

AJJA UPDATE

October 2013

Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators

A message from the Chair...

Welcome to the fifth AJJA Update. The last few months have seen a number of items progress, highlighting the importance of AJJA's work behind the scenes. Consultation within jurisdictions regarding the Principles of Youth Justice in Australia has commenced. AJJA have received approval for funding from SCCDSAC of two major research projects – Recidivism Stage 2 and linked data collection, and the endorsement from AJJA members of the trauma informed practice guide, so the next few months will see these projects progress.

I look forward to meeting with you all at the November AJJA meeting in Adelaide, and the tour of the new Adelaide Youth Training Centre.

Dr Mark Collis

CYCSPRWG and SCCDSAC Update

The Children, Youth and Community Services Policy and Research Working Group (CYCSPRWG) meeting was held in Melbourne on 25 September 2013. As AJJA are a standing item on the agenda, Dr Mark Collis presented the agenda item in person. Dr Collis updated members on the progress of the National Youth Justice Framework and the outcome of the Australasian Youth Justice Conference. He also presented the AJJA Annual Report and AJJA work plan 2013-14 for members noting and endorsement.

The Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council (SCCDSAC) approved AJJA budget bid in relation to 'Linked data collection project' and 'Data collection to measure juvenile Recidivism Stage 2-measuring severity' out of session. AJJA are commissioning the AIHW to undertake these projects and have provided SCCDSAC with a document outlining the anticipated timeline, milestones and payment schedule.

Briefly...

- ❖ Please confirm your attendance at the November meeting, including the tour and dinner, with the AJJA Secretariat as soon as possible.
- ❖ If you are interested in attending the Bakehouse Theatre show 'Orphans' on Friday 8 November please contact Sue Barr to arrange tickets (08) 8415 4140

Trauma Informed Practice Guide

The working group for the research project 'Trauma informed practice' has been meeting regularly and has developed a proposal which was endorsed by AJJA members at the recent teleconference. This project will now see Victoria take the lead in guiding peer review of literature research in the area and commencing the development of the project. At the November AJJA meeting a Project Control Group (PCG) will be formed of select AJJA members and progress relating to this will be confirmed.

PYJA Update

The National Youth Justice Framework is still being reviewed. AJJA members have agreed for it to become a Principles based document, consequently changing the title to 'Principles of Youth Justice in Australia'. A designer has been employed and created a draft document which was distributed to members recently, and presented to CYCSPRWG. Currently Members are required to seek consultation in their jurisdictions and prepare to deliver feedback at the November AJJA meeting.

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Feedback...

- ❖ Please provide contact details to the Secretariat regarding a representative from your jurisdiction for the proposed Youth Justice Workforce Development Community of Practice.
- ❖ New processes relating to Representative Supervision are in place, specifically electronic communication of documentation. Please consider the revised guidelines for discussion and endorsement at the November meeting.
- ❖ AJJA financial statements have been finalised by the auditor Crowe Horwath and were distributed to members in September for consideration.

Important Dates to Remember...

- AJJA Meeting and tour of Youth Training Centre (Adelaide) - 6-8th November 2013
- Recidivism Data Collection Project Stage 1 – online publication early December
- The AIC to publish the 'Bail and Remand for young people in Australia' project in December 2013
- Youth Detention Population in Australia – to be released 10 December 2013

Significant Leave / Member Changes...

- Salli Cohen (NT) has won the permanent position of Director, Youth Justice Division. Congratulations Salli.
- Eric Heller (Deputy Chair, RIG) will be on long service leave from 23 September 2013- 17 March 2014. Rebecca Fitzsimons (VIC) will act as Deputy Chair, RIG during this period.
- AJJA Secretariat Alison Grace is returning from maternity leave on 4 November 2013. Welcome back Alison.

Jurisdiction in Focus

Integrated Statutory Service – Australian Capital Territory

A key action in the Community Services Directorate (CSD) Business Plan 2013-14 is the creation of a single statutory service.

The integration process will be assisted by the implementation of the Integrated Management System (IMS) where we will have a single information management system that uses the same processes, tools and language across CPS and Youth Justice Case Management (YJCM).

The integration of services is being driven by research and evidence that young people who come into contact with the youth justice system have been overwhelmingly the product of abuse and neglect. There is significant evidence, from literature, that a child and young person centred, well timed and effective response early in a young person's life can reduce the chance of offending.

CPS and YJCM will be the primary branches affected by the changes but there will also be implications for other business units within CSD. It is expected that the service will be fully operational in 2014-2015.

Youth Justice Reforms - Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government is currently embarking on a series of significant reforms that will impact on the Youth Justice System, some of these include:

- The Continuum of Care to Prevent Youth Offending and Re-Offending:
 - This project aims to apply a public health approach to crime prevention, this project will provide Government with recommendations that will assist in the development of short, medium and long term strategies, which will strengthen the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary intervention options that exist across the Continuum.
- The *Youth Justice Act (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2012*.
- Search Practices in Tasmania for Young People in Custody in Custodial Premises.
- Following a successful trial, the continuation of the Specialised Youth Justice Court (SYJC) in Southern Tas and the adoption of this SYJC in Northern Tas commencing 2014.

Additional information regarding some of these reforms can be located at:

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/youth/youth_justice/review_youth_justice_act