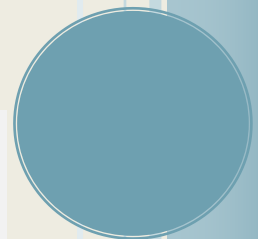




**Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators**  
***Annual Report 2014-15***

July 2015



# AUSTRALASIAN JUVENILE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

## *Acknowledgements*

Welcome to my first annual report as the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) Chair. This is the ninth annual report of AJJA.

I would like to thank former AJJA Chair Mark Collis and AJJA Secretariat Alison Grace (ACT) for driving the work of AJJA during the period from May 2012 to July 2014. You left big shoes to fill.

As the new AJJA Chair, I am confident that as a collective we are on the right track towards providing better outcomes for young people and the community.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment of members and jurisdictional contributors who are doing a fantastic job responding to the demands of AJJA business on top of their busy substantial departmental positions. We are already implementing many positive initiatives and driving policy and reform that will lead to better practice and greater effectiveness for young people in the youth justice system.

With that said I would like to take the opportunity to thank AJJA members for their support during my first year as AJJA Chair. I look forward to working with you all over the next 12 months to continue implementing the important AJJA agenda.

AJJA membership has remained largely consistent throughout the year. I would like to acknowledge Valda Ruis a long standing AJJA member for NSW who advised members at the May 2015 meeting she will retire early in the new financial year. Valda's contribution to AJJA and youth justice overall has been invaluable; her experience, knowledge, innovation, leadership, wit and friendship will be greatly missed by all members. We wish you all the best Valda.

I thank New South Wales and Western Australia for hosting the November 2014 and May 2015 face-to-face AJJA meetings. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for members to come together to identify areas of mutual interest and to progress the AJJA work plan.

I would also like to acknowledge Brian Lawrence AJJA member for WA who has taken long service leave for the next 12 months. His replacement during

this time is Caron Irwin, Assistant Commissioner Youth Diversion and Rehabilitation, Youth Justice Services. Ian Lanyon, Director, Secure Services, also assumed shared AJJA membership for Victoria in early 2015. Helen Pappas, Senior Director, Child and Youth Protection (Care and Protection and Youth Justice), AJJA member for the ACT replaced Mark Collis in November 2014. A very warm welcome to you all.

### ***Achievements and Activities***

Developing and influencing effective policy and systems in youth justice to provide better outcomes for young people underpins the ongoing relevance of AJJA. AJJA provides an invaluable forum to share success and learning across all states and territories, and New Zealand, to lead and influence inter-jurisdictional benchmarks for youth justice.



The reporting year saw ongoing reform in youth justice in all jurisdictions.

The overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system in Australia continued to be a critical focus for policy change across jurisdictions.



Demand driven matters of national concern such as the devastating impacts of the drug ice, the safety and security of youth justice detention facilities, and the implementation of the national disability insurance scheme were some projects of interest that AJJA agreed to pursue and continues to work on.



The Principles of Youth Justice in Australia (the Principles) were endorsed by all jurisdictions and publicly released in October 2014. AJJA has established the Principles as the foundation document for youth justice. The AJJA terms of reference were subsequently revised to align with the Principles. All other AJJA documentation is currently being reviewed to ensure it remains relevant and contemporary.

The reporting year also saw AJJA establish a new and favourable governance arrangement with the Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group (CPYJWG). CPYJWG expanded its representative scope to include jurisdictional youth justice specific representation and a split agenda to ensure youth justice matters are given an equal platform for discussion alongside child protection matters.

AJJA has continued to build on our partnership with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) having recently renewed Schedule 2 to the AJJA-AIHW Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the 2015-2018 period. AJJA has worked collaboratively with AIHW to deliver on the Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group (JJ RIG) work plan, including further analysis of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJ NMDS) for the development of measures to better understand youth recidivism and offending trends.

It has been a very busy year for AJJA and I am pleased to provide to you the annual report on the activities and achievements of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators for the period of 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.



