



Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators

Annual Report 2010-11

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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 fifth annual report of AJJA.

A number of national developments prompted AJJA to refine its terms of reference to better reflect how our work has evolved over time. The new Council of Australian Governments (COAG) system and the Federal Parliamentary inquiry into the over representation of Indigenous young people in the criminal justice system highlight once again the importance of agencies working together and shared responsibility for outcomes for young people across human services and justice agencies as well as the community. While AJJA continues to report to the CDSMAC under the Ministerial Standing Council on Child Protection, Disabilities and Homelessness it will continue to monitor developments of the Ministerial Council on Law and Justice as projects intersect with youth justice issues.

During the past 12 months the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators' has seen a period of change in membership. We welcomed Sue Renshaw, A/Assistant Commissioner Youth Justice, Western Australian Department of Corrective Services; Robyn Hopkins, Senior Policy Officer, Health, Alcohol & Other Drugs & Juvenile Justice, Northern Territory Correctional Services; David Matthews, Director Youth Services, Australian Capital Territory Community Services Directorate and Ian Lanyon, Director of Youth Justice Custodial Services, Victorian Department of Human Service. New members bring with them valuable experience and knowledge. Many thanks to the departing members for their contribution and commitment to AJJA and to youth justice issues.

In 2010/11 AJJA established the Research Task Group to develop and manage research projects that will inform policy development and practice for youth justice in Australia and New Zealand. Research Task Group will focus work on research and policy areas of interest to AJJA, while the AJJA Research and Information Group will continue to focus its work on data collection and statistical research.

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

- The Australian Institute of Criminology was commissioned to examine issues relating to remand in youth justice
- The Australian Institute of Criminology released the following papers commissioned by AJJA:
 1. *Technical Background paper: Measuring Recidivism in Australia*
 2. *Trends in juvenile detention in Australia*
 3. *What Makes Juvenile Offenders Different?*
 4. *Juveniles in Detention in Australia 1981 – 2008*

- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare also produced a number of reports for AJJA including:
 1. *Juvenile Detention Population 2006-2010*
 2. *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2008-09: interim report- main tables*

These reports have made constructive contributions to national policy debates regarding youth justice issues.

The development of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set continues with exploration of expanded data to enhance our reporting capacity.

AJJA has an ongoing program of research and strategic policy projects. AJJA will continue to contribute to the evidence base for interventions in juvenile justice through projects which build on the information sharing framework underpinning AJJA.

I look forward to these projects which are aimed at furthering AJJA's role in contributing to the evidence base for effective interventions, providing quality assurance for the delivery of juvenile justice and providing 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 2010 to 30 June 2011.

John Hubby
AJJA Chair
Juvenile Justice NSW
Department of Attorney General and Justice, Juvenile Justice

2. AJJA's Purpose and Membership

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.

AJJA works collaboratively to lead and influence the development of youth justice systems to provide for better outcomes for young people and the community.

This will be achieved by:

- promoting youth justice strategy;
- making policy recommendations based on evidence based best practice to the Ministerial Standing Council on Community Services, Disability and Homelessness;
- developing a national approach and benchmarks for youth justice administration through national standards and guidelines for states and territories to model;
- sharing relevant information among youth justice jurisdictions;
- being recognised as a peak body on youth justice issues.

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 works collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the Productivity Commission and other research bodies.

As the responsibility for juvenile justice lies with each individual state and territory, legislative and policy differences between the jurisdictions naturally make their current data collections inconsistent. AJJA supports the collection of nationally comparable 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*.

3. AJJA's 2010-11 Achievements

3.1. Research and Information Group

The Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group (JJ RIG) is a sub-committee of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) and is responsible for developing comparable national juvenile justice data and key performance indicators. It consists of representatives from each State and Territory department responsible for juvenile justice, as well as the AIHW, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Productivity Commission. The JJ RIG is chaired by a member of AJJA (currently South Australia) with secretariat support provided by the AIHW.

The JJNMDS is a project run, under the auspices of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA), by the AIHW, which brings together state and territory juvenile justice data into a national dataset. The JJNMDS aims to be a common resource that can facilitate comparison of juvenile justice policies across states and territories.

In 2010/11 the Research and Information Group worked with the Australian Institute of Criminology to release the following papers, which were commissioned by AJJA:

1. *Technical Background paper: Measuring Recidivism in Australia*
2. *Trends in juvenile detention in Australia*
3. *What Makes Juvenile Offenders Different?*
4. *Juveniles in Detention in Australia 1981 - 2008*

Additionally, the Research and Information Group collaborated with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare producing the following reports:

1. *Juvenile Detention Population 2006-2010*
2. *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2008-09: interim report- main tables*

3.2. Research Task Group

The Research Task Group is a sub-committee of AJJA. It develops research and policy projects in areas of strategic interest to AJJA. The purpose of the Research Task Group (RTG) is to inform policy development and practise for youth justice by improving the evidence base available for juvenile justice interventions in Australia and New Zealand.

Each State and Territory is represented on the RTG, together with the AIHW and the AIC. The RTG is different to the RIG in that it includes broader membership of policy and operations staff.

