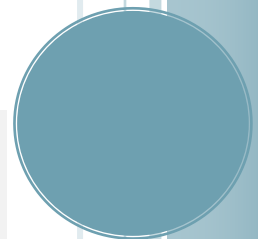




Australasian Youth Justice Administrators *Annual Report 2019-20*

July 2020



AUSTRALASIAN YOUTH JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

Acknowledgements

Welcome to my first annual report as the Australasian Youth Justice Administrators (AYJA) Chair. This is the fourteenth annual report of AYJA and covers the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

I would like to thank former AYJA Chair Michael Homden (South Australia – May 2019 to April 2020) for driving the work of AYJA during his tenure.

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

- Melanie Hawyes, long-standing member for New South Wales 2016-19
- Greg Brown, member for Tasmania 2017-19
- Sudha Joseph, member for Victoria 2017-19
- Michael Homden, member for South Australia 2018-20

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

I would like to acknowledge Bob Gee Director-General Youth Justice, who assumed shared membership for Queensland in November 2019.

Paul O'Reilly Executive Director Youth Justice, assumed membership for New South Wales in September 2019.

Bill Burton Director Policy and Strategy, Youth Justice, assumed membership for Victoria in November 2019, and Pam Honan Director Strategic Youth Services assumed shared membership for Tasmania in November 2019.

A very warm welcome to you all.

I thank the ACT for hosting the November 2019, face-to-face AYJA meeting. As fate would have it, this would be the last face-to-face meeting for AYJA during this financial year with the COVID-19 pandemic reaching our shores in March 2020.

Achievements and Activities

The AYJA work plan for 2020, like for everything else this year, has been significantly disrupted by COVID-19 with many priorities being put on hold as jurisdictional resources were redirected to focus on the COVID response.

The evolving youth justice response to COVID-19 will be the focus of this report.

However, amongst the chaos AYJA continued 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 was not able to undertake many of the priority tasks during the reporting year, there has been completion and progression in several areas that I would like to highlight:

- The Detention Centre Management (DCM) Advisory Group was established in September 2019, and subsequently held its first face-to-face meeting in November 2019.
- The design and development of the DCM website was completed and went live in April 2020.
- Significant planning tasks to pilot a custodial Feeder Forum event were progressed and on track to be delivered in August 2020. With the onset of COVID the Feeder Forum will now be delivered as a series of virtual sessions during 2021.
- Significant planning tasks for the 4th Australasian Youth Justice Conference (AYJC or the Conference) have been progressed and the event is on track for delivery in November 2021.
- The first phase of the AYJA Standards Review project has been completed by the National Youth Justice Policy Forum (NYJPF).
- Jurisdictions continue to progress implementation tasks for OPCAT and Child Safe Standards.
- AYJA continues to be represented on the Child Safety Sector Leadership Group (CSSLG) facilitated and led by the National Office for Child Safety.
- In response to COVID-19, AYJA established a national youth justice weekly COVID meeting to allow jurisdictions to share challenges, learnings and good practice to assist in pandemic planning and implementation tasks.

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 with the annual report for the period of 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.



Andrew Beck
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 2019-20 AYJA members were:

Andrew Beck, Department of Justice (AYJA Chair 6/20 to present), WA

Tanya Castellias, Department of Justice, WA

Michael Homden, Department of Human Services (AYJA Chair 6/19-4/20), SA

Katherine Hawkins, Department of Human Services, SA

Jodie Robinson, Community Services Directorate, ACT

Melanie Hawyes, Department of Communities and Justice, NSW (9/16-9/19)

Paul O'Reilly, Department of Communities and Justice, NSW

Chris Simcock, Territory Families, NT

Darren Hegarty, Department of Youth Justice, QLD

Bob Gee, Department of Youth Justice, QLD

Greg Brown, Department of Communities, TAS (11/17-10/19)

Dr Susan Diamond, Department of Communities, TAS

Pam Honan, Department of Communities, TAS

Sudha Joseph, Department of Justice and Community Safety, VIC (11/17-11/19)

