



Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators



Annual Report 2011-12

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

This is the sixth annual report of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA). This report covers the period July 2011 to June 2012. The AJJA was established as a *Standing Committee of the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC)* in March 2006. The review of CDSMAC committees by Mr Jim Davidson in 2011-12 recommended that the AJJA no longer be included in the CDSMAC Principal Committee Structure. In June 2012 however, CDSMAC became the *Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council (SCCDSAC)* and SCCDSAC members agreed that the AJJA continue as a sub-group of the newly formed *Children, Youth and Community Services Policy Research Working Group (CYCSPRWG)*. The continuation of AJJA as a sub-committee under the SCCDSAC structure recognises the value of AJJA as a body capable of providing strategic advice to Ministers and to lead the development of national research projects in youth justice.

In the reporting year the position of youth justice portfolios in governments have seen changes across a number of jurisdictions with youth justice services falling within the community services portfolio in some jurisdictions and the justice portfolios within others. In NSW, Juvenile Justice has moved from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Attorney General and Justice. In Queensland Youth Justice Services transitioned from the Department of Communities to the Department of Justice and Attorney General. Commencing 1 July 2012, responsibility for youth justice in the Northern Territory will be centralised into one government department, the Department of Justice. As always it will be important for the AJJA to not only remain responsive to the SCCDSAC agenda but also to monitor youth justice issues before the *Ministerial Council on Law and Justice*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank departing members for their contributions in progressing the work of the AJJA. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work of retiring Chair, John Hubby and Secretariat, Elspeth Driscoll from NSW Juvenile Justice. The outgoing secretariat has consolidated the AJJA agenda and has provided valuable direction for the future.

I welcome our new AJJA members:

- Valda Ruis, Acting Chief Executive, Juvenile Justice, Department of Attorney General and Justice, New South Wales;
- Darren Hegarty, Director, Youth Justice Policy, Performance, Programs and Practice, Department of Justice and Attorney General, Queensland;
- Andrew Salter, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Youth Justice Services, Corrective Services, Western Australia; and
- Pippa Rudd, Acting Executive Director, Youth Justice Division, Department of Justice, Northern Territory.

In the last year the AJJA has continued to develop working partnerships with data and research agencies and with these agencies has continued to contribute to national youth justice policy, practice and research. To this end the 2011/12 year saw the development of the AJJA and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Memorandum of Understanding, which was before members for sign off at the end of the reporting year. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare produced two key reports for the AJJA; *Juvenile Detention Population 2011* and *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2009-10*.

Both of these reports received significant national media coverage. These publications will play a role in ongoing research and policy development for improved outcomes for young people in the youth justice system.

The Australian Institute of Criminology was commissioned to develop the National Youth Justice Framework and is well progressed on this at the time of this report. It is expected that the National Youth Justice Framework will be before the SCCDSAC in the first half of 2013.

The 2012-13 year is shaping up as a productive year for AJJA as new relationships and reporting processes are negotiated under the new SCCDSAC structure. In addition to continuing work with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on the development of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set the AJJA will deliver the National Youth Justice Framework and partner with the Australian Institute of Criminology in presenting the first Australasian Youth Justice Conference.

I am pleased to provide to you the annual report on the activities and achievements of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators for the period of 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.



Dr Mark Collis
AJJA Chair
Youth Services, ACT
Community Services Directorate

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 youth 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 is achieved by:

- promoting youth justice strategy;
- making policy recommendations based on evidence based best practice to the Ministerial Standing Council on Community and Disability Services (SCCDS) through the CYCPRWG;
- 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; and
- 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 youth justice policy. The AJJA works collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the Productivity Commission and other research bodies in the development of this work.

As the responsibility for youth 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 youth justice data for inclusion in the *Juvenile Justice in Australia* reports that are published by the AIHW and the AIC and for the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services*.

3. AJJA's 2011-12 Achievements

3.1 MoU with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

At the time of preparing this report the AJJA and the AIHW were renewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations. The MoU outlines how the AJJA and AIHW will work collaboratively in the development and implementation of shared work and guides the sharing of youth justice information and data that is of a national interest. Sign off of the MoU is expected to be completed early in the 2012-13 financial year.

3.2 Research and Information Group

The Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group (JJ RIG) is a sub-committee of the AJJA and is responsible for developing comparable national youth justice data and key performance indicators. It consists of representatives from each State and

Territory department responsible for youth justice, as well as the AIHW, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the AIC and the Productivity Commission. The JJ RIG is chaired by a member of the AJJA (currently South Australia) with secretariat support provided by the AIHW.

The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJNMDs) is a project run, under the auspices of the AJJA, by the AIHW, which brings together state and territory youth justice data into a national dataset. The JJNMDs aims to be a common resource that can facilitate comparison of youth justice data across states and territories.

In 2011/12 the JJ RIG collaborated with the AIHW to produce the following reports:

1. *Juvenile Detention Population 2011*
2. *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2009-10*

Additionally, the JJ RIG worked with the AIHW and the Productivity Commission to contribute to Chapter 15 (Protection and Support Services) of the *Report on Government Services* (ROGS) 2012.

3.3 Research Task Group

The Research Task Group (RTG) is a sub-committee of the AJJA. The RTG develops research and policy projects in areas of strategic interest to the AJJA. The purpose of the RTG is to inform policy development and practise for youth justice by improving the evidence base available for youth 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 chaired by a member of the AJJA (currently Western Australia) with secretariat support provided by the AJJA Secretariat (currently the Australian Capital Territory). 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 youth 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; and
7. coordinate the response to research issues across jurisdictions.