Salli Cohen  
AJJA Chair

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## AJJA's Purpose and Membership

AJJA's membership comprises a minimum of one senior executive officer from each of the Australian state or territory departments and New Zealand who are responsible for the delivery of youth justice services.

During 2014/15 AJJA Members were:

Salli Cohen, Department of Correctional Services (AJJA Chair), NT

Sue Barr, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (Deputy Chair), SA

Helen Pappas, Community Services Directorate, ACT

Valda Ruisis, Department of Justice, NSW

Sean Harvey, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, QLD

Nicole Downing, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, QLD

Dr Susan Diamond, Department of Health and Human Services, Tas

Mark Mason, Department of Health and Human Services, Tas

Heather Thompson, Department of Human Services, Vic

Ian Lanyon, Department of Human Services, Vic

Brian Lawrence, Department of Corrective Services, WA

Caron Irwin, Department of Corrective Services, WA

Chris Polaschek, Child, Youth and Family Services, New Zealand

AJJA works collaboratively to lead and influence the development of youth justice systems to provide for better outcomes for young people and community.

This is achieved by:

- promoting the national principles and standards of youth justice;
- providing youth justice data and information to relevant committees;
- promoting and maintaining relevant benchmarks for youth justice administration through national principles, 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 matters.

AJJA is committed to supporting an evidenced-based approach when working with young people. Each year AJJA commissions research to help build the national evidence base for youth justice policy and best practice models. AJJA works collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the Productivity Commission and other research bodies in the development of this work.

As the responsibility for youth justice lies with each state and territory, legislative and policy differences between the jurisdictions make current data collections inconsistent. AJJA supports and promotes the collection of nationally comparable youth justice data for inclusion in the JJ NMDS that is managed by AIHW.

JJ NMDS data feeds into the majority of research published by the AIHW and also the *Report on Government Services* (RoGS) published by the Productivity Commission.



## Partnerships and Governance

### Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group

The Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group (JJ RIG) is a working group of AJJA and is responsible for developing comparable national youth justice data and key performance indicators. This year AJJA has reestablished a strong presence within JJ RIG with the AJJA Chair participating in all meetings, and the group providing strategic direction and supervision at both a jurisdictional and national level.

JJ RIG consists of representatives from each state and territory department responsible for youth justice, as well as AIHW, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and representatives from the Review of Government Service Provision (RGSP). JJ RIG is chaired by a member of AJJA (currently held by Victoria) with Secretariat support provided by AIHW.

JJ RIG is the technical vehicle for collecting jurisdictional data and providing expert advice to inform the research under the MoU between AJJA and AIHW.

In addition, JJ RIG works with AIHW and RGSP to provide technical expertise in the development of national performance indicators for youth justice services in Chapter 16, Youth Justice Services of RoGS.

JJ RIG meets face-to-face in March and conducts five teleconferences each year.

### Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a national agency with which AJJA has a standing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). AIHW is responsible for managing the JJ NMDS, collating and analysing data and publishing youth justice reports as specified under the MoU and research Schedule.

Schedule 1 to the MoU commenced on 1 July 2012 and expired on 30 June 2015. AJJA and AIHW are currently finalising Schedule 2 that sets out the work program and funding arrangements for the next three years – 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018.



## Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group

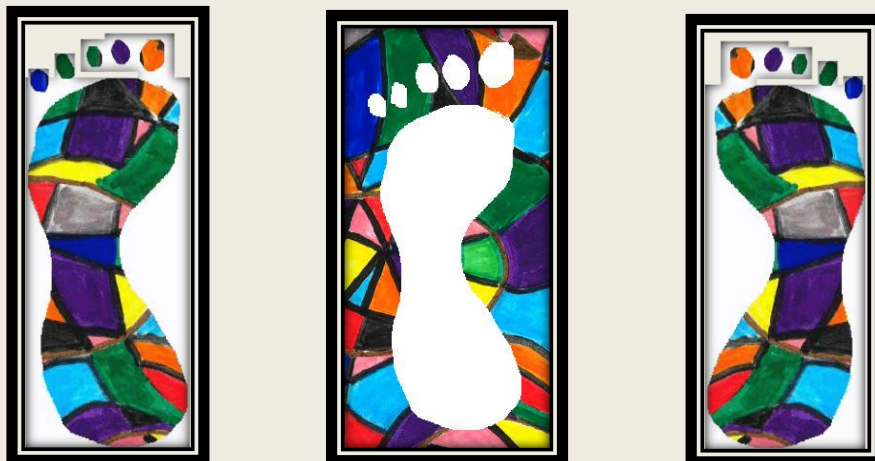
With the dissolution of the Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council (SCCDSAC), AJJA established a new governance arrangement with the Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group (CPYJWG) of the Review of Government Service Provision.

