

**Australasian Juvenile Justice
Administrators
(AJJA)**

Annual Report

**1 July 2008
to
30 June 2009**

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1. Glossary of Acronyms

AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AJJA	Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators
CDSMAC	Community and Disability Services Minister's Advisory Council
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NSCIMG	National Community Services Information Management Group
PSSWG	Protective and Support Services Working Group
RoGS	Report on Government Services

2. The Chair's Report and the Year at a Glance

This is the third annual report of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators, which was established as a Standing Committee of the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council in March 2006.

During the past 12 months the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators' has seen a period of change in membership; with several long standing representatives taking on new roles outside of Youth Justice, including the Chair, Ms Jan Noblett. Similarly new members bring with them valuable experience and knowledge and I commend the representatives for their continued efforts in progressing the national work plan during these changes.

In the last year the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators' finalised several important initiatives:

- the completion of the Review of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set, which has now entered the implementation stage. I would like to note here that both the Northern Territory and Western Australia have withdrawn from the provisions of data for the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set effective from the commencement of the 2009-10 financial year [this is subject to a separate Out-Of-Session CDSMAC Agenda Paper]
- publication of the Juvenile Justice Key Performance Indicator Framework in the Report on Government Services 2009, bringing Youth Justice in line with other Government services that report against their own key performance indicators
- the completion of the development of the National Juvenile Justice Standards, which will enable jurisdictions to benchmark quality practice in a national context and contribute to the national agenda for improvement of juvenile justice system outcomes. It is valuable to note here that through this collaboration a significant increase in information sharing occurred between jurisdictions. A consequence of this information sharing has been increased consistency of juvenile justice practice across Australia through sharing of new developments, tools, local evidence, practice wisdom and the development of a high level document. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all that have contributed to the success of this important initiative.

I am pleased to provide to you the annual report on the activities and accomplishment of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators from the period of 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

Michael Plaister
AJJA Deputy Chair
Department of Health and Human Services

3. AJJA's Purpose and Membership

AJJA's terms of reference state that it will work collaboratively to:

- set the strategic direction for juvenile justice in Australasia
- provide leadership in the field of juvenile justice
- provide relevant, accurate and research based information and advice to CDSMAC and CDSMC on juvenile justice matters
- share information of relevance for the benefit of all juvenile justice jurisdictions.

AJJA is committed to supporting an evidenced-based approach when working with young people. Consequently AJJA:

- has developed relationships with key stakeholders such as the AIHW, Monash University and the Productivity Commission;
- shares information of relevance for the benefit of all juvenile justice jurisdictions;
- endorsed the development of national standards for community based juvenile justice services and the review of the current AJJA custodial standards;
- endorsed further work being undertaken to develop national key performance indicators for reporting through the Report on Government Services;
- supports the collection of relevant juvenile justice data for inclusion in the Juvenile Justice in Australia reports that are published by the AIHW; and
- is developing a strategic framework for national research and workforce planning.

AJJA's membership comprises a minimum of one senior executive officer from each of the Australian state or territory departments and New Zealand who is responsible for the delivery of juvenile justice services. (See Attachment 1a)

4. AJJA's 2008- 09 Achievements

4.1 Research and Information Group (Formally the Data Working Group)

In 2008-09 the Research and Information Group achieved the following milestones:

- publication of the *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2006-07* report
- drafting of the *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2007-08* report
- contributed to the AIC publication '*Juveniles in Detention*' 2006/2007
- piloted the stage 1 and stage 2 National Key Performance Indicators
- contributed to the independent review by KPMG of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set
- contributed to the development of the *Juvenile Detention Population in Australia 2008-2009*
- finalised the MoU between AJJA and AIHW for a further three years 1 July 2009 to June 2012.

The nomination of Ms Julie Gunn, Director, Youth Justice, Department for Families and Communities, South Australia, to the position of Research and Information Group Chair.

