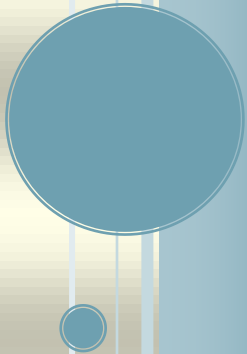




Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators *Annual Report 2016-17*

July 2017



AUSTRALASIAN JUVENILE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

Acknowledgements

Welcome to my first annual report as the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) Chair. This is the eleventh annual report of AJJA and covers the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

I would like to thank former AJJA Chairs Salli Cohen (Northern Territory - July 2014 to July 2016) and Ian Lanyon (Victoria – July 2016 to April 2017) for driving the work of AJJA during their tenures. AJJA appreciates the contribution they have made.

AJJA membership has experienced significant change in the last half of the year with departmental restructures occurring across Australian youth justice services and also in New Zealand. I would like to acknowledge those members who are no longer with AJJA.

- Chris Polaschek, longstanding member for New Zealand, 2008-2017
- Mark Mason, longstanding proxy for Tasmania, 2013-2017
- Helen Pappas, member for the Australian Capital Territory, 2014-2017
- Denise Hanley, member for New South Wales, 2015-2016
- Dr Mark Lynch, member for Queensland, 2016 (February to October)
- Karen Jabbour shared member for Tasmania, 2016-2017
- Amanda Nobbs-Carcuro, shared member for the Northern Territory, 2016-2017

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

I would also like to acknowledge Caron Irwin member for Western Australia who is on secondment for six months (from April 2017). Her replacement during this time is Mark Burgess, Assistant Director Youth Justice Services.

Melanie Hawyes, Executive Director Juvenile Justice, assumed membership for New South Wales in September 2016; Phil Hall, Acting Director Youth Justice Policy, Performance, Programs and Practice assumed membership for Queensland in October 2016; and Amanda Nobbs-Carcuro, Acting Director Youth Justice and Karen Broadfoot, Acting General Manager Youth Justice, assumed shared membership for the Northern Territory in August 2016 and November 2016 respectively.

More recently, Emily Sanders, Director Policy and Strategy Youth Justice assumed shared membership for Victoria; Leonie Watson, Acting Director Services to Young People and Jane Wood, Acting Manager, Planning and Program Support replaced Karen Jabbour and Mark Mason as shared member and proxy for Tasmania respectively; Allan Boreham, Deputy Chief Executive Youth Justice Services, replaced Chris Polaschek as member for New Zealand; and Jodie Robinson, Director Child and Youth Protection Services – Operations, replaced Helen Pappas as member for the Australian Capital Territory. A very warm welcome to you all.

I thank Queensland for hosting the September 2016 face-to-face AJJA meeting. These meetings continue to provide an important opportunity for members to come together to share knowledge and information and progress the AJJA work plan.

Challenges

Youth justice across jurisdictions continues to respond to challenges and contribute to improving community safety. AJJA plays a key role in supporting all states and territories in this regard.

Achievements and Activities

AJJA continues to work collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to deliver on the Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group (JJ RIG) work plan, including building the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJ NMDS) and youth justice evidence base. 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).

The most significant achievement for AJJA during the reporting year was the successful delivery of the 2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference (AYJC or the Conference). The Conference was an intensive nine month project that expended a substantial portion of AJJA's 2016-17 work plan and will be the focus of this report.

As the new AJJA Chair I would like to take the opportunity to thank members for their support and I look forward to working with you all to implement the AJJA agenda.

I am pleased to provide to you the annual report of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators for the period of 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.



Julia Griffith
AJJA Chair

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AJJA 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 2016-17 AJJA Members were:

Julia Griffith, Department of Justice and Regulation (AJJA Chair), VIC
Emily Sanders, Department of Justice and Regulation, VIC
Ian Lanyon, Department of Health and Human Services, VIC (07/16-04/17)
Karen Broadfoot, Territory Families, NT
Amanda Nobbs-Carcuro, Territory Families, NT (08/16-04/17)
Sue Barr, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, SA
Jodie Robinson, Community Services Directorate, ACT
Helen Pappas, Community Services Directorate, ACT (07/16-04/17)
Melanie Hawyes, Department of Justice, NSW
Denise Hanley, Department of Justice, NSW (07/16-09/16)
Sean Harvey, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, QLD
Phil Hall, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, QLD
Dr Mark Lynch, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, QLD (07/16-10/16)
Dr Susan Diamond, Department of Health and Human Services, TAS
Leonie Watson, Children and Youth Services, TAS
Jane Wood, Department of Health and Human Service, TAS
Karen Jabbour, Children and Youth Services, TAS (07/16-04/17)
Mark Mason, Department of Health and Human Services, TAS (07/16-04/17)
Caron Irwin, Department of Corrective Services (Deputy Chair), WA
Mark Burgess, Department of Corrective Services, WA
Allan Boreham, Ministry of Vulnerable Children – Oranga Tamariki, NZ
Chris Polaschek, Child, Youth and Family Services, NZ (07/16-04/17)

For the first time in many years there has been a significant change in membership. AJJA heads into the new financial year with a new group of youth justice administrators to lead and influence the development of youth justice systems.