The Review is an inter-governmental exercise, operating under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and is overseen by a Steering Committee that is made up of senior officers from central agencies of each state and territory, and the Australian Government.

In December 2014, the Steering Committee agreed to AJJA's proposal that CPYJWG be expanded to include youth justice representation by the jurisdictional representatives on JJ RIG. JJ RIG members are now shared JJ RIG/CPYJWG members and provide expert technical advice on the development, improvement and reporting of youth justice performance indicators for RoGS and Chapter 16 of the CPYJWG Strategic Plan.

To add a further level of accountability to this arrangement the AJJA Chair has observer status on CPYJWG and the CPYJWG Secretariat has observer status on JJ RIG.

CPYJWG met on 30 March 2015 under the new governance arrangement. The agenda is now split into three parts to separate child protection and youth justice matters.



## Communities of Practice

A Communities of Practice site on the AJJA SharePoint has been created to provide multiple forums for the various working groups to interact and collaborate on AJJA projects. During the reporting period AJJA has established forums for the following topics of interest:

- RoGS Indicator Review
- Ice
- Youth Justice Detention Facility Design Guidelines
- National Disability Insurance Scheme.

A communication forum has also been established to enable executive and senior youth justice detention staff to share information, experiences, best practice and lessons learned on a range of relevant local/national operational matters between jurisdictions.

It is envisaged that once this forum is functioning, it will become a standing agenda item at AJJA face-to-face meetings. Participating practitioners from the hosting jurisdiction would attend the meeting to discuss critical issues and opportunities across the membership.

### RoGS Indicator Review Working Group

At the November 2014 meeting AJJA members agreed that each jurisdiction would establish a working group to undertake a review of the existing youth justice performance indicators. The purpose of the exercise is to determine which indicators are relevant and useful to inform the various youth justice priorities among jurisdictions.

Each jurisdiction will report on their individual RoGS assessments at the November 2015 meeting. A collective response and recommendations will be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration at its meeting in December 2015.

### Ice

In 2014-15 the “ice epidemic” was a topic of national interest. Ice had hit the shores in every jurisdiction and appeared to be having a profound impact on adults, young people their families and communities.

AJJA reviewed international and national research, and canvassed jurisdictional experience in dealing with young people in the system using ice, with a focus on risk management strategies. During the development of this project a national inquiry into ice and individual inquiries at the state and territory government level have been initiated.

## Youth Justice Detention Facility Design Guidelines

AJJA's 2014-15 work plan included resurrecting a previous project on Youth Justice Detention Facility Design Guidelines.

AJJA wants to ensure the physical design of a detention centre is consistent to provide a minimum standard across Australia. Safety and security aspects of facility design will be the primary focus of the guidelines to ultimately keep young people safe and secure, reduce incidents of suicide and/or attempted suicide, and also self-harm behaviours. It will also contribute to community safety by reducing the risk of escape. This work continues.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme

An AJJA led youth justice National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) working group has been established to provide a forum for sharing key learnings, avoid duplication of effort, and facilitate coordination of key implementation tasks across jurisdictions.

The information captured by the working group will feed into the overarching national NDIS principles to highlight and address the issues faced in the youth justice sector in accessing appropriate services. It will also ensure a more streamlined and consistent interface between youth justice and NDIS.

