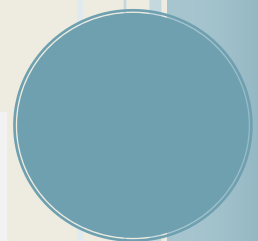


Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators *Annual Report 2015-16*

July 2016



AUSTRALASIAN JUVENILE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

Acknowledgements

This is the tenth annual report of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA). This report covers the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and marks the final annual report during my time as AJJA Chair.

The reporting year has been incredibly busy for all and once again I would like to acknowledge the commitment of members and jurisdictional contributors who prioritise the demands of AJJA business alongside the day-to-day demands of their substantial departmental positions.

While AJJA membership has remained largely consistent there have been several changes throughout the year. Denise Hanley, Acting Executive Director Juvenile Justice assumed AJJA membership for New South Wales in September 2015 following the retirement of longstanding AJJA member Valda Ruis. Karen Jabbour, Director Services to Young People, assumed shared AJJA membership for Tasmania in October 2015. Dr Mark Lynch, Director Youth Justice Policy, Performance, Programs and Practice, returned as AJJA member for Queensland in February 2016 having previously held AJJA membership from 1997 to 1998. Sue Barr AJJA member for South Australia who has taken long service leave for five months (from March to August 2016) was replaced by Rohan Bennett, Acting Director Youth Justice.

I would like to acknowledge Nicole Downing, AJJA member for Queensland, and Heather Thompson, shared AJJA member for Victoria and Chair for the Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group (JJ RIG) who both left youth justice at the beginning of 2016. Nicole and Heather's contribution to AJJA has been valuable and we wish you both all the best.

I thank Victoria and Tasmania for hosting the November 2015 and April 2016 face-to-face AJJA meetings. These meetings continue to provide an invaluable opportunity for members to come together to share knowledge and information and progress the AJJA work plan.

Achievements and Activities

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. Two significant projects AJJA pursued during the year were the AJJA Jurisdictional Review of Government Services Performance Indicator Review and planning the 2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference. Both projects expended a substantial portion of AJJA's 2015-16 work plan and at the time of writing this report continue to progress.

AJJA continues to work collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to deliver on the JJ RIG work plan, including building the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJ NMDS). AJJA also continues to strengthen our partnership with the Child Protection Youth Justice Working Group (CPYJWG) to report on youth justice performance indicators for the Review of Government Services (RoGS).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank AJJA members for their support during my term as Chair (July 2014 – July 2016). It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you all and to be part of this dynamic group of youth justice leaders. The genuine passion and knowledge you all bring to the table in order to provide better outcomes for young people and the community is to be commended. May you continue to drive change for youth justice in Australia and New Zealand.

I also wish to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Justine Maynard, AJJA Secretariat. Without Justine we may not have achieved what we have thus far; and I am delighted she will continue in the role when the Chair changes hands.

Victoria commences as AJJA Chair from July 2016 and Western Australia will assume the role of Deputy Chair.

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 2015 to 30 June 2016.



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 2015-16 AJJA Members were:

Salli Cohen, Department of the Chief Minister (AJJA Chair), NT

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

Helen Pappas, Community Services Directorate, ACT

Denise Hanley, Department of Justice, NSW

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

Dr Mark Lynch, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, QLD

Nicole Downing, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, QLD (07/15 – 02/16)

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

Karen Jabbour, Children and Youth Services, Tas

Mark Mason, Department of Health and Human Services, Tas

Heather Thompson, Department of Health and Human Services, Vic (07/15 – 02/16)

Ian Lanyon, Department of Health and Human Services, Vic

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 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.

AJJA is also committed to delivering a bi-annual Australasian Youth Justice Conference. The purpose is to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners from government and non-government sectors to participate in discussion and the exchange of ideas to tackle the complex issues impacting children and young people in youth justice.

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.

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 Productivity Commission (PC). JJ RIG is chaired by a member of AJJA (currently held by Queensland) 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 PC to provide technical expertise in the development of national performance indicators for youth justice services in Chapter 16 of RoGS.

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

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

The AIHW 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 2).

Schedule 2 to the MoU commenced on 1 July 2015 and sets out the program of research up to 30 June 2018.

Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group

The new governance arrangement between AJJA and CPYJWG was established in December 2014 to include a stand-alone youth justice agenda; and jurisdictional youth justice representation by the members on JJ RIG.

A review of the AJJA-CPYJWG governance arrangement is scheduled to be undertaken in 2017 following the first CPYJWG face-to-face meeting.

Over the past 12 months, AJJA and CPYJWG have been working closely and collaboratively to progress the AJJA Jurisdictional RoGS Performance Indicator Review (the Review). The majority of recommendations presented in the Review were supported by the Convenor of the CPYJWG. All together there were 35 recommendations:

- 25 recommendations were supported;
- seven recommendations required further work to be undertaken by CPYJWG or AJJA-JJ RIG; and
- three recommendations were not supported.

