



AUSTRALASIAN YOUTH  
JUSTICE CONFERENCE

**4TH AUSTRALASIAN YOUTH JUSTICE CONFERENCE**

**AYJC 2021 ONLINE**

**DELIVERING YOUTH JUSTICE FOR THE  
COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY**

# WELCOME

## WELCOME

The Australasian Youth Justice Administrators (AYJA) in collaboration with Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children New Zealand and partnered with the University of Auckland (UoA) welcome you to the 4th Australasian Youth Justice Conference and the very first time this conference has been delivered exclusively online.

Conference planning was well advanced to deliver a face-to-face event that highlighted community-led innovation. However, after much deliberation over the current COVID-19 situation in New Zealand and Australia and the impact on international travel, AYJA decided to pivot the conference to a virtual format.

Over the next three days the conference will bring together youth justice administrators, practitioners and policymakers from government and community organisations, together with academics, students and others with a keen interest in effective, innovative youth justice outcomes.

Whether you are attending to present, to hear from others – or both – we look forward to having you join us for AYJC 2021!

## Conference Committee

Phil Dinham  
Charlotte Wilson  
Hannah Fillmore  
Mandy Loundar  
Chris Simcock  
Tanya Castellas

Liina Neeme  
Ashley Astell  
Ian Lambie  
Justine Maynard  
Karen Foster

## CONFERENCE HOST AND PARTNERS



**DELIVERING YOUTH JUSTICE  
FOR THE COMMUNITY,  
BY THE COMMUNITY**



AUSTRALASIAN YOUTH  
JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Virtual Platform

The platform will open 24 hours before the conference commences on Tuesday, 16 November 11.00am NZDT. Below is some important information to log into, navigate and optimise your experience on the platform.

All the times are listed on the Conference Program are in the **New Zealand Time Zone (NZT)**. However, the platform allows you to adjust the time zone into real-time hours wherever you are located. You will be prompted to select your preferred time zone when you first access the platform.

Please note that NZT is 2 hours ahead of AEDT and 5 hours ahead of AWST.

Daily conference start time:

11:00am NZDT  
9:00am AEDT  
6:00am AWST

It is recommended that you use Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Opera to access the platform. Firefox and Safari are also compatible. Clear your cookies and cache prior to logging in and disable any VPN's you may be using. Also, ensure you have a Stable Internet connection (minimum 5Mbps for both upload and download, and your device must have either an integrated or external camera/webcam and a microphone in order to participate in any interactive sessions or networking functions.

To optimise the broadcast of virtual conference sessions, please do not use 'incognito' or 'hidden search' browser settings.



Give us a shout out on twitter!

# #AYJC2021

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Features and Functions

**Virtual Attendee Portal:** home to all the event details that you'll need

**Timeline:** sets out the programme and shows the upcoming sessions in real-time

**Sessions:** this is where our live sessions will take place

**Speakers:** this is where you can learn more about our speakers and access their abstracts

**Networking Hub:** this is where you can connect to your peers in a range of forums

**Poster Gallery:** this is where you can access the posters and information provided for the poster presentations

**On Demand Gallery:** this is where you can watch presentations that you may have missed or would like to watch again

**Spotlight Series Presentations:** this is where you can access the AYJA spotlight series videos produced by different jurisdictions

**Virtual Swag Bag:** this is where you can find a range of resources to enhance your conference experience

**Event Feed:** this is where you can chat, post a comment and give the conference a shout out in real-time [#AYJC2021](#)

**Live Support:** this is where you can ask any questions and seek assistance at any time during the conference

**Account:** this is where you can upload more information about yourself, as well as add your contact details and socials so other attendees can network with you.



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# #AYJC2021



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Judge John Walker**  
Principal Youth Court  
Judge  
New Zealand



**Lisa Ward**  
Youth Justice Expert  
VIC Australia



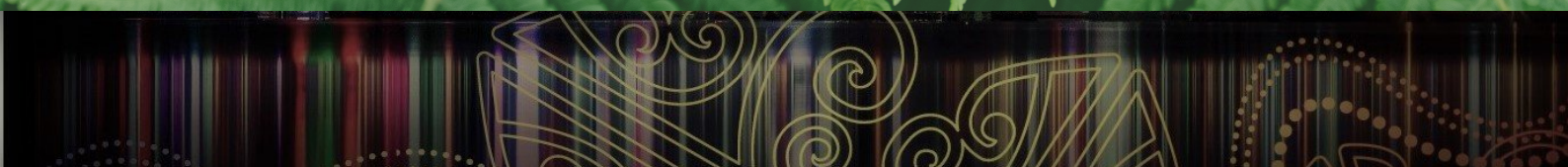
**Isaiah Sines**  
Youth Engagement  
Officer  
Just Reinvest  
NSW Australia



**Justin Mohamed**  
Commissioner for  
Aboriginal Children and  
Young People  
VIC Australia



**Judge Louis Bidois**  
National Rangatahi Court  
Judge  
New Zealand





# PROGRAM

## DAY 1 - TUESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2021

**11:00am – 11:25am** Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks

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**11:25am – 11:30am** Break

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**11:30am – 12:30pm** **CONCURRENT SESSION A**

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### **Stream 1: Working together to improve the system**

**Session Chair - Silvia Lopic**

**11:30am – 11:50am** Kathryn Khademi

Encouraging Positive Improvement and Change (EPIC): A journey of best practice and workforce readiness

**11:50am – 12:10pm** Carol Kitson and Isaac Walsh

Youth Justice Demand Model V1: Implementing an evidence-based knowledge platform for decision-making

**12:10pm – 12:30pm** Liz Marsden and Juliet Erihe

A Strong and Trusted Relationship: Meeting the needs of rangatahi (young people) and whānau (family)

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### **Stream 2: Connecting culture – law to lore**

**Session Chair - Michelle Hopkins**

**11:30am – 11:50am** Hayley Bruce, Rhiannon Outen and Haley Burton

Therapy: The