## 2014-15 Achievements

### Principles of Youth Justice in Australia

The Principles of Youth Justice in Australia (Principles) were endorsed by all states and territories and subsequently released in October 2014.

AJJA has established the Principles as the foundation document for youth justice. AJJA encourages and promotes all youth justice practitioners to use the Principles as a guide in the development, implementation and assessment across youth justice policy, program and service delivery.



The Principles are publicly available and accessible via the AJJA SharePoint [www.ajja.org.au](http://www.ajja.org.au)

Principles of Youth Justice in Australia posters have also been designed for display at all youth justice facilities and offices. These can also be accessed from the AJJA SharePoint.

### 2016 Australasian Youth Justice Conference

Following the success of the first Australasian Youth Justice Conference in 2013, *Changing Trajectories of Offending and Reoffending*, AJJA commenced work with the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to deliver the 2015 conference. Unfortunately, AIC is unable to remain a conference partner following its transfer to the Australian Crime Commission. AJJA determined it best to reschedule the second conference to 2016.

The 2016 conference will be held in Brisbane. AJJA has commenced work to identify a suitable partner to deliver what is hoped to be another highly relevant youth justice conference for young people, practitioners, non-government and government organisations, and youth justice academics.

The theme for the conference will be based on the Principles. AJJA members of the Conference Committee include Victoria, the Northern Territory and Queensland and will commence the conference preparations in the new financial year.

AJJA wishes to acknowledge the contribution AIC made not only as conference partner but also in the development of a number of youth justice specific projects.

## Publications and Projects

AJJA continues to fund and support the development of youth justice data collection and reporting. During the reporting year, AJJA has contributed to and/or funded the development of the following pieces of work:

- *Bulletin: Pathways through youth justice supervision: further analyses.*
- *Youth justice in Australia 2012-13: Stage 2.*
- *Developing a data collection to measure youth recidivism 2013-14: Stage 2.*
- *Youth detention population in Australia 2013-14.*
- *Using the JJ NDMS to measure returns to sentenced youth justice supervision: Stage 2.*
- *Youth justice in Australia 2013-14: Stage 1.*

AJJA continues to provide data and advice for the publication of RoGS 2015.

## 2014-15 Financials

In 2014-15, AJJA finances were administered by the Department of Correctional Services, Northern Territory Government.

The independent audit of AJJA finances was undertaken by BDO Audit (NT). The purpose of the audit is to formalise financial management arrangements for AJJA, as well as to establish in its own right financial governance processes to meet best practice standards.

### *Overview*

During the reporting year there was expenditure of \$14,097 from the research budget on projects by AIC. The remainder of the research budget was committed to funding other projects AJJA agreed to pursue.

From the Secretariat budget, there was expenditure of \$88,347. Secretariat expenses included the Secretariat's salary, on-costs and travel.

Please refer to Appendix A for the auditor's financial statement.



## Proposed 2015-16 Work Plan

### Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators

At the May 2015 meeting of AJJA, members agreed that due to the substantial amount of unused research funds, jurisdictions will not provide additional funding for research in 2015-16.

The work plan for AJJA for 2015-16 is as follows:

- Supervision of the JJ RIG and endorsement of associated publications and research projects.
- Supervision of AJJA established working groups and policy projects.
- Ongoing development and improvement of the AJJA SharePoint site.
- Establish a new partnership to coordinate and deliver the second Australasian Youth Justice Conference in November 2016.
- Review and update AJJA documentation.

### Juvenile Justice Research Information Group

The work plan for JJ RIG for 2015-16 is as follows:

- Manage the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set coordination (data collection, cleaning, analysis and support).
- Produce and publish the *Youth Justice in Australia Report*.
- Manage the non-JJ NMDS research components and produce and publish the *Youth Detention Population in Australia and Returns to Sentenced Supervision Reports*.
- Produce and publish the *Linkage Report*.
- 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.
- Propose information and data-related projects for consideration by AJJA.

