



Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators

**Annual Report
2012-13**

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

This is the seventh annual report of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA). This report covers the period July 2012 to June 2013. The AJJA was established as a *Standing Committee of the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC)* in March 2006. In June 2012, 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. The AJJA are now a standing item on the CYCSPRWG, at which the Chair reports on current activity and updates on emerging issues. It is important for the AJJA to not only remain responsive to the SCCDSAC agenda but also to be responsive to youth justice issues before the *Ministerial Council on Law and Justice*, who also has significant policy coverage in the area of youth justice.

In the reporting year there have been significant changes in government arrangements across Australia. A consequent high turnover of AJJA members has resulted in some challenges for business continuity. During the course of the year the AJJA website was further developed, and the business continuity plan and risk register were established. A considered understanding of risk and business continuity will better position AJJA to continue to deliver its substantial work plan. One immediate consequence of the risk management plan is evident in the external audit of AJJA's finances for the first time. I thank AJJA members for their succession planning and ongoing support of AJJA business. All major meetings were attended by representatives from all Australian jurisdictions, with New Zealand continuing to attend on a needs basis.

In the reporting year the AJJA has continued to develop working partnerships with data and research agencies including Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), including commencing the Memorandum of Understanding between state and territories and AIHW for the continued collection of the National Minimum Data Set. In collaboration with AIHW and AIC, AJJA has continued to contribute to national youth justice policy, practice and research agenda. Some highlights over the year included:

- Young People aged 10-14 in the youth justice system,
- Youth Justice in Australia 2011-12: an overview,
- Bail and remand for young people in Australia: A national research project,
- The first Australasian Youth Justice Conference.

The reports received significant national media coverage and research interest. These activities will play a role in ongoing research and policy development for improved outcomes for young people in the youth justice system.

2013-14 is shaping up as another productive year for AJJA. In addition to continuing work with the AIHW on the development of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set and Linked data collection to report on relationships between youth justice and child protection, it is planned for the AJJA to deliver the Principles of Youth Justice in Australia (previously referred to as 'National Youth Justice Framework') and Stage 2 of the Recidivism Data Collection Project.

I am pleased to provide the annual report on the activities and achievements of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators for the period of 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

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 official from each of the Australian state or territory and New Zealand who are responsible for the delivery of youth justice services.

AJJA works collaboratively to share promising practice and to contribute to the development of the evidence base for high quality policy development in youth justice 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 CYCSPRWG;
- 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.

The responsibility for youth justice lies with each individual state and territory, legislative and policy differences between the jurisdictions naturally make comparative data collection difficult. AJJA supports the forums necessary for 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*.

In this reporting year Andrew Salter (WA), Margaret Anderson (NT) and Kathryn Anderson (VIC) left AJJA, in the same period we welcomed the following new AJJA members:

- Sue Barr, Director, Youth Justice, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, South Australia;
- Brian Lawrence, Assistant Commissioner, Youth Justice Services, Corrective Services, Western Australia; and
- Russell Caldwell, Acting Executive Director, Youth Justice Division, Department of Justice, Northern Territory.

3. AJJA's 2012-13 Achievements

3.1 Australasian Youth Justice Conference

On 20-22 May 2013, the AIC and AJJA co-hosted the first National Australasian Youth Justice Conference titled 'Changing the Trajectories of Youth Offending'. The conference was held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, and Key Note speakers included Dr Ray Corrado, Dr Tracey Westerman, Professor Mark Halsey, and Judge Andrew Becroft. There were 240 delegates from across Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Canada in attendance each day. Due to the level of attendance, the \$20,000 seed fund was returned, along with a 30% profit of \$9,949.50 that will be used to seed future conferences. Summary feedback concluded that the conference was considered a success. The responses highlighted that the event ran smoothly, with delegates finding the sessions highly valuable, appreciating networking opportunities, and consider it would be beneficial to continue to run the event biannually. Thai delegates from the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, Mr Thanis Sriyaphant, Director General, and Dr Kattiya Ratanadilok, Head of Research and Development, met with Dr Collis following the conference and discussed youth justice case management systems in Australia. Ideas developed and shared at the conference have stimulated significant local research and policy development opportunities.



Dr Corrado, Key Note presentation



Dr Collis addressing the audience

3.2 Work plan

The 2012/13 AJJA Work plan (refer Appendix A) was endorsed by SCCDSAC. In the current reporting year the following projects were delivered in partnership with the Research Information Group and the Research Training Group:

- Juvenile Justice in Australia 2010-11: an overview
- Girls and young women in the juvenile justice system 2010-11
- Indigenous young people in the juvenile justice system 2010-11
- Bail and remand for young people in Australia: A national research project
- Juvenile Detention population in Australia 2012
- Youth Justice in Australia 2011-2012: an overview
- Young People aged 10-14 years in the youth justice system 2011-12

Note the Cost Benefit Analysis Project was removed from the work plan during the reporting year after initial scoping it was determined that the state of the project was such that the program objectives would not be met in budget or time parameters.

3.3 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 New South Wales) with secretariat support provided by the AIHW.

