

# Child protection and youth justice linked data collection: progress report 1

February 2014

## Background

The purpose of this project is to develop a linked data set that can be used to report on the relationships between child protection and youth justice. This project builds on previous projects linking child protection, SAAP and youth justice data (AIHW 2008, 2012a, 2012b). Outcomes will include the identification of key questions, a method to link these collections on an annual basis and the development of standard analysis to answer the key questions.

## Progress

### Establish reference group

A meeting was held with Mark Collis (AJJA Chair) in September 2013 to confirm scope and discuss the reference group. It was agreed that the RIG would be the reference group and that AJJA would determine the members of the project control group.

Following the meeting, the AIHW provided the AJJA secretariat with a list of milestones and dates for progress reports to the project control group.

### Review previous linkage project and identify and pilot any additional data items required for successful linkage

This activity is still in progress as it will need to be further discussions at the RIG meeting in April. No delay to the overall project is anticipated.

The method and results of the earlier project linking JJ NMDS data, SAAP NDC data and limited child protection data found that aliases and additional demographic detail were useful in identifying records belonging to the same person. Review of potential data items also found that a date accuracy indicator and information about child protection involvement would also assist the linkage.

A request for information about the availability of additional data items was sent to jurisdictions in October 2013. All jurisdictions had responded by late January 2013.

### Date accuracy indicator

Four jurisdictions can provide information on the accuracy of the date of birth. Of these, 2 can provide it at the detailed level of the METeOR date accuracy indicator (i.e. for each component of DOB), while the remaining jurisdictions can provide a simplified version.

**Recommend** that the piloting of a date accuracy indicator in the JJ NMDS be discussed further at the JJ RIG.

### Aliases

All states and territories record aliases, although there may be issues in accessing or extracting the information in the required format. Five jurisdictions indicated that they

would be able to provide letters of name for aliases in a consistent format with the letters of name data element in the JJ NMDS.

**Recommend** that the piloting of alias letters of name in the JJ NMDS be discussed further at the JJ RIG.

### **Additional demographic information**

Most jurisdictions record additional demographic information to that supplied for the JJ NMDS. The most common is preferred language.

**Recommend** that the piloting of additional demographic information for the purposes of linkage with child protection data be discussed further at the JJ RIG.

### **Child protection information**

Most jurisdictions record some information indicating that a young person has or has had an involvement in the child protection system, although this information is often limited and inconsistently recorded. Nevertheless, it would assist in the verification of links with the child protection data.

**Recommend** that the piloting of child protection information for the verification of links with child protection data be discussed further at the JJ RIG.

## **Milestones**

<b>Activity/milestone</b>	<b>Expected completion</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Establish reference group and confirm scope	October 2013	Completed	September 2013	
Review previous linkage project and identify and pilot additional data items required for successful linkage	January 2014	In progress		Additional data items identified and information provided by jurisdictions. Piloting requires further discussion at the RIG.
<i>Apply for SCCDSAC 2014–15 funding</i>	<i>June 2014</i>			
<i>Develop a method to link the data collections on an annual basis</i>	<i>September 2014</i>			
<i>Identify key questions to be answered by a linked data set in consultation with the reference group</i>	<i>January 2015</i>			
<i>Develop standard analysis and reporting on the linked data set</i>	<i>May 2015</i>			
<i>Final report to project control group, AJJA and SCCDSAC</i>	<i>September 2015</i>			

## **References**

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 2012a. Children and young people at risk of social exclusion: links between homelessness, child protection and juvenile justice. Data linkage series no. 13. Cat. no. CSI 13. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2012b. Linking SAAP, child protection and juvenile justice data: technical report. Data linkage series no. 14. Cat. no. CSI 14. Canberra: AIHW.

## Appendix: responses to information request

State	Date accuracy indicator	Aliases: availability	Aliases: format same as letters of name in JJ NMDS	Additional demographic info	CP info
NSW	Yes	Yes. Not linked to events	Yes	Religion COB – father COB – mother Ancestry Language (including first language spoken, language spoken at home)	Yes but inconsistently recorded. Includes CPO and OOHC placement.
Vic	Yes-assumption is that all DOB are accurate	Yes. Not linked to events.	yes	Preferred language (around 30% compliance) interpreter required ethnicity (NB around 60% compliance)	Yes - flag for those with current CPO or OOHC placement (inconsistently recorded). Can also obtain information by linking CP and YJ databases.
Qld	Simplified version at DOB level (not individual components)	Yes, but not available in data sets		Yes, NFS	Limited info, NFS
WA	No	Yes	Yes	Preferred language	No
SA	Simplified version, some info of individual components	Yes. Not linked to events. Possible issues with accessing info	Yes	Yes, including preferred language and family relationships	Privacy issues
Tas	No	Yes	No. Not recorded in consistent manner		Yes, but might breach privacy legislation.
ACT	No	Yes	No. Will be possible mid-2014	NESB	Available from CP database
NT	Yes	Yes. Date stamped	Yes	Ethnicity Nationality Birth suburb Birth state Birth country Religion	Court-ordered CPOs