

Recidivism data collection

Recommendations

That the JJ RIG:

1. note the successful bid for CDSMAC funding for ‘developing a data collection to measure juvenile recidivism: stage 1’
2. advise of the availability of offence type and offence date.

Background

In 2010, the AIC produced an AJJA-funded report exploring ways of measuring recidivism outcomes for young people in the juvenile justice system. At the 2011 RIG face-to-face meeting, the AIHW presented proposed measures of recidivism based on the AIC’s report and outlined a number of conceptual and definitional issues that would need to be resolved before a recidivism data collection could be implemented (see attachment 1). At this meeting, the JJ RIG agreed that the recidivism data collection project should progress in stages and requested that the AIHW prepare a proposal for its development. This proposal (attachment 2) was presented to AJJA at its May 2011 meeting, at which AJJA requested that AIHW prepare a bid for CDSMAC funding (attachment 3), which was endorsed by AJJA at its November 2011 meeting. The funding bid (attachment 4) was endorsed by CDSMAC at its February 2012 meeting. Work on the project will commence in late 2012.

Additional data items

Part of the development of the recidivism data collection will involve developing and piloting additional data items. The required data items will be confirmed during the initial stage of the data collection development, but it is likely that offence type and offence date will be required (see attachment 2 for details).

At the March 2011 face-to-face RIG meeting, jurisdictions provided information on the availability of these items (Table 1).

Table 1: Data availability for recidivism data items (March 2011)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT
offence type	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes (but poor quality?)	no
offence date	new system	no	partial (full in new system)	yes	no	no (Tas Police)	no (NT Police)

An update of data availability for additional recidivism data items was provided for the survey of data availability in February 2012.

Table 2: Results of JJ RIG survey of data availability for 2011–12 collection period (Feb 2012)

Data item(s)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Date offence committed (juvenile offence)		Not available	Available		Not available	Not available; future availability unknown	Available	
Offence type (juvenile offence)		Available	Available		Available	Not available; future availability unknown	Available	
Date offence committed (adult offence)		Not available	Not available; possibly available 2012-13		Not available; available 2012-13 (in negotiation with Corrections)	Not available; future availability unknown	Not available	
Offence type (adult offence)		Not available	Not available; possibly available 2012-13		Not available; available 2012-13 (in negotiation with Corrections)	Not available; future availability unknown	Not available	
Date community-based supervision commenced (adult offence)		Not available	Not available; possibly available 2012-13		Not available; available 2012-13 (in negotiation with Corrections)	Not available; future availability unknown	Not available	
Date detention ended (adult offence)		Not available	Not available; possibly available 2012-13		Not available; available 2012-13 (in negotiation with Corrections)	Not available; future availability unknown	Not available	