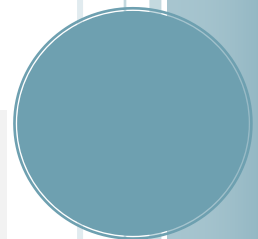




## **Australasian Youth Justice Administrators *Annual Report 2018-19***

**July 2019**



# AUSTRALASIAN JUVENILE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

## *Acknowledgements*

Welcome to my first annual report as the Australasian Youth Justice Administrators (AYJA) Chair. This is the thirteenth annual report of AYJA and covers the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

I would like to thank former AYJA Chair Julia Griffith (Victoria – June 2017 to April 2019) for driving the work of AYJA during her tenure.

AYJA membership had several changes during the year. I would like to acknowledge those members who are no longer with AYJA.

- Mark Burgess, member for Western Australia 2017-19
- Sean Harvey, long-standing member for Queensland 2013-18
- Phil Hall, member for Queensland 2017-18
- Rohan Bennett, member for South Australia 2017-2018
- Sasha Robinson, member for the Northern Territory 2017-2018

AYJA would like to extend appreciation to you for your commitment and contribution and wish you all the best.

I would like to acknowledge Darren Hegarty A/Assistant Director-General Youth Justice, who assumed membership for Queensland in April 2018. Darren is a former member of AYJA representing Queensland from 2011-12. Welcome back Darren and we look forward to working with you again.

Chris Simcock A/Executive Director Youth Justice, assumed membership for the Northern Territory in September 2018, and Andy Hughes A/Assistant Commissioner Youth Justice Services, assumed membership for Western Australia in February 2019.

A very warm welcome to you all.

I thank the Northern Territory for hosting the November 2018, face-to-face AYJA meeting, particularly during such a challenging time for the Northern Territory. I would also like to thank NSW for hosting the May 2019, face-to-face meeting following the Australasian Youth Justice Conference. These meetings continue to provide an important opportunity for members to come together to share knowledge and information and progress the AYJA work plan.

## *Achievements and Activities*

AYJA continues to work collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Productivity Commission to deliver on the youth justice program of research, and youth justice performance indicators for the Review of Government Services (RoGS) respectively.

While AYJA completed the majority of priority tasks during the reporting year, there were three significant achievements I would like to highlight:

- The rebranding of 'AJJA' to 'AYJA' to reflect the contemporary changes that have been made to youth justice.
- The review and redesign of the Principles of Youth Justice in Australia (the Principles).
- The successful delivery of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australasian Youth Justice Conference (AYJC or the Conference).

The Conference was an intensive eight month project that expended a substantial portion of AYJA's 2018 and 2019 work plans and will be the focus of this report.

As the new AYJA Chair I would like to take the opportunity to thank members for your support and I look forward to working with you all to progress AYJA on the national platform.

I am pleased to provide to you the annual report of the newly branded Australasian Youth Justice Administrators for the period of 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.



Michael Homden  
AYJA Chair

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## AYJA Membership

AYJA'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 2018-19 AYJA members were:

Michael Homden, Department of Human Services (AYJA Chair), SA

Julia Griffith, Department of Justice and Regulation (AYJA Chair 7/17-4/19), VIC

Brigid Sunderland, Department of Justice and Regulation (AYJA Chair 5/19), VIC

Sudha Joseph, Department of Justice and Regulation, VIC

Sasha Robinson, Territory Families, NT (9/17-7/18)

Chris Simcock, Territory Families, NT

Jodie Robinson, Community Services Directorate, ACT

Melanie Hawyes, Department of Justice, NSW

Darren Hegarty, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, QLD

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

Greg Brown, Department of Health and Human Service, TAS

Mark Burgess, Department of Corrective Services, (Deputy Chair 5/17-2/19), WA

Andy Hughes, Department of Corrective Services, (Deputy Chair), WA

Allan Boreham, Ministry for Children – Oranga Tamariki, NZ

Phil Dinham, Ministry for Children – Oranga Tamariki, NZ

## Publications

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

- *Youth Justice in Australia*
- *Returns to Sentenced Youth Justice Supervision*
- *Young People Receiving Child Protection Services Under Youth Justice Supervision*
- *Youth Detention Population in Australia*

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

## Principles of Youth Justice in Australia

AYJA continues to acknowledge and promote the Principles as the foundation document for youth justice in Australia.

