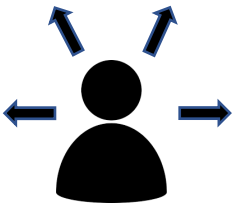
5. Lots of people do not know about debt and looking after their money when they go into prison.



Our top five things that help people in prison look after their money and debts were



1. A financial counsellor meeting with a group of people in prison so they can tell them all about debt and how to look after their money.



2. Ways for financial counsellors to stop debt with lots of companies at once.



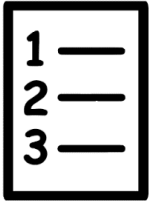
3. Talking about debt and money with everyone when they go into prison.



4. Companies that have a phone number that is just for financial counsellors to call to help people in prison.



5. Making sure people have someone to talk to about looking after their money when they leave prison.



Our top five ideas to help people in prison look after their money and debts were



1. Prisons should make it easy for people to talk to a financial counsellor to get help with looking after their money.



2. Have better ways for people in prison to learn about and practice looking after their money.



3. Companies should share ideas so they can all help people in prison look after their debt.



4. Make it easier for people to let companies know they are in prison.



5. People in prison should have someone they trust like their family who can help them look after their money and make decisions together.

What we did with our list



We asked a group of people what they thought of our list.

The people we asked about our list were



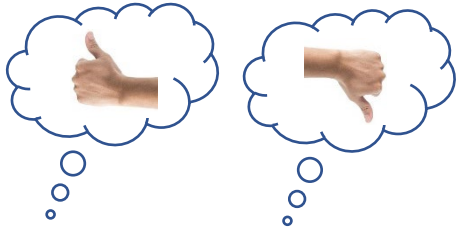
- companies
- lawyers
- financial counsellors
- other workers who help people in prison.



We wanted to know



- if people had any other ideas



- if people can think of other things that help or make it hard for people in prison to look after their money and debts



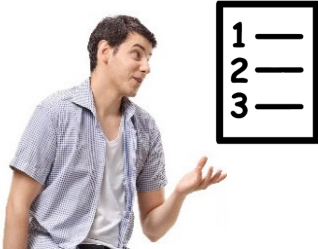
- if our ideas would be helpful for people in prison and people trying to help them



- if our ideas would be hard to do.

What we will do next

We will



- give this list of ideas to companies and people who want to help people in prison



- talk to people in prison to ask them what would help them and what they think of our ideas



- work with companies and people who want to help people in prison to help them make changes.

More information



Email contact@thriving.org.au

This document was created with free images from Freepik.com and Unsplash.com and licenced images from Adobe Stock.