Publications

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:

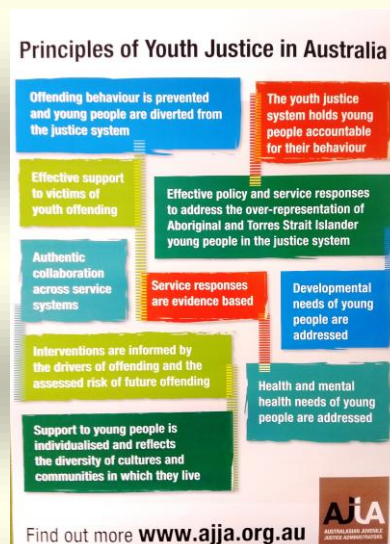
- *Returns to Sentenced Youth Justice Supervision 2015-16*
- *Youth Justice in Australia 2015-16*
- *Young People Receiving Child Protection Services Under Youth Justice Supervision 2015-16*
- *Youth Detention Population in Australia 2017*

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

Principles of Youth Justice in Australia

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

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



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.

AJJA partnered with the Griffith Criminology Institute (GCI) to deliver the 2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference: *From Evidence to Practice*.

AJJA and GCI established an Event Management Committee and a Conference Program Committee to progress all conference tasks. Each Committee had a balance of both AJJA and GCI membership and meetings were co-chaired by the AJJA Chair and the Director of GCI Professor Ross Coomber. AJJA members from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and Tasmania participated in both Committees and were fundamental in the decision-making, development and implementation of the Conference.

The AJJA Secretariat provided secretariat services for both Committees and was responsible for joint project management alongside GCI and the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee 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 the success that it was. Thank you to:

Ross Coomber - GCI
Stuart Kinner - GCI
Simon Little - GCI
Melanie Gunn - GCI
Carrie Zhang - GCI
Salli Cohen – AJJA/NT
Ian Lanyon – AJJA/VIC
Caron Irwin – AJJA/WA
Mark Mason – AJJA/TAS
Mark Lynch – AJJA/QLD
Leigh Krenske - QLD
Tanya Strub - QLD
Justine Maynard - AJJA

The Essence of the Conference

The theme of the Conference was appropriately entitled "From Evidence to Practice". AJJA is firmly committed to supporting an evidence-based approach when working with children and 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 and progression of this work.

One of AJJA's stalwart achievements to better ensure best practice and national consistency has been the establishment of the Principles of Youth Justice in Australia. AJJA encourages and promotes all youth justice practitioners to use the Principles in the development, implementation and assessment across youth justice policy, program and service delivery.

The Principles underpinned the ethos of the Conference and the conference program was carefully curated to ensure the Principles were strongly reflected in every session stream.

The overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people was also a critical focus of the Conference, and responsive and holistic approaches to address overrepresentation issues were threaded throughout the program.

AYJC 2016

The Conference was held in the South Bank area of Brisbane at the Brisbane Convention Centre from 13-15 September 2016. The Conference was a three day event with a good mix of presentations, keynote addresses, Q and A, workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities. There was local and national media coverage for the duration of the Conference.

Attendance was close to 250 with participants from across Australia, and New Zealand.



The line-up of keynote speakers included Professor Linda Teplin (US), Professor Colleen Hayward (WA), Associate Professor Rosemary Purcell (VIC), Ms Kylee Quince (NZ), Associate Professor Adrian Cherney (QLD) and Professor Rob White (TAS). Each keynote session attracted a full house and was followed by engaging Q and A.

Ms Khylee Quince was a crowd favourite with her charismatic and powerful presentation - *“Rangatahi Courts as Social Justice: Beyond Restorative and Towards Transformative Justice”*. Another crowd favourite was Associate Professor Adrian Cherney who did a very relevant and honest policy presentation highlighting *“What Hinders Moving from Evidence to Practice”*.



The program also included 44 presentations/workshops, three discussion panels and nine poster presentations. Speaker presentations/workshops were delivered by a diverse range of academics, researchers, practitioners, advocates, and government and non-government representatives.