In 2011/12 the Research Task Group worked with the AIC on the development of two research projects:

1. National Youth Justice Framework; and
2. Juvenile Bail and Remand in Australia.

The National Youth Justice Framework (NYJF), endorsed and funded by CDSMAC, aims to consolidate lessons from applicable international conventions, academic literature and reviews of youth justice services. The NYJF will contribute to the improvement of services provided by youth justice administrators, to ensure they deliver better outcomes for young people and the community. It will be a reference document that brings together applicable principles and developed standards. It will also provide a platform for future directions in youth justice service delivery.

The Juvenile Bail and Remand in Australia Project is being undertaken in response to 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.

4. Financials

All 2011/12 financials were administered by the Department of Attorney General and Justice, NSW Juvenile Justice. Figures included in this report were provided by NSW Juvenile Justice.

In the course of the reporting year there was expenditure of \$31, 031.36 from the Research budget on projects being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The remainder of the research budget was committed to funding projects to be delivered in 2012/13.

In the course of the reporting year there was expenditure of \$95,403.77 from the Secretariat budget. Secretariat expenses included the Secretariat's salary, on costs and travel.

A summary of AJJA income and expenditure for 2011/12 is below.

2011/12

SECRETARIAT		RESEARCH		TOTAL
Contributions		Contributions		
ACT	9,405.00	ACT	1,600.00	
NT	9,405.00	NT	1,000.00	
NZ	9,927.50	NZ	-	
QLD	15,152.50	QLD	19,500.00	
SA	15,152.50	SA	7,580.00	
TAS	9,405.00	TAS	2,380.00	
VIC	15,152.50	VIC	24,720.00	
WA	15,152.50	WA	9,900.00	
NSW	16,197.50	NSW	33,320.00	
	114,950.00		100,000.00	214,950.00
Expenses		Expenses		
T. Loppacher		Australian Institute		
Salary	4,571.35	of Criminology	31,031.36	
Oncosts	831.09			
	5,402.44			
E. Driscoll				
Salary	70,981.81			
Oncosts	16,029.59			
	87,011.40			
Travel	2,989.93			
	95,403.77		31,031.36	126,435.13
Surplus/(Deficit)	19,546.23		68,968.64	88,514.87

5. AJJA's Proposed Work plan for 2012-13

5.1 Research Information Group (RIG)

Work plan for the RIG for 2012/13 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 report *Juvenile Detention Population in Australia*.
- Manage data contributions to the Productivity Commission report, *Report on Government Services*.
- 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* report.
- Draft the *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2011-12* report.
- Publish *Juvenile Detention Populations in Australia 2012*.
- Draft the *Juvenile Detention Populations in Australia 2013*.
- Publish two Bulletins:
 - Girls and Young Women in the Juvenile Justice System.
 - Indigenous Young People in the Juvenile Justice System.
- Draft a Bulletin on young people 10-14 years old in the Youth Justice System.
- 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 Research Task Group (RTG)

Work plan for the RTG for 2012/13 is as follows:

- Co-ordinate and manage the research paper on bail and remand, in partnership with the AIC.
- Co-ordinate and manage the development of a National Youth Justice Framework (NYJF), in partnership with the AIC.
- Co-ordinate and manage a research project on cost saving from early intervention and successful diversion. State 1 of the project will aim to synthesise existing research and evaluation on cost savings from early intervention and successful diversion. Stage 2 will develop a generic model that enables cost savings from early intervention and diversion to be calculated.

5.3 Australasian Youth Justice Conference Event Steering Group

Work plan for the Event Steering Group for 2012/13 is as follows:

- Work with the AIC to plan and deliver the first Australasian Youth Justice

Conference on 20 and 21 May 2013.

6. Approvals

6.1 Research and Information Group

That CDSMAC approved the Research and Information Group work plan for 2011-12.

6.2 Research Task Group

That CDSMAC approved the Research Task Group work plan for 2011-12.

7. Attachments

7.1 Financials

AJJA Proposed Costs and Jurisdiction Contributions for financial year 2012/13

	New Zealand	Northern Territory	Western Australia	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Queensland	TOTAL
Research	N/A	\$1,000	\$9,900	\$7,580	\$2,380	\$24,720	\$1,600	\$33,320	\$19,500	\$100,000
Secretariat	\$10,175	\$9,640	\$15,532	\$15,532	\$9,640	\$15,532	\$9,640	\$16,601	\$15,532	\$117,824

7.2 AJJA Contacts 2012-13

Jurisdiction	Representative
NSW	Valda Ruis, A/Chief Executive Juvenile Justice Department of Attorney General and Justice Level 24, 477 Pitt St, Haymarket NSW 2000
QLD	Steve Armitage, Assistant Director-General Youth Justice Department of Justice and Attorney General GPO Box 806, Brisbane Qld 4001
ACT	Mark Collis, Director Youth Services Community Services Directorate GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
WA	Andrew Salter, A/Assistant Commissioner Youth Justice Services Department of Corrective Services L3 Westralia Square, 141 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
NT	Margaret Anderson, A/Executive Director Youth Justice Division Department of Justice 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 Communities and Social Inclusion GPO Box 292, Adelaide SA 5001
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
TAS	Mark Byrne, Director of Operations Children and Youth Services Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125B Hobart, Tasmania 7001

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
CYCSPRWG	Children, Youth and Community Services Policy Research Working Group
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
JJ RIG	Juvenile Justice Research Information Group
RTG	Research Task Group
RoGS	Report on Government Services
SCCDS	Standing Council on Community and Disability Services
SCCDSAC	Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council