In April 2019, the revised and redesigned Principles were launched at the Australasian Youth Justice Conference. The products include a poster and brochure. The conceptual art and colour scheme were inspired from the new AYJA logo with a focus on collaboration.

The Principles products are publicly available and accessible via the AYJA website [www.ayja.org.au/](http://www.ayja.org.au/)





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Australasian Youth Justice Conference: Contemporary Challenges, Innovative Solutions



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

In collaboration with JJ NSW, AYJA partnered with the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to deliver the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australasian Youth Justice Conference: *Contemporary Challenges, Innovative Solutions*.

AYJA and AIC established a Conference Program Committee (CPC) to progress all conference tasks. The CPC had a balance of both AYJA and AIC membership and meetings were chaired by Matthew Willis Research Manager for AIC. AYJA members South Australia, Victoria, NSW and New Zealand participated in the CPC alongside Anna Patterson Events Manager from Conference Design and JJ NSW representatives. All members were fundamental in the decision-making, development and implementation of the Conference.

The AYJA Secretariat provided secretariat services to the CPC and was responsible for joint project management alongside AIC and JJ NSW.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all CPC members for their commitment to oversee the conference planning and program development tasks and also the many hours of additional work participating in teleconferences and ongoing deliberations. Without you the Conference may not have been as successful as it was. Thank you to:

Rick Brown - AIC  
Matthew Willis – AIC

Nicole Wallis – AIC (2018)  
Olivia Morley – AIC (2018)  
Anna Patterson – Conference Design  
Michael Homden – AYJA/SA  
Phil Dinham – AYJA/NZ  
Julia Griffith – AYJA/VIC  
Mel Hawyes – AYJA/NSW  
Mike Wheaton – JJ NSW  
Murray Hillan – JJ NSW  
Justine Maynard – AYJA Secretariat

## The Essence of the Conference

The theme of the Conference was appropriately entitled "Contemporary Challenges, Innovative Solutions" and emphasised embracing and reflecting the need for forward-thinking approaches to issues highlighted by recent inquiries and the need for advancement in youth justice.

Innovation underpinned the ethos of the Conference and the Conference Program was curated to ensure the range of contemporary challenges that youth justice currently faces were strongly reflected in every session stream. The overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and Māori children and young people was also a critical focus of the Conference and responsive and holistic approaches to address overrepresentation issues is threaded throughout the Program. There was a large New Zealand contingent at the conference so cultural innovations, co-designed strategies and initiatives, and partnership approaches in place were shared with their Australian counterparts.

## AYJC 2019

The Conference was held at the International Convention Centre in Sydney from 30 April to 2 May 2019. The Conference was a three day event with a good mix of presentations, keynote addresses, Q & A, workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities. There was local and national media coverage for the duration of the Conference.

Attendance was close to 350 with participants from across Australia, and New Zealand.





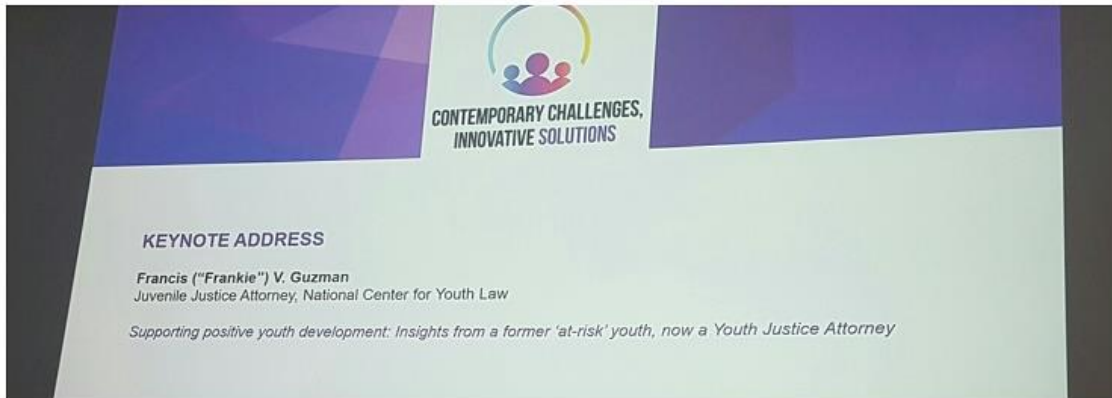
**Photo: The International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour Sydney NSW**