The three panels comprised of an Indigenous Practitioners Panel, an Education Panel and a NGO Panel. Each Panel had membership from various jurisdictions to ensure that a broad range of perspectives, experiences, partnerships and provision of service would be covered. Like the keynote sessions the discussion panels attracted a majority audience and were informative and interactive.



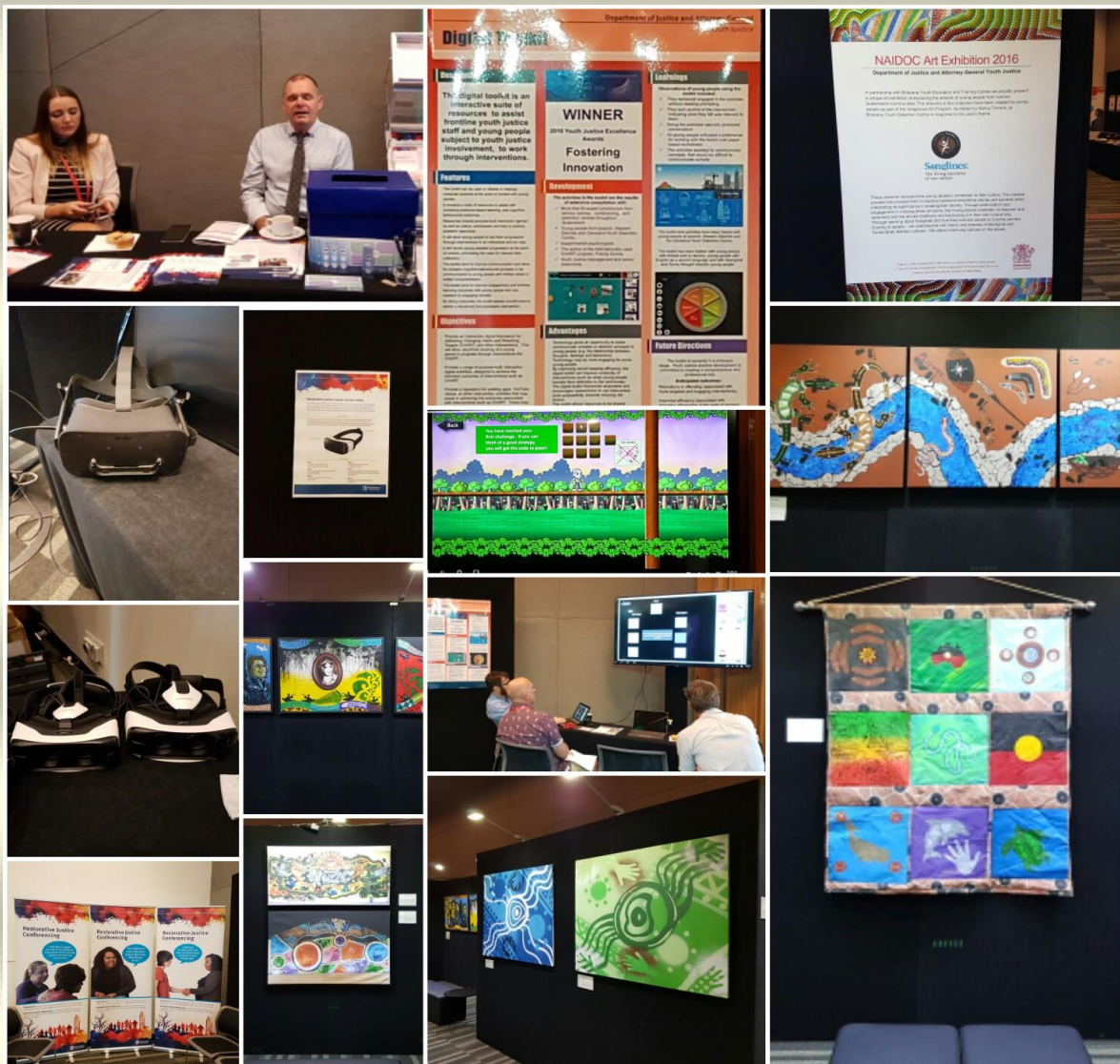
A copy of the conference program and speaker slides can be accessed via the Griffith Criminology Institute website at <https://www.griffith.edu.au/criminology-law/griffith-criminology-institute/news-and-events/events/from-evidence-to-practice-the-2nd-australasian-youth-justice-conference>



Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General

An opportunity available to the jurisdiction that hosts the Conference is setting up a display room to showcase local youth justice initiatives and innovations. The Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) showcased a range of new interactive technologies being piloted in Queensland youth justice; a mini gallery of artworks created by young people in detention; and a poster presentation for the Youth Justice First Nations Action Board. The DJAG display room was very successful and one of the most popular features of the Conference.