Brigid Sunderland, Department of Justice and Community Safety, VIC

Bill Burton, Department of Justice and Community Safety, VIC

Allan Boreham, Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, NZ

Phil Dinham, Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, 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 reports and/or research projects:

- *Youth Justice in Australia*
- *Returns to Sentenced Youth Justice Supervision*
- *Young People Receiving Child Protection Services and Under Youth Justice Supervision*
- *Youth Detention Population in Australia*
- *Health After Youth Justice Linkage Project*
- *National Crime and Justice Data Linkage Project.*

AYJA continues to provide data and technical 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.

The Principles products are publicly available and accessible via the AYJA website www.ayja.org.au/



COVID-19



In March 2020, a new strain of coronavirus, COVID-19, that had not been previously identified in humans caused a global outbreak.

As COVID-19 is spread through contaminated droplets from

coughing or sneezing, or by contact with contaminated hands, surfaces or objects, impacts to youth justice, particularly within the detention centres, was a major concern.

In response to the evolving nature of the situation, jurisdictions developed a series of staged contingency and continuity plans to manage and maintain youth justice service delivery in the event COVID impacted the youth justice workforce, stakeholders and/or young people.

AYJA members convened a weekly COVID meeting to share their plans, and to keep the conversations going as a way of assisting each other in such challenging and unprecedented times.

Ad hoc sessions that focused on COVID recovery were also convened when required. The purpose of COVID recovery sessions was to discuss what operations look like in the new normal environment, to share identified efficiencies, and best practice models for moving in and out of a pandemic space should a new wave of COVID or something similar happen again.

To date, many lessons learned have come from the COVID information sharing platform particularly as each state and territory in Australia, and New Zealand responded to the pandemic with varying levels of restrictions. Subsequently, varying levels, and

timeframes for recovery were also experienced.

Some jurisdictions recovered quickly and have been operating 'business as usual' for a long time due to hard border closures, while other jurisdictions continue to deal with community spread and strict living restrictions.

Going forward, AYJA will continue to convene COVID-related meetings and report-backs as necessary.

Impacts on AYJA Business

An essential component of AYJA business is attending face-to-face meetings twice a year. Generally, meetings are held over two days to provide an important opportunity for members to come together to share knowledge and information, and progress the AYJA Work Plan.



Photo: AYJA face-to-face meeting hosted in Canberra by Jodie Robinson AYJA member for the ACT, at the Bimberi Youth Detention Centre.

Due to ongoing travel and gathering restrictions in 2020, AYJA now meets virtually, with a substantial

amount of out-of-session tasks circulated between meetings to address surplus agenda items.

While the virtual platform has become a part of everyday business in the new normal, AYJA looks forward to resuming face-to-face meetings once feasible.

The AYJA working groups also meet at least once a year for a face-to-face meeting. They too have resorted to videoconferencing to progress priorities on behalf of AYJA. While not as effective or productive as a face-to-face meeting due to time restraints, technical issues, concentration spans, and competing priorities, virtual meetings are an excellent mechanism for the working groups to collaborate and engage with their national and international colleagues.

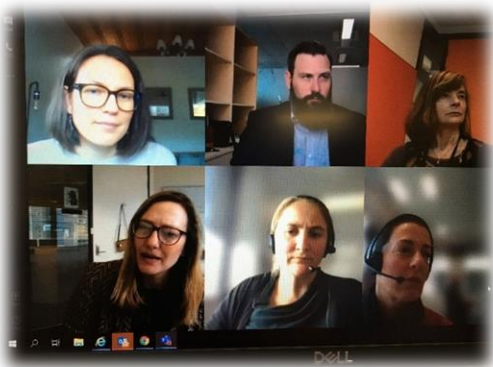


Photo: Virtual meetings, the new normal. AYJC 2021 Conference Program Committee meeting.