## AJJA Contacts 2015-16

Jurisdiction	Representative
ACT	<u>Member</u> Helen Pappas, Senior-Director Child and Youth Protection (Care and Protection and Youth Justice) Community Services Directorate GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
NSW	<u>New Member</u> Denise Hanley, A/Executive Director Juvenile Justice Department of Justice Level 2, 20 Lee St, Chippendale NSW 2008
NT	<u>Chair</u> Salli Cohen, Executive Director Youth Justice Department of Correctional Services GPO Box 3196, Darwin NT 0801
QLD	<u>Member</u> Sean Harvey, Assistant Director-General Youth Justice Services Department of Justice and Attorney-General GPO Box 149, Brisbane QLD 4001
QLD	<u>Proxy</u> Nicole Downing, Acting Director Youth Justice Policy, Performance, Programs and Practice Department of Justice and Attorney General GPO Box 149, Brisbane QLD 4001
SA	<u>Deputy Chair</u> Sue Barr, Director Youth Justice Department for Communities and Social Inclusion GPO Box 292, Adelaide SA 5001
TAS	<u>Member</u> Dr Susan Diamond, Director Strategy, Program Development and Evaluation Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125 Hobart, Tas 7001
TAS	<u>Proxy</u> Mark Mason, Principal Analyst Planning, Program Development and Legislation Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125 Hobart, Tas 7001



VIC	<u>Shared Member</u> Heather Thompson, Assistant Director Youth Justice and Disability Forensic Unit Statutory and Forensic Services Design Branch Department of Health and Human Services Level 7, 50 Lonsdale St, Melbourne Vic 3000
VIC	<u>Shared New Member</u> Ian Lanyon, Director Secure Services Department of Health and Human Services 900 Park Street, Parkville, Melbourne Vic 3052
WA	<u>New Member</u> Caron Irwin, Assistant Commissioner Youth Diversion and Rehabilitation, Youth Justice Services Department of Corrective Services Level 3, Westralia Square, 141 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
NZ	<u>Member</u> Chris Polaschek, General Manager Youth Justice Support Child, Youth and Family Services PO Box 1556, Wellington 6011 New Zealand

## Glossary of Acronyms

AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AJJA	Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPYJWG	Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PC	Productivity Commission
JJ NMDS	Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set
JJ RIG	Juvenile Justice Research Information Group
RoGS	Report on Government Services
RGSP	Review of Government Service Provision
SCCDSAC	Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council

## Appendix A: 2015-16 Jurisdictional Contributions

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	NZ	Total
<b>Research<sup>i</sup></b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Secretariat<sup>ii</sup></b>	\$9,414	\$16,212	\$9,414	\$15,168	\$15,168	\$9,414	\$15,168	\$15,168	\$9,766	\$114,894
<b>AIHW MoU<sup>iii</sup></b>	\$6,355	\$123,484	\$4,014	\$77,625	\$27,799	\$8,522	\$95,754	\$8,666	N/A	\$352,219
<b>Total</b>	\$15,769	\$139,696	\$13,428	\$92,793	\$42,967	\$17,936	\$110,922	\$23,834	\$9,766	\$467,113

**Note:**

Figures are GST exclusive.

<sup>i</sup> Due to remaining funds from 2013-14, jurisdictions will not be invoiced for 2015-16 research contributions (funds not spent from the 2014-15 roll over).

<sup>ii</sup> CPI: 2.25%. Funds used for Secretariat wages, Secretariat travel expenses, and miscellaneous expenses.

<sup>iii</sup> Schedule 2 to the MoU was renewed on 1 July 2015 for a further three year period. Funds will be used for JJ NMDS coordination, Youth Justice in Australia, Youth Detention Population in Australia, Young People Returning to Youth Justice Supervision, Linkage Report, and JJ RIG Secretariat. See AJJA-AIHW MoU Schedule 2 for further information.



## PROVIDING FOR BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY

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Thank you to all AJJA members for permitting the use of photos and artworks taken or created by young offenders across the jurisdictions for AJJA's ninth Annual Report.  
Cover art entitled "Boat" from the Youth Education Centre, Adelaide Youth Training Centre, SA.  
Back cover art entitled "Board Walk" from the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre, NT.