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



The First Nations Action Board (the Board) was a stand-out presentation delivered by several up-and-coming Indigenous leaders in DJAG who also provide regional representation on the Board. The Board is directed by esteemed senior youth justice practitioner and Indigenous Elder Uncle Arnold Wallis. The purpose of the Board is to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consideration is forefront in all youth justice strategy, policy, and practice developed within DJAG. The Board ultimately provides an Indigenous voice and lens for youth justice in Queensland.

It is an inspirational and aspirational initiative intended to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the Queensland youth justice system.



Reflection

Youth Justice is receiving much national interest and scrutiny. The Conference provided a useful platform for a wide range of stakeholders to come together and consider the challenges and opportunities in working effectively. 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.

AJJA 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. AJJA members were enthused by these discussions and had a chance to consider how to use new learnings and ideas at the AJJA face-to-face meeting that followed the Conference.

As a result six tasks were identified that would better position AJJA to support any potential COAG (Council of Australian Governments) decisions regarding youth justice and to be recognised as an integral youth justice advisory body going forward. These tasks are now project priorities for the AJJA 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.



2016-17 Financials

In 2016-17, AJJA finances were administered by the Department of Correctional Services, Northern Territory Government (July 2016-February 2017) and the Department of Justice and Regulation, Victorian Government (March 2016-June 2017).

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 \$3,128 for the annual AJJA Sharepoint fees and the financial audit fee.

For Secretariat-related costs, there was expenditure of \$138,896. Secretariat expenses included the Secretariat's salary, on-costs, travel and relocation costs.

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

AJJA Contacts 2016-17

Jurisdiction	Representative
ACT	Jodie Robinson, Director Child and Youth Protection - Operations Community Services Directorate GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
NSW	Melanie Hawyes, Executive Director Juvenile Justice Department of Justice GPO Box 31 Sydney NSW 2001
NT	Karen Broadfoot, A/General Manager Youth Justice Territory Families GPO Box 40596, Casuarina NT 0810
QLD	Sean Harvey, Assistant Director-General Youth Justice Services Department of Justice and Attorney-General GPO Box 149, Brisbane QLD 4001
QLD	Phil Hall, A/Director Youth Justice Policy, Performance, Programs and Practice Department of Justice and Attorney General GPO Box 149, Brisbane QLD 4001
SA	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	Leonie Watson, A/Director Services to Young People Department of Health and Human Services 119 Cameron Street, Launceston TAS 7250

TAS	Jane Wood, A/Manager Planning and Program Development Department of Health and Human Services GPO Box 125 Hobart, TAS 7001
VIC	<u>Chair</u> Julia Griffith, Deputy Secretary Youth Justice Department of Justice and Regulation Level 26, 121 Exhibition St, Melbourne VIC 3000
VIC	Emily Sanders, Director Policy and Strategy Youth Justice Services Department of Justice and Regulation Level 12, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
WA	Mark Burgess, Assistant Director Youth Justice Services Department of Corrective Services Level 3, Westralia Square, 141 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
NZ	Allan Boreham, Deputy Chief Executive Youth Justice Services Ministry of Vulnerable Children – Oranga Tamariki PO Box 546, Wellington 6001 New Zealand

Glossary of Acronyms

AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AJJA	Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators
AYJC	Australasian Youth Justice Conference
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPYJWG	Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Queensland)
GCI	Griffith Criminology Institute
JJ NMDS	Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set
JJ RIG	Juvenile Justice Research Information Group
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
RoGS	Report on Government Services

Appendix A: 2016-17 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	\$9,649	\$16,618	\$9,649	\$15,547	\$15,547	\$9,649	\$15,547	\$15,547	\$10,010	\$117,766
AIHW MoUⁱⁱⁱ	\$6,218	\$120,810	\$3,926	\$75,944	\$27,196	\$8,338	\$93,679	\$41,178	N/A	\$377,289
Total	\$15,867	\$137,428	\$13,575	\$91,491	\$42,743	\$17,987	\$109,226	\$56,725	\$10,010	\$495,055

Note:

Figures are GST exclusive.

ⁱ Due to remaining funds from 2015-16 roll-over, jurisdictions were not invoiced for 2016-17 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: AJJA Financial Statements 30 June 2017



PROVIDING FOR BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY

Cover photo is a collage of AJJA members from the 2nd Australian Youth Justice Conference held in Brisbane from 13-15 September 2016.