The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JNMDs) 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 JNMDs aims to be a common resource that can facilitate comparison of youth justice data across states and territories.

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.

3.4 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 practice for youth justice by improving the evidence base available for youth justice interventions in Australia and New Zealand. At the AJJA meeting on 22 May, it was decided that the function of RTG would be allocated on a project by project basis to a Project Control Group formed by AJJA members.

Items proposed for research supported by AJJA in 2013/14 include homelessness, trauma informed practice, and young women and violence. These projects are being scoped to determine how best to proceed within the AJJA future work plan.

3.5 Principles of Youth Justice in Australia

In December 2011 the then CDSMAC endorsed the concept that AJJA develop a national youth justice framework, and that a draft be returned to CDSMAC prior to seeking endorsement at the Ministerial Council. The aim of the project is to consolidate information and evidence from applicable international conventions, academic literature and reviews of youth justice services in a reference document that brings together applicable principles to inform future development of standards. The AIC were commissioned to produce a discussion paper, a literature review, and conduct stakeholder consultations. These were delivered in August 2012 and at this time AJJA decided to generate a Project Control Group (PCG) to continue development of the framework. The PCG consisting of AJJA members have worked to distil this document to a set of Principles. During the reporting year AJJA endorsed a change of title from Framework to 'Principles of Youth Justice in Australia' to better reflect the requirements of all jurisdictions. The literature supporting the Principles will be published online, accessible via the Principles document. At the conclusion of the current reporting period the Principles were in draft and were about to go before jurisdictions for consultation prior to tabling at CYCSPRWG. The document will be presented by the AJJA Chair to CYCSPRWG for endorsement at their forthcoming meeting on 25 September 2013. It is envisaged that the draft will then be tabled at SCCDSAC at the earliest possible opportunity.

3.6 Representative Supervision

On 15 October 2012 guidelines for providing Representative Supervision between Jurisdictions was finalised and endorsed by AJJA members. Along with the guidelines, a proforma was finalised for the requesting jurisdiction to complete in order for the receiving jurisdiction to consider all pertinent information relating to the young person. These

guidelines were positively received by all jurisdictions and assist with consistent processes for interstate liaison officers. In May 2013, the guidelines were amended for electronic sharing of information. At the conclusion of the reporting year the amended guidelines were before AJJA for endorsement.

4. Finance

In 2012/13 finances were administered by the Community Services Directorate, ACT Government. In the course of the reporting year there was expenditure of \$79,849.00 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 2013/14. In the course of the reporting year there was expenditure of \$130,175.00 from the Secretariat budget. Secretariat expenses included the Secretariat's salary, travel and meeting expenses.

In the 2012/13 financial year the first audit of AJJA finances was undertaken by Crowe Horwath. The purpose of the audit is to formalise financial management arrangements for the AJJA, as well as to establish in its own right financial governance processes to meet best practice standards. Please refer to Appendix B for the auditors financial statement (refer Appendix B).

5. Proposed direction in 2013-14

5.1 Research Information Group (RIG)

The work plan for the JJ RIG for 2013/14 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 *Youth 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.
- Draft the *Youth Justice in Australia 2012-13* report.
- Publish *Youth Detention Populations in Australia 2012*.
- Draft the *Youth Detention Populations in Australia 2013*.
- 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 agenda

For 2013/14 the workplan has been developed through consultation and research amongst jurisdictions (refer Appendix C). The below work plan is with CYCSPRWG for endorsement and will subsequently be tabled for noting and endorsement by SCCDSAC at the next available opportunity. The work plan for AJJA management for 2013/14 includes the following:

- Principles of Youth Justice in Australia
- Trauma Informed Practice and Behaviour Management in Youth Justice Custodial Environments
- Pathways through Youth Justice Supervision
- Developing a Linked Data Collection to report on the relationships between child protection and youth justice
- Developing a data collection to measure Juvenile Recidivism: Stage 1
- Developing a data collection to measure Juvenile Recidivism: Stage 2
- Youth Justice in Australia 2012-13

6. Attachments

6.1 Finance

AJJA Proposed Costs and Jurisdiction Contributions for financial year 2013-14

	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	\$10,250	\$9,881	\$15,920	\$15,920	\$9,881	\$15,920	\$9,881	\$17,016	\$15,920	\$120,589

6.2 AJJA Contacts 2013-14

Jurisdiction	Representative
NSW	Valda Ruis, 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	Dr Mark Collis, Director Youth Services Community Services Directorate GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
WA	Brian Lawrence, Assistant Commissioner Youth Justice Services Department of Corrective Services L3 Westralia Square, 141 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
NT	Russell Caldwell, 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	Sue Barr, Director Youth Justice Directorate Department for Communities and Social Inclusion GPO Box 292, Adelaide SA 5001
VIC	Heather Thompson, A/Director Youth Services and Youth Justice Children, Youth and Families Division, Department of Human Services 10/50 Lonsdale St, Melbourne Vic 3000
TAS	Dr Susan Diamond, Director of Operations Children and Youth Services Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125B Hobart, Tasmania 7001

6.3 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 Ministers' 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
PYJA	Principles of Youth Justice in Australia
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