The line-up of keynote speakers included Gráinne Moss, Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki, Ministry for Children (NZ), Frankie Guzman, Juvenile Justice Attorney, National Center for Youth Law (US), Indi Clarke, Executive Officer of the Koorie Youth Council (VIC), Peta Lowe, Director CVE, Juvenile Justice, NSW Department of Justice (NSW) and Julie Edwards, Chief Executive Officer, Jesuit Social Services (VIC). Each keynote session attracted a full house and was followed by engaging Q & A.

The program also included 40 presentations, three plenary panels, three discussion panels and three poster presentations. Speaker presentations were delivered by a diverse range of academics, researchers, practitioners, advocates, and government and non-government representatives.

The three plenary panels discussed the following:

- Narratives of violence and how they affect youth justice prevention and response initiatives.
- Young people and violent extremism: Practitioners reflections.
- Early intervention – the roles of schools, police, communities and courts in diverting young people from the criminal justice system.



**Photo: International keynote speaker Frankie Guzman and session chair Jodie Robinson AYJA member for the ACT**

The Conference Program and speaker presentations can be accessed via the AYJA website at [www.ayja.org.au](http://www.ayja.org.au) or the AYJC 2019 website at [www.ayjconference.com.au](http://www.ayjconference.com.au)

## Juvenile Justice - New South Wales Department of Justice

An opportunity available to the jurisdiction that hosts the Conference is showcasing local youth justice initiatives and innovations. JJ NSW showcased some works from right around the state, in order to provide conference attendees a snapshot of what JJ NSW is, and what they do. The showcase consisted of posters, original art works, information packs, Cultural items, multimedia, music and other projects. It demonstrated the wide variety of programs ran across the state, as well as the talent exhibited by the young people in art, dance, storytelling, music and the arts.

JJ NSW consists of six detention centres, 34 community offices and a court logistics, classification and placement team. All young people under community supervision or custody care take part in a number of rehabilitative programs. Young people in custody also attend school through the Department of Education.

A special thank you to NSW for hosting the Conference on behalf of AYJA, and for also providing local resources to assist with various Conference tasks.



Photo: Collage of display pieces showcased as part of the JJ NSW initiatives and innovations exhibition



## Reflection

The Conference provided a useful platform for a wide range of stakeholders to come together and consider the challenges and opportunities in working with children and young people in the current environment. A strong, collaborative effort was acknowledged due to the children and young people in the youth justice system often coming with complexities beyond the remit of the youth justice service system.

AYJA members actively engaged in all sessions over the three days and had many conversations with researchers, policy makers and practitioners from government and non-government sectors. AYJA members were enthused by these discussions and had a chance to consider how to use new learnings and ideas at the AYA face-to-face meeting that followed the Conference.

As a result, AYJA proposed establishing a Feeder Forum event in between the Conferences specifically for custodial staff as it was noted that the Conference Program lacked content/discussions from a practice perspective. The Feeder Forum is now project priority for the AYJA work plan.

Members also considered the Conference feedback. In particular, what worked well, what didn't work so well, new ideas, and areas for improvement for the next AYJC.