The main tasks of the RTG are to:

1. Develop the national juvenile justice research agenda for AJJA
2. Instigate agreed research projects
3. Manage, co-ordinate and review agreed research projects
4. Disseminate findings from RTG projects
5. Develop, manage and review research partnerships between AJJA and national research organisations
6. Share research information across jurisdictions
7. Coordinate the response to research issues across jurisdictions

3.3. Other

Interstate transfers:

AJJA finalised the Interstate transfer guidelines and common request form to make consistent and streamline the process to transfer supervision of young offenders between jurisdictions. The newly agreed process aims to be implemented across jurisdictions by 1 July 2011.

4. AJJA's Proposed Work plan for 2011-12

4.1. Research Information Group (RIG)

Work plan for the RIG for 2011/12 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.
- Publish the *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2010-11*
- Draft the *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2010-11* report
- Publish Stage 1 KPI's in the 2011 RoGS' (2010-11 data) and Stage 2 KPI text
- 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.

4.2. Research Task Group (RTG)

Work plan for the RTG 2011/12 is as follows:

- Co-ordinate and manage the research paper in partnership with the Australian Institute of Criminology on bail and remand. The AIC has been commissioned to examine the changes in the numbers of young people placed on remand in recent years in a number of jurisdictions by better understanding the main reasons for these changes and to identify the impact of these changes on young people and government objectives. It is also designed to compare these changes across jurisdictions and to understand why patterns vary across jurisdictions.
- Co-ordinate and manage project to develop a model that enables cost savings from early intervention and diversion to be calculated.
- Pending endorsement from CDSMAC, the RTG will continue work on the development of a National Youth Justice Framework (NYJF). The NYJF will be a reference document that brings together applicable principles and developed standards. It will also provide a platform for future directions.

4.3. Standards Working Group – Facility Design Standards

The AJJA Standards Working Group continues to revise the *Design Guidelines for Juvenile Justice Facilities in Australia*. 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 detention centre design.

It is expected that the revised guidelines will be submitted to AJJA for approval in November 2011.

5. Approvals

5.1. Research and Information Group

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

5.2. Research Task Group

That CDSMAC approves the Research Task Group work plan as listed in 4.2.

5.3. Standards Working Group – Facility Design Standards

That CDSMAC approves the Standards Working Group work plan as detailed in 4.3.

5.4. Revised Terms of Reference detailed in 6.2

6. Attachment

6.1. AJJA Proposed Costs and Jurisdiction Contributions for financial year 2011/12

	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	\$9,405	\$15,153	\$15,153	\$9,405	\$15,153	\$9,405	\$16,196	\$15,153	\$114,950

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

² Excluding GST

6.2 Revised Terms of Reference for AJJA (May 2011)

AJJA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Terms of Reference

Purpose: AJJA works collaboratively to lead and influence the development of youth justice systems to provide for better outcomes for young people and the community.

This will be achieved by:

- promoting youth justice strategy;
- making policy recommendations based on evidence based best practice to the Ministerial Standing Council on Community Services, Disability and Homelessness;
- developing a national approach and benchmarks for youth justice administration through national standards and guidelines for states and territories to model;
- sharing relevant information among youth justice jurisdictions;
- being recognised as a peak body on youth justice issues.

In order to meet its objectives AJJA undertakes to:

- make use of data and research available to progress the strategic agenda on youth justice issues;
- support and contribute to building the evidence base for effective youth justice interventions;
- maintain and enhance information and research partnerships with Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and Universities;
- contribute to the development of performance indicators through the Steering Committee for the Report on Government Services;
- establish links with relevant forums and key partners to ensure consideration of youth justice issues;
- continue the development of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set; and
- continue to develop and promote national standards for juvenile justice.

6.3 AJJA Contacts

Jurisdiction	Representative
NSW	Chair John Hubby, Chief Executive Juvenile Justice Department of Attorney General and Justice Level 24, 477 Pitt St, Haymarket NSW 2000
QLD	Deirdre Mulkerin, Assistant Director General Service and Delivery Improvement Department of Communities GPO Box 806 Brisbane Qld 4001
ACT	David Matthews, Director Youth Services Community Services Directorate GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
WA	Sue Renshaw, Assistant Commissioner Youth Justice Services Department of Corrective Services L3 Westralia Square 141 St Georges Tce Perth WA 6000
NT	Robyn Hopkins, Senior Policy Officer, Health, Alcohol & Other Drugs, Education & Juvenile Justice. Northern Territory Correctional Services. GPO Box 1722, Darwin NT 0801
NZ	Chris Polaschek Manager Youth Justice Child, Youth and Family Services PO Box 2620 Wellington NZ
SA	Jackie Bray, Director Youth Justice Directorate Department for Families and Communities Families SA GPO Box 292 Adelaide SA 5001
VIC	Kathryn Anderson Director Youth Services and Youth Justice Ian Lanyon Director of Youth Justice Custodial Services Children, Youth and Families Division Department of Human Services 10/50 Lonsdale St Melbourne Vic 3000
TAS	Mark Byrne Chief Executive Officer Disability, Children and Families Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125B Hobart, Tasmania 7001

6.4 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