The Review has been included on the August agenda, for the Steering Committee for Review of Government Service Provision's (RGSP) deliberation, as part of the CPYJWG Convenor's Report.

Griffith Criminology Institute

In November 2015, the Griffith Criminology Institute (GCI) entered into a partnership agreement with AJJA to deliver the 2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference (the Conference) in September 2016.

AJJA and GCI established an Event Management Committee and a Conference Program Committee to progress all conference tasks. Each Committee has a balance of both AJJA and GCI membership and meetings are co-chaired by the AJJA Chair and the Director of GCI. AJJA members from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania participate in both Committees and have been fundamental in the decision-making, development and implementation of the Conference. The AJJA Secretariat provided secretariat services for the Committees and was responsible for joint project management alongside GCI and the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

2015-16 Achievements

AJJA Jurisdictional RoGS Performance Indicator Review

In July 2015, AJJA commenced an independent review of the Youth Justice Services Performance Indicator Framework (the Framework). Each state and territory established a RoGS Review Working Group (the Working Group) to undertake the exercise. Each Working Group consisted of broad membership to ensure all indicators were comprehensively considered. This was to better ensure that each jurisdiction captured any reporting issues/ambiguities of the indicators from a policy, operational, technical and financial perspective.

The purpose of the Review was to determine the relevance, appropriateness and usefulness of each existing indicator for youth justice in Australia. Also to identify and find explanation and resolution for the reporting differences across jurisdictions as the definitions of terms and interpretation of counting rules mean different things in different states and territories which provides for poor comparability.

One of the overarching findings from the Review was that the majority of indicators are output focused rather than outcomes focused. In some cases this meant that the qualitative information that the indicator infers is not measured and/or achieved as intended.

Two papers have been developed entitled:

Proposals to Amend the Youth Justice Services Performance Indicator Framework

This paper seeks approval to amend the Framework in order to:

- 1) improve the transparency, consistency and comparability of existing RoGS indicators; and
- 2) remove and/or redesign existing RoGS indicators that are not appropriate and do not achieve the outcome as intended.

Removal of the Offender-to-Staff-Ratio Youth Justice Performance Indicator from the Youth Justice Performance Indicator Framework

The purpose of this paper is to provide substantive reason and evidence to support the removal of the 'offender-to-staff-ratio' indicator from the Framework.

Both papers are still to be considered by the Steering Committee for RGSP in August.

2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference: From Evidence to Practice

AJJA delivers a bi-annual Australasian Youth Justice Conference as a mandatory requirement of the AJJA work plan.

For 2016, AJJA and GCI have partnered to deliver the 2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference: *From Evidence to Practice*.

Informed by the Principles of Youth Justice in Australia (the Principles), the Conference will be a three day event with a good mix of keynote sessions, workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities. The Principles is the foundation document for youth justice in Australia and is used by all youth justice practitioners as a guide in the development, implementation and assessment across youth justice policy, program and service delivery.

AJJA is very excited with the line-up of keynote speakers - Professor Linda Teplin (US), Professor Colleen Hayward, Ms Kylee Quince (NZ) and Professor Rob White – have all agreed to attend. We are also pleased that a number of Panels will form part of the Conference Program. At this point we have confirmed an Indigenous Practitioners Panel, Education Panel and a NGO Panel.

The Conference will be held in the South Bank area of Brisbane at the Brisbane Convention Centre from 13-15 September 2016. To date a number of scholars and youth justice leaders have confirmed their participation and we welcome and encourage the attendance of everyone who has an interest in youth justice.

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:

- *Young People Returning to Sentenced Youth Justice Supervision 2015*
- *Bulletin: Pathways Through Youth Justice Supervision*
- *Youth Justice in Australia 2013-14 Stage 2*
- *Linkage Project - Developing a Linked Data Collection on the Relationships Between Child Protection and Youth Justice Supervision*
- *Linkage Project - Analysing Relationships Between Child Protection and Youth Justice Supervision 2013-14*
- *Youth Detention Population in Australia 2015*

AJJA continues to provide data and advice for the publication of RoGS 2016.

Principles of Youth Justice in Australia

AJJA continues to acknowledge and promote the Principles as the foundation document for youth justice in Australia. AJJA regularly discusses the purpose and intent of the Principles to ensure they remain contemporary and relevant.

AJJA has recently revised the agenda of all AJJA face-to-face meetings and the template for the Jurisdictional Report to ensure they are reflective of the Principles.

The Principles and posters of the Principles are publicly available and accessible via the AJJA website www.ajja.org.au

AJJA Standards Review and Youth Justice Detention Facility Design Guidelines

In November 2015, AJJA members agreed that the Youth Justice Facility Design (YJFD) project should be undertaken as part of the AJJA Standards Review rather than a stand alone piece of work. The AJJA Standards and YJDF project will be carried out in a staged-approach. Queensland, South Australia and Victoria will work together to develop a scoping document as

the first stage. Queensland will lead the YJFD Working Group and progress the project.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

The AJJA National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Working Group continues to be an invaluable forum to share information and key learnings, and facilitate coordination of implementation tasks across jurisdictions.