**Photo: AYJA Face-to-Face meeting hosted by Mel Hawyes AYJA member for NSW at the Department of Justice (JJ NSW)**

## 2018-19 Financials

In 2018-19, AYJA finances were administered by the Department of Justice and Regulation, Victorian Government.

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

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

## AYJA Contacts 2018-19

| Jurisdiction | Representative   |
|--------------|--|
| ACT          | Jodie Robinson, Senior Director<br>Child and Youth Protection - Operations<br>Community Services Directorate                 |
| NSW          | Melanie Hawyes, Executive Director<br>Juvenile Justice<br>Department of Justice  |
| NT           | Chris Simcock, A/Executive Director<br>Operational Support and Youth Justice<br>Territory Families                           |
| QLD          | Darren Hegarty, A/Assistant Director-General<br>Youth Justice<br>Department of Child Safe, Youth and Women                   |
| SA           | <u>Chair</u><br>Michael Homden, Executive Director<br>Youth Justice<br>Department of Human Services                          |
| TAS          | Dr Susan Diamond, Director<br>Strategy, Program Development and Evaluation<br>Department of Communities                      |
| VIC          | Julia Griffith, Deputy Secretary<br>Youth Justice<br>Department of Justice and Regulation                                    |
| WA           | <u>Deputy Chair</u><br>Mark Burgess, A/Assistant Commissioner<br>Youth Justice Services<br>Department of Corrective Services |
| NZ           | Allan Boreham, Deputy Chief Executive<br>Youth Justice Services<br>Ministry of Vulnerable Children – Oranga Tamariki         |



## Glossary of Acronyms

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| AIC     | Australian Institute of Criminology              |
| AIHW    | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare       |
| AYJA    | Australasian Youth Justice Administrators        |
| AYJC    | Australasian Youth Justice Conference            |
| CPC     | Conference Program Committee                     |
| CPYJWG  | Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group |
| JJ NMDS | Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set       |
| JJ NSW  | Juvenile Justice New South Wales                 |
| JJ RIG  | Juvenile Justice Research Information Group      |
| RoGS    | Report on Government Services                    |

## Appendix A: 2018-19 Jurisdictional Contributions

|                                 | ACT      | NSW       | NT       | QLD      | SA       | TAS      | VIC       | WA       | NZ       | Total            |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| <b>Research<sup>i</sup></b>     | \$500    | \$9,588   | \$300    | \$6,011  | \$2,102  | \$635    | \$7,713   | \$3,147  | \$450    | \$30,450         |
| <b>Secretariat<sup>ii</sup></b> | \$10,138 | \$17,459  | \$10,138 | \$16,334 | \$16,334 | \$10,138 | \$16,334  | \$10,138 | \$10,517 | \$126,821        |
| <b>AIHW MoU<sup>iii</sup></b>   | \$6,111  | \$119,142 | \$3,825  | \$74,745 | \$26,564 | \$8,080  | \$92,867  | \$40,530 | N/A      | \$371,865        |
| <b>Total</b>                    | \$16,749 | \$146,189 | \$14,263 | \$97,090 | \$45,000 | \$18,853 | \$116,914 | \$53,815 | \$10,967 | <b>\$529,136</b> |

**Note:**

Figures are GST exclusive.

<sup>i</sup> 2018-19 was the first year since 2013 that members made contributions to the research budget.

<sup>ii</sup> CPI: 2.5%. Funds used for Secretariat wages, Secretariat travel expenses, and miscellaneous expenses.

<sup>iii</sup> Schedule 3 to the MoU was renewed on 1 July 2018 for a further three year period. Funds will be used for JJ NMDS coordination, Youth Justice in Australia, Youth Detention Population in Australia, Returns to Sentenced Youth Justice Supervision, Young People Receiving Child Protection Services Under Youth Justice Supervision, and JJ RIG Secretariat.

Refer to Schedule 3 of the AYJA-AIHW MoU for further information.

## Appendix B: AYJA Financial Statements 30 June 2019



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

Cover photo is a collage of the JJ NSW showcase.  
 Back cover photo is of session chairs from AYJA, AIC and JJ NSW.

