



Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators

Annual Report 2009-2010

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

The Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) was established as a Standing Committee of the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC) in March 2006. The establishment of AJJA as a Standing Committee of CDSMAC recognised the value of AJJA a body capable of providing strategic advice to Ministers and to lead the development of national research projects in juvenile justice. This is the fourth annual report of AJJA.

Each year AJJA commissions important research and information papers to help build the national evidence base for juvenile justice policy. The AJJA Research and Information Group works closely with the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to scope important research projects.

In the last year the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators' have achieved several milestones in juvenile justice policy, practice and research:

- The development of a key research paper which identifies '*What Makes Juvenile Offenders Different*'. The Australian Institute of Criminology will publish the report next year.
- Jurisdictions actively began implementing the *AJJA Juvenile Justice Standards*. The national benchmark for quality practice in providing juvenile justice services has resulted in the development of quality assurance mechanisms in each jurisdiction to continuously improve juvenile justice outcomes.
- Work has commenced to develop National Facility Design Guidelines to ensure new custodial facilities are designed specifically to balance the community's need for safety and the young person's need for a humane, rehabilitative environment. The guidelines will outline the specifications for good design in Juvenile justice centres, which are complex facilities providing a vital service to the community, a living environment for young people, and a work place for staff.
- These Standards are of practical use in ensuring Australia remains compliant with a range of United Nations conventions and treaties.
- 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 and practice wisdom. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all that have contributed to the success of this important initiative.
- The development of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set continues with exploration of expanded data to enhance our reporting capacity. I would like to note here that both the Northern Territory and Western Australia withdrew from the provisions of data for the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set in the 2009-10 financial year.
- Expansion of Juvenile Justice reporting in the Report on Government Services (RoGS) through a range of new effectiveness key performance indicators. These were reported for the first time in 2010 and there will be further expansion in 2011.

In the coming year, AJJA has more research projects planned and significant policy projects. The work plan for the coming year has specific focus on strategic projects.

Accordingly, the work plan will span three years to allow for more strategic planning and research development.

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 Deputy Chair, Ms Julie Gunn. I welcome the new Deputy Chair Mr Lex McCulloch.

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.

Planning for the coming year sees AJJA embark on new projects to contribute to the evidence base for interventions in juvenile justice. The projects build on the information sharing partnerships developed through AJJA to make possible research projects which may answer important questions regarding effectiveness and cost benefit.

I look forward to these projects and in leading AJJA to make ongoing contributions to the build the evidence base for effective interventions, to provide quality assurance for the delivery of juvenile justice and to provide robust advice to governments.

I am pleased to provide to you the annual report on the activities and achievements of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators from the period of 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.



Peter Muir
AJJA Chair
NSW Department of Human Services
16 December 2010

2. AJJA's Purpose and Membership

AJJA's purpose is to 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. Each year AJJA commissions important research and information papers to help build the national evidence base for juvenile justice policy. AJJA has developed relationships with key stakeholders such as the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Productivity Commission.

AJJA also supports the collection of relevant juvenile justice data for inclusion in the *Juvenile Justice in Australia* reports that are published by the AIHW, the AIC and for the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services*.

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

3. AJJA's 2009-10 Achievements

3.1. Research and Information Group

In 2009-10 the Research and Information Group achieved the following milestones:

- Contributed to the AIHW *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2008-09* report
- Contributed to the AIC publications
 - *Juvenile Detention Population in Australia 1981 - 2008*
 - *What makes juvenile offenders different?*
 - *Technical Background Paper: Measuring Juvenile Recidivism in Australia*
 - *Trends in Juvenile Detention in Australia*
- Published Stage 1 KPI's in the 2010 RoGS' (2008-09 data) and Stage 2 KPI text
- The nomination of Ms Jackie Bray, Director, Youth Justice, Department for Families and Communities, South Australia, to the position of Research and Information Group Chair.

3.2. Standards Working Group

The *AJJA Juvenile Justice Standards* were approved by AJJA and developed jointly by the juvenile justice administrators across Australia and New Zealand. Jurisdictions actively began implementing the *AJJA Juvenile Justice Standards*. The national benchmark for quality practice in providing juvenile justice services has resulted in the development of quality assurance mechanisms in each jurisdiction to continuously improve juvenile justice outcomes. The standards will be made available to the public on the AJJA website in 2010-11.

3.3. Other

AJJA continued with the development of the *Interstate transfer guidelines* and common request form to make consistent and streamline the process to transfer supervision of young offenders between jurisdictions.

At times children and young people who are under the supervision of a state youth justice agency may need to move temporarily or permanently to another jurisdiction. Some of these children and young people may apply to the sentencing court to have their matter discharged or varied. Similarly some jurisdictions may seek formal transfer of the order to another jurisdiction. However due to the jurisdictional nature of criminal justice legislation not all youth justice orders may be transferred to another state. In these instances the supervising jurisdiction may seek support from the jurisdiction where the child or young person has moved to supervise the order on behalf of the supervising jurisdiction. This is known as representative supervision.