Over the past 12 months the AJJA NDIS Working Group has established a mutually beneficial relationship with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to address youth justice NDIS interface issues and to develop information sharing protocols between NDIS and youth justice.



2015-16 Financials

In 2015-16, 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 \$89,696 from the research budget. AJJA contributed \$80,000 in seed funding to GCI to assist with Conference start-up costs, and \$9,696 went towards additional Conference costs¹, the AJJA SharePoint and the development of AJJA resources. The remainder of the research budget was committed to fund other projects AJJA agreed to pursue.

From the Secretariat budget, there was expenditure of \$136,046. Secretariat expenses included the Secretariat's salary, on-costs and travel.

Please refer to Appendix A for jurisdictional contributions and Appendix B for the auditor's financial statement.

¹ International travel and business class travel that was not included in the original Conference budget.

Proposed 2016-17 Work Plan

Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators

At the AJJA meeting in April 2016, members agreed that jurisdictions will not provide additional funding for the research budget in 2016-17.

The work plan for AJJA in 2016-17 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;
- re-development of the AJJA SharePoint and public website;
- review the AJJA Standards in alignment with the development of the Youth Justice Detention Facility Design Guidelines;
- establish a partnership with Orygen to produce a national piece of research regarding mental health in youth justice; and
- implementation of RoGS amendments endorsed by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision.

Juvenile Justice Research Information Group

The work plan for JJ RIG for 2016-17 is as follows:

- manage the JJ NMDS 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 *Young People Returning to Sentenced Youth Justice Supervision* reports;
- produce and publish the *Linkage* report;
- manage data contributions to the Productivity Commission report, *Report on Government Services 2016*; and
- manage all other data requests, and propose information and data-related projects for consideration by AJJA.

AJJA Contacts 2015-16

Jurisdiction	Representative
ACT	Helen Pappas, Senior Director Child and Youth Protection (Care and Protection and Youth Justice) Community Services Directorate GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
NSW	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 Social Policy Coordinator Department of the Chief Minister GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801
QLD	Sean Harvey, Assistant Director-General Youth Justice Services Department of Justice and Attorney-General GPO Box 149, Brisbane QLD 4001
QLD	Dr Mark Lynch, 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	Dr Susan Diamond, Director Strategy, Program Development and Evaluation Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125 Hobart, Tas 7001
TAS	Karen Jabbour, Director Services to Young People Children and Youth Services Gellibrand House, St Johns Park, New Town TAS 7008
TAS	Mark Mason, Principal Analyst Planning, Program Development and Legislation Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125 Hobart, Tas 7001

VIC	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	Ian Lanyon, Director Secure Services Department of Health and Human Services 900 Park Street, Parkville, Melbourne Vic 3052
WA	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	Chris Polaschek, General Manager Youth Justice Support Child, Youth and Family Services PO Box 1556, Wellington 6011 New Zealand

Glossary of Acronyms

AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AJJA	Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators
CPYJWG	Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group
GCI	Griffith Criminology Institute
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
JJ NMDS	Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set
JJ RIG	Juvenile Justice Research Information Group
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
PC	Productivity Commission
RGSP	Review of Government Service Provision
RoGS	Report on Government Services
YJFD	Youth Justice Facility Design

Appendix A: 2015-16 Jurisdictional Contributions

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	NZ	Total
Researchⁱ	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Secretariatⁱⁱ	\$9,414	\$16,212	\$9,414	\$15,168	\$15,168	\$9,414	\$15,168	\$15,168	\$9,766	\$114,894
AIHW MoUⁱⁱⁱ	\$6,355	\$123,484	\$4,014	\$77,625	\$27,799	\$8,522	\$95,754	\$8,666	N/A	\$352,219
Total	\$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.

ⁱ Due to remaining funds from 2014-15 roll-over, jurisdictions were not invoiced for 2015-16 research contributions.

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

ⁱⁱⁱ 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.

Appendix B: Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators Financial Statements 30 June 2016

Principles of Youth Justice in Australia

Offending behaviour is prevented and young people are diverted from the justice system

The youth justice system holds young people accountable for their behaviour

Effective support to victims of youth offending

Effective policy and service responses to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the justice system

Authentic collaboration across service systems

Service responses are evidence based

Developmental needs of young people are addressed

Interventions are informed by the drivers of offending and the assessed risk of future offending

Health and mental health needs of young people are addressed

Support to young people is individualised and reflects the diversity of cultures and communities in which they live

Find out more www.ajja.org.au



PROVIDING FOR BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY

Cover art from the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre, NT (exhibited at the 'Behind the Wire Art Exhibition').