AYJC 2021



The biennial AYJA Conference has been impacted by COVID-19. As it is an international event there is ongoing uncertainty around travel, accommodation and gathering restrictions. The Conference will be hosted in New Zealand for the first time. The current delivery date is now scheduled for 16-18 November 2021. The original delivery date was April 2021.

AYJA, in collaboration with Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, has partnered with the University of Auckland to deliver the Conference. The Conference will be held at the University’s Business School.

The Conference Program Committee (CPC), chaired by Phil Dinham AYJA member for New Zealand, has progressed conference planning tasks as a face-to-face event. However, hybrid and other virtual components have been explored and will be available to implement should COVID-related restrictions remain an issue in 2021.

Similarly, the DCM Feeder Forum event that was scheduled to be piloted in August 2020, has had to

be postponed. In the current climate the Feeder Forum is now going to be delivered as a series of virtual sessions in 2021. The Feeder Forum Event Committee (FF EC) chaired by the AYJA member for QLD continue logistical planning tasks.

AYJA Work Plan

The majority of priority and general tasks in the AYJA Work Plan for 2020, were either put on hold, deferred or cancelled. This resulted in a review of priority projects and other AYJA commitments, and also resetting key dates and outputs in the Work Plan.

AYJA business is starting to resume and it looks as if the next financial year will see the jurisdictions progressing the national work again.

The Work Plan for 2021, will be considered and confirmed at the AYJA meeting in November.

2019-20 Financials

In 2019-20, AYJA finances were administered by the Department of Justice, Western Australian 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.

Overview

During the reporting year there was expenditure of \$5,704 from the research budget. The remainder of the research budget has been committed to fund progressing and implementing AYJA priorities in 2021.

From the Secretariat budget, there was expenditure of \$149,006. 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*.

AYJA Contacts 2019-20

Jurisdiction	Representative
ACT	Jodie Robinson, Executive Senior Branch Manager Child, Youth and Families Community Services Directorate
NSW	Paul O'Reilly, Executive Director Youth Justice Department of Communities and Justice
NT	Chris Simcock, Executive Director Youth Justice Operations Territory Families
QLD	Bob Gee, Director-General Youth Justice Department of Youth Justice
SA	Katherine Hawkins, Executive Director Youth Justice Department of Human Services
TAS	Dr Susan Diamond, Director Strategy, Program Development and Evaluation Department of Communities
VIC	Bill Burton, Director Policy and Strategy, Youth Justice Department of Justice and Community Safety
WA	<u>Chair</u> Andrew Beck, Deputy Commissioner Women and Young People Department of Justice
NZ	Allan Boreham, Deputy Chief Executive Youth Justice Services Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children

Glossary of Acronyms

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
CSSLG	Child Safety Sector Leadership Group
DCM	Detention Centre Management
FF EC	Feeder Forum Event Committee
NYJPF	National Youth Justice Policy Forum
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture
PC	Productivity Commission
YJ DIG	Youth Justice Research Information Group
YJ NMDS	Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set
RoGS	Report on Government Services

Appendix A: 2019-20 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	\$10,651	\$18,343	\$10,651	\$17,161	\$17,161	\$10,651	\$17,161	\$17,161	\$11,050	\$129,990
AIHW MoUⁱⁱⁱ	\$6,294	\$122,717	\$3,940	\$76,988	\$27,361	\$8,322	\$95,653	\$41,746	N/A	\$383,021
Total	\$16,749	\$141,060	\$14,591	\$94,149	\$44,522	\$18,973	\$112,814	\$58,907	\$11,050	\$513,011

Note:

Figures are GST exclusive.

ⁱ 2018-19 was the first year since 2013, that members made contributions to the research budget. The funds were carried over into the 2019-20 with no further contributions invoiced.

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

ⁱⁱⁱ Schedule 3 to the MoU was renewed on 1 July 2018 for a further three year period. Funds will be used for YJ NMDS coordination, the following reports *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 the YJ DIG Secretariat role.

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

Appendix B: AYJA Financial Statements 30 June 2020



PROVIDING FOR BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY

Cover photo is a virtual AYJA meeting.