An agreement has been reached by AJJA that any request for representative supervision must be made by the Director of the requesting jurisdiction and approved by the participating jurisdictional Director.

4. AJJA's Proposed Work plan for 2010-11

4.1. Research Information Group (RIG)

Work plan for the RIG for 2010-11 is as follows:

- Manage data contributions to the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set
- Manage data contributions to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Institute of Criminology reports on juveniles in detention.
- Manage data contributions to the Report on Government Services which aim to improve the reporting and data maintenance capacity of all jurisdictions.
- Manage all other data requests affecting all jurisdictions, including contributions to Working Groups where AJJA has representation.
- Co-ordinate and manage the research paper on cost savings for different business streams and pathways into the juvenile justice systems across Australia.

- Co-ordinate and manage the research paper on bail and remand in partnership with the Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Publish the Juvenile Justice in Australia 2009 - 10
- Draft the Juvenile Justice in Australia 2009 - 10 report
- Publish Stage 2 KPI's in the 2011 RoGS' (2009-10 data)
- 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 including longer term research projects.

4.2. Standards Working Group – Facility Design Standards

The AJJA Standards Working Group is developing the *Design Guidelines for Juvenile Justice Facilities in Australia*. The design of custodial facilities reflects social attitudes towards young people who offend, and is underpinned by a range of assumptions regarding detention, rehabilitation and preferred styles of management. These values inevitably change throughout the life-span of a facility therefore the original design must be sufficiently flexible to accommodate future service requirements.

Given the complexity of the design task, the importance of flexibility and the high construction costs of juvenile justice centres, the design guidelines are a significant aid to all those involved in the development of secure youth services. They represent the collaborative efforts of a small but dynamic group of professionals across Australia and New Zealand who have grappled with the design challenges first hand. They will form the basis for continued innovation in centre design.

4.3. Other

In 2010-11 AJJA will examine strategic long term projects to build the evidence base of juvenile justice interventions. AJJA will consider projects that that explore emerging national interests in tertiary prevention and early intervention work. AJJA will also progress work to develop strategies for persistent issues such as bail, remand, diversionary strategies and programs for Indigenous young people.

5. AJJA's Proposed Budget for 2010-11

In 2010-11 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
- National Research projects, as per cost sharing model
- provision of Secretariat services, as per cost sharing model
- AJJA website.

6. Approvals

6.1. Research and Information Group

That CDSMAC approves the Research and Information Group work plan as listed in 4.1.

6.2. Standards Working Group – Facility Design Standards

That CDSMAC approves the Standards Working Group work plan as detailed in 4.2.

6.3. That CDSMAC support in principle AJJA's intention to develop long term strategic projects as outlined in 4.3.

7. Attachment

7.1. AJJA Costs for financial year 2010-11

	New Zealand	Northern Territory	Western Australia	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Queensland	TOTAL
Research ¹	N/A	\$1,000	\$9,900	\$7,580	\$2,380	\$24,720	\$1,600	\$33,320	\$19,500	\$100,000
Secretariat ²	\$9,927.50	\$9,405.00	\$15,152.50	\$15,152.50	\$9,405.00	\$15,152.50	\$9,405.00	\$16,197.50	\$15,152.50	\$114,950.00

¹ AJJA agreed individual jurisdictions would fund the Research; 12 June 2008 OOS telelink jurisdictions agreed to cost model

² Excluding GST

7.2. AJJA Contacts

NSW	AJJA Chair, Peter Muir Assistant Director General Service Delivery Improvement Department of Human Services PO Box K399 Haymarket NSW 1240 (02) 9248 0961
WA	Lex McCulloch, Deputy Commissioner Youth Justice Strategy Department of Corrective Services L1 Westralia Square 141 St George Terrace Perth WA 6000 (08 9264 9557
SA	Jackie Bray, Director Youth Justice Directorate Department for Families and Communities Families SA Level 7 EDS Centre 108 North terrace Adelaide SA 5000 GPO Box 292 Adelaide SA 5001 (08) 8226 6713
QLD	Cathy Taylor , Executive Director Child Safety, Youth and Families, Policy and Performance Department of Communities GPO Box 806 Brisbane Qld 4001 (07) 3224 7843
ACT	Michael Reid, Director Youth Directorate Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 (02) 6207 0913
NT	Clare Lennon, Youth Camps Coordinator & A/Manager Youth Justice Support Unit, NT Families and Children, Department of Health and Families PO Box 40596 Casuarina NT 0811 (08) 8999 2541
VIC	Kathryn Anderson , Director Youth Services and Youth Justice Children, Youth and Families Division Department of Human Services 10/50 Lonsdale St Melbourne Vic 3000 (03) 9096 7533
TAS	Mark Byrne, Chief Executive Officer Disability, Children and Families Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125B Hobart, Tasmania 7001 (03) 6233 4745
NZ	Chris Polaschek , Manager Youth Justice Child, Youth and Family Services PO Box 2620 Wellington NZ 0011 64 4 918 9176

7.3. 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