



Government of South Australia

Department for Communities
and Social Inclusion

Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators Meeting

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South Australian Report

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1. State and Territory Youth Justice Statistics

n/a

2. Schedule of Achievements and Innovations

2.1. Home Detention Update

Youth Justice in South Australia implemented a GPS enabled monitoring system for home detention in September 2014. Training of officers in the use of the new system is complete, and a gradual roll out of the new GPS enabled equipment has commenced.

The new system allows real-time tracking of client movements, playback of movement history and proximity to prescribed locations. The system is accessed via a secured web-interface which also offers views of anklet battery status, the ability to view or edit details of inclusion/exclusion zones, device history and stock inventory.

At the time of this report seven young people had been fitted with the new equipment and the Home Detention Program is expecting delivery of more equipment in coming weeks to allow a full roll-out of the system.

2.2. Behaviour Support Consultation – Adelaide Youth Training Centre

Youth Justice Psychology Services and the Adelaide Youth Training Centre (AYTC) Senior Management team have collaborated to progress the implementation of a service delivery model for Behaviour Support Consultation within the Training Centre. Following a period of extensive staff consultation and feedback analysis regarding the role of psychological consultation within the AYTC, a comprehensive guideline and associated procedures are being developed for implementation in November 2014. The focus of behaviour support consultation under this model will be timely, time-limited intensive behaviour analysis undertaken by psychologists working in pairs, and in close collaboration, with the Behaviour Support Officers in the AYTC to address recurrent aggressive and violent behaviour among residents.

2.3. Behaviour Support Framework – Adelaide Youth Training Centre

The Behaviour Support Framework and operational model was implemented in July 2013. This strategic model promotes a safe custodial environment and provides pathways to increase young people's positive participation in community life. Key to the Behaviour Support Framework is the Progression Model, which provides individual incentives to encourage and support a young person to develop positive behaviour strategies and take responsibility for their progress within the framework of their own development. The operational model guides improved exit planning and goal setting for when a young person transitions back into the community. This includes ensuring continued access to education and health supports and establishing connections with community services that will continue to support the young person and their family beyond the expiry of the mandate.

A progress review of the Behaviour Support Framework and operational model was, at the time of this report, scheduled to begin in October 2014. It is expected that the review will make a number of operational recommendations to ensure the model continues to provide a high level

of support for the residents of the AYTC so that they can develop positive behaviour strategies and take responsibility for their progress.

2.4.Circles of Trust

Within Youth Justice a new tool - Circles of Trust - is being used to support case manager engagement with young Aboriginal people during interviews. The tool draws on the young person's knowledge of kinship and culture, gathering information about a young person's family, cultural group or supportive relationships to identify the patterns and themes within family structures. This information is presented visually to the young person, building a picture that presents family structure and identifies family members who are close and also role models in the young person's life. Through this process, linkages to current issues and connections to community are explored, identifying the support networks available to the young person.

The tool has been developed to be interactive and engaging. A trial has commenced and training and support is available to practitioners. The goal of the trial is twofold; that the case managers using Circles of Trust increase their confidence in seeking cultural information from young people, and that assessments, reports and case plans reflect an improved cultural footprint.

2.5.Memoranda of Understanding - Community Service Order Program

The Community Service Order Program has developed a standard for, and implemented, Memoranda of Understanding with all current partnership agencies and non-government organisations. These have been developed to ensure compliance with mandatory conditions for working with children, as well as Workforce Health and Safety whilst Youth Justice staff and young people are on site.

3. Human Resource Achievement and Initiatives

n/a

4. Research, Reviews and Publications

4.1. Research

Professor Andrew Day and colleagues from Deakin University will undertake a project to evaluate the effectiveness of the PLUS+ program in the South Australian youth justice setting. PLUS+ (Problem-solving: Learning Usable Skills) is a moderate intensity, cognitive and behavioural skills program originally developed by Professor James McGuire for use with young offenders in the UK, and introduced within the South Australian Youth Justice system by Dr Aldis Putnins in 2007. The program has since been delivered on 10 separate occasions between 2007-2014 with a total of 58 young people overall.

A principal aim of the evaluation project is to describe the characteristics of participants who complete the program compared with counterparts who do not. The project will also aim to examine whether significant changes in thinking style can be determined by examining pre- and

post-group psychometric scores, and to determine whether change is statistically reliable and/or of clinical significance. These data will be supplemented with findings from a consultation with key Youth Justice stakeholders and information about the likely costs/benefits of the program and its processes. This will lead to recommendations for further improvement and outcome evaluation.

4.2. Presentations

Hackett, L. (2014) Psychological Reports for Court: Adolescents vs. Adults. Presentation as part of invited symposium “Psychological Court Report Writing for Criminal Matters: An International Perspective” at the 25th International Congress of Applied Psychology, Paris, France, 07 July 2014.

Hawkins, K. and Hackett, L. (2014). A delicate balance: Integrating vulnerability and responsibility in Youth Justice policy and practice. Presentation upcoming to the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (ANZAPPL) Congress, Sydney, 19 November 2014.

5. Key Positions and Contact Numbers

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