

Karen awarded Queens Birthday Honours Public Service Medal.

For outstanding public service in the development of policy and the management, treatment and rehabilitation of sex offenders.

Ms Owen has made a significant and outstanding contribution to the development and implementation of policies in relation to sex offender management, treatment and rehabilitation, not only in Victoria but other jurisdiction throughout Australia. It has been acknowledged that sex offender programs delivered in Victoria are the best in the country, and this is due largely to the outstanding clinical skills and leadership qualities she has displayed in her role as Manager, Sex Offender Programs, Corrections Victoria, within the Department of Justice. Ms Owen has been involved in the management and service delivery of sex offender programs since their inception in the Victorian justice system some 11 years ago. Her leadership and continued involvement in the field have fostered the recruitment and retention of staff, and have ensured the transfer of knowledge and the promotion of ongoing program development and enhancement. Ms Owen is an expert in her field, and her knowledge and expertise is acknowledged internationally. Her efforts have contributed significantly to community protection by ensuring the sex offender programs in Victoria are consistent with international best practice, and by educating the community in relation to the management, treatment and rehabilitation of these offenders.