4.2 Standards Working Group

In 2008-09 the Standards Working Group achieved the following milestones:

- finalised the National Juvenile Justice Standards, corresponding Assessment Framework and draft Evidence Guide
- presented the final product to AJJA at the May 2009 meeting as per the work plan
- the Standards, Assessment Framework and Evidence Guide were endorsed by the AJJA at the May 2009 AJJA Meeting.

4.3 Training Working Group

In November 2008 AJJA agreed to disband the Training Working Group in light of project completion.

The AJJA Chair wrote to the Training Working Group advising of this decision and took the opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work of the subcommittee and for the level of commitment by members to the work plan and progression of the Certification IV in Youth Work.

4.4 Other

Other achievements in 2008-09 include:

- the appointment of Mr Michael Plaister, Area Director, (South West) Disability, Child, Youth & Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania to the position of AJJA Deputy Chair
- AJJA endorsing the revised Aims and Objectives Statement for inclusion in the Protective and Support Services Chapter of the Report on Government Services (RoGS)
- CDSMAC's approval of the Juvenile Justice National Key Performance Indicator Framework and related documents for publication in the 2009 RoGS
- AJJA supporting South Australia and New South Wales nomination for representatives to participate on the Steering Committee for the National Data Linkage Project
- AJJA supporting the nominations of Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales to form the Research Task Group to oversee the National Research Agenda
- the Research Task Group partnering with the Australian Institute of Criminology in the development of a Recidivism Research proposal
- AJJA agreeing to Queensland's nomination to represent AJJA on the National Community Services Information Management Group and ensured AJJA's undertaking to the protocols for the gatekeeper functions as endorsed by CDSMAC
- AJJA deciding to progress the development of a youth custodial health care services survey with South Australia to lead
- AJJA endorsing the ongoing work of New South Wales and Queensland in the development of interstate transfer protocols for young people on youth justice orders.

5. AJJA's Proposed Work Plan for 2009-10

5.1 Research and Information Group

In 2009-10 the major tasks for the Research and Information are to:

- redraft the Terms of Reference for the Research and Information Group
- participate in a joint meeting with AJJA to develop a work plan and a related work schedule for the implementation of the recommendations from the Review of Juvenile Justice NMDS
- publish the *Juvenile Justice in Australia* 2007-08 in late 2009
- draft the *Juvenile Justice in Australia* 2008-09 report for publication in 2010
- publish Stage 1 KPI's in the 2010 RoGS' (2008-09 data) and Stage 2 KPI text
- develop and Pilot Stage 3 National Key Performance Indicators
- implement and monitor the development of a national research agenda between AJJA and AIC
- propose other information and data-related projects for consideration by AJJA.

5.2 Standards Working Group

In 2009-10 the tasks for the Standards Working Group to be completed out of session will be:

- to finalise the evidence guide and distribute to AJJA out-of-session for approval
- to prepare the National Juvenile Justice Standards document for publication on the AJJA website and jurisdiction infonet.

5.3 Other

Other work proposed for 2009-10 includes:

- the development of a proposal for a seminar and practice forum linked to the Juvenile Justice Standards domains, lead by South Australia and Queensland
- ongoing work for the Research Task Group with the AIC on the project: *Recidivism Outcomes for Juveniles: A National Research Project* and the development of two *Trends and issues in crime and criminal justice* papers
 - 1. Trends in juvenile detention and
 - 2. What makes juvenile offenders different from adult offenders?
- the development of a national response to unit costs associated with juvenile justice lead by New South Wales
- ongoing work on the development of interstate transfer protocols between Queensland and New South Wales for young people on youth justice orders
- New South Wales to coordinate a project on group conferencing benchmarking.

6. AJJA's Proposed Budget for 2009-10

6.1 Budget Proposals

In 2009-10 AJJA jurisdictions will meet the costs associated with the:

- Research and Information Group which includes the cost of working group representatives participating in telelinks and meetings as required
- MoU with the AIHW which is inclusive of the Juvenile Justice NMDS, KPI development and AJJA Detention Data
 - Attachment (1.2) is inclusive of all AIHW costs and the distribution of costs reflect that Western Australia and the Northern Territory will only be participating in the development of the National KPI's in 2009/10
- Standards Working Group including the cost of professional editing of the AJJA National Juvenile Justice Standards
- National Research project, as per cost sharing model
- provision of Secretariat services, as per cost sharing model
- AJJA website.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Research and Information Group

That CDSMAC notes the:

- intention to publish *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2007-08* report in October 2009
- intention to publish Stage 1 Key Performance Indicators and Stage 2 text in the 2010 RoGS
- proposed 2009-2010 work plan.

7.2 Standards Working Group

That CDSMAC notes:

- the Standards Working Group have completed the tasks assigned by AJJA
- AJJA has proposed that the Juvenile Justice Standards be implemented through a self assessment process, which may be followed by cross-jurisdictional peer assessment subject to jurisdiction agreement
- AJJA will seek CDSMAC's approval to commit to implementation of the AJJA National Juvenile Justice Standards by a separate Out-Of-Session CDSMAC Agenda Paper.

7.3 Training Working Group

That CDSMAC notes:

- AJJA's decision to discontinue the Training Working Group in the short term in light of project completion and the significant work program planned for the AJJA. A decision to reconvene the training Working Group will be made post completion of some of the current AJJA projects.

8. Approvals

8.1 Research and Information Group

That CDSMAC approves the Research and Information Group work program outlined at Point 5.1.

8.2 Standards Working Group

That CDSMAC approves the Standards Working Group out of session work program outlined at Point 5.2.

9. Attachments

Attachment Number	Attachment
1.1	Key Positions and Contacts
1.2	AJJA Cost Sharing Budget 2009-10

ATTACHMENT 1.1: KEY POSITIONS AND CONTACTS

AJJA Chair – Victoria - Vacant

AJJA Deputy Chair

Mr Michael Plaister, Area Director, (South West) Disability, Child, Youth & Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services

Phone: (03) 6233 4066

AJJA Representatives

Queensland	Cathy Taylor, Executive Director, Child Safety, Youth and Families Policy and Performance, Department of Communities. Phone: (07) 322 47843
NSW	Mr Peter Muir, Chief Executive, Juvenile Justice, Department of Human Services, New South Wales. Phone: (02) 9219 9557
ACT	Mr Michael Reid, Director, Youth, Directorate, Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, Australian Capital Territory. Phone: (02) 6207 0913
Victoria	Ms Liz Hughes,, Acting Director, Youth Services and Youth Justice, Children, Youth and Families Division, Department of Human Services, Victoria. Phone: (03) 9096 7533
South Australia	Ms Julie Gunn, Director Youth Justice, Department for Families and Communities, South Australia. Phone: (08) 8226 6713
Western Australia	Mr Lex McCulloch, Assistant Commissioner, Youth Justice Strategy, Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia. Phone: (08) 9264 9557
Northern Territory	Mr Peter Curwen-Walker, Director, Juvenile Detention, Northern Territory Correctional Services, Department of Justice, Northern Territory. Phone: (08) 8922 0401
New Zealand	Mr Chris Polaschek, Manager Youth Justice, Child, Youth and Family Services, New Zealand. Phone: (0011) 64 4 918 9176

ATTACHMENT 1.2 - AJJA COST SHARING BUDGET 2009-10

	New Zealand	Northern Territory	Western Australia	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Queensland	TOTAL
Secretariat ¹	\$9,927.50	\$9,405.00	\$15,152.50	\$15,152.50	\$9,405.00	\$15,152.50	\$9,405.00	\$15,152.50	\$16,197.50	\$114,950
AIHW ²	N/A	N/A	\$4,566	\$31,130	\$9,660	\$103,171	\$6,709	\$135,601	\$83,369	\$374,205
Research ³	N/A	\$770.00	\$7,623	\$5,836	\$1,832	\$19,035	\$1,232	\$25,657	\$15,015	\$77,000

¹ Excluding GST, reflects 4.5% indexation 2009/10

² Including GST, based on resident population formula and distribution of costs reflect that WA and NT will only participate in the development of KPI's 2009-10)

³ AJJA agreed individual jurisdictions would fund the Research