

**Standing Council on Community and**

**Disability Services Advisory Council**

**Summary of funding proposal 2014–15**

**Part A – Project funding**

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| **Sub Committee or Working Group sponsoring the project**Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) |
| **Sponsor's contact officer or Secretariat**Committee responsible for the projectName Alison GraceTelephone 02 6205 9465e-mail **AJJASecretariat@act.gov.au** |
| 1. | Title of projectDevelopment of a linked data set for reporting on the experiences of young people who are in both Specialist Homelessness Services and youth justice systems in Australia.  |
| 2. | Purpose of projectThis project involves developing a linked data set that can be used to report on the experiences of homelessness for young people leaving the Youth Justice system, Specifically, it involves analysing linked data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJ NMDS) and the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC). |
| 3. | Outcomes to be achievedThe main outcomes of this project would be the analysis of a national dataset linking juvenile justice supervision and specialist homelessness services data to answer a range of exploratory key questions. These would include key issues such as:* What are the demographics and key characteristics of young people who are identified in both Specialist Homelessness Services and youth justice systems in Australia?
* Are young people under youth justice supervision at greater risk of homelessness than other young people, and is this more significant for certain population groups e.g. women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and/or in relation to where people live e.g. State or Territory, Remoteness.
* Are young people in particular parts of the youth justice system (e.g. sentenced detention) at a greater risk than other young people in the youth justice system of experiencing homelessness?
* What are the most common pathways for young people’s movement between youth justice supervision and Specialist Homelessness Services? Are they receiving services from specialist homelessness services after they complete youth justice supervision or before?)?
* To what extent do these young people have repeat periods of youth justice supervision and repeat needs for Specialist Homelessness Services?
* What support, services and assistance are provided by Specialist Homelessness Services to young people who have been in both Specialist Homelessness Services and juvenile justice systems?
* Is involvement in the youth justice system a risk factor for homelessness or vice versa? What are the characteristics of the young people who follow these paths?

The main output would be a report detailing the results of the analysis, and recommendations for future analytical work in this area.  |
| 4. | Benefits to be derived from the projectThe project will provide a unique insight into cross-sectoral involvement in relation to young people that appear across the two systems. Earlier feasibility studies relating to this topic have only been able to access selected data from jurisdictions that were in a position to supply them. It will therefore be the first time that two national administrative data sets from both of these sectors will be linked together using data from comparable financial years. The project differs from other work in progress (such as the SA-NT linkage program) in that it has a national focus (noting that not all jurisdictions currently contribute to the JJ NMDS). Further to this, prior work in this area used data from the former Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), which was not able to identify children as separate clients. AIHW will be able to draw on the full set of data from the JJ NMDS from 2000–01 to 2012–13; and the data from the first two years of the SHSC (2011–12 and 2012–13) (pending the timing of the project, 2013–14 data may also be available). The SHSC can now identify children as individual clients, meaning data linkage with this new information will provide a more accurate and complete picture of cross-sector involvement than previous projects have been able to provide. This is especially the case given the high validity rate of the statistical linkage key in both datasets. This linked data set will have the capacity to answer a range of policy questions at both state/territory and national level (see, for example, Section 3). It will also:* Provide valuable information about a highly disadvantaged group of young people.
* This information can be used for improving services for young people and for implementing, monitoring and evaluating targeted interventions to prevent young people from entering these sectors.
* Enable young people’s movements between these service sectors over time to be examined which can inform the development of policies that result in early intervention strategies and better outcomes for young people.
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| 5. | Proposed work program timeframes/ and milestones

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| **Step** | **Activity/milestone** | **Expected completion** |
| 1 | Establish project reference group | July 2014 |
| 2 | Review and revise previous data linkage methodology as required | Late 2014 |
| 3 | Detailed consultation on key analysis principles and questions | Early 2015 |
| 4 | Ethics Committee approvals as required | By Dec 2014 |
| 5 | Prepare data sets for linkage purposes | February 2015 |
| 6 | Perform data linkage and analyse linked dataset  | July 2015 |
| 7 | Draft report | September 2015 |
| 8 | Final report to SCCDSAC  | November 2015 |

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| 6. | Outcomes from earlier years work on this project *(if applicable)*AIHW is an accredited data linkage organisation. This project builds on the previous CDSMAC-funded projects to link child protection, SAAP and juvenile justice data (stage 1 and stage 2), which resulted in the following publications:* AIHW 2008. Linking SAAP, child protection and juvenile justice data collections: a feasibility study. Data linkage series no. 5. Cat. no. CSI 5. Canberra: AIHW.
* AIHW 2012. Children and young people at risk of social exclusion: links between homelessness, child protection and juvenile justice data. Data linkage series no. 13. Cat. no. CSI 13. Canberra: AIHW.
* AIHW 2012. Linking SAAP, child protection and juvenile justice data: technical report. Data linkage series no. 14. Cat. no. CSI 14. Canberra: AIHW.

In addition the SHSC has been used in two other recent data linkage projects—SHSC Housing data linkage project and *Connecting the Dots*:* The SHSC Housing data linkage project is currently being undertaken and involves SHSC data being linked with NSW and WA data for various social housing programs so that patterns of service usage for people who receive services under both programs can be understood and other aspects of these clients groups can be investigated.
* *Connecting the dots* was a joint study between the former Departments (Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Department of Human Services) and AIHW.
* This study linked SHSC data with Centrelink and employment services data so that it could be understood how employment and income support services could better work together for people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
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| 7. | Support for this project by other jurisdictions or principal committeesThe proposal is supported by the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) and the Housing and Homelessness Policy and Data Working Group. |

**Part B – Secretariat and project funding costs**

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|  | **Description** | 2014–15$ | 2015–16$ |
| Secretariat for a sub-committee or Working Group*(FTE calculation)* |  |  |  |
| Administrative costs |  |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |  |
| Meetings |  |  |  |
| **Total secretariat costs** |  |  |  |
| Work program |  | $141,800 | $54,300 |
| **Total project costs**  |  | $141,800 | $54,300 |
| Resources provided by sponsoring jurisdiction if relevant.*(e.g. secretariat/ administrative support)* |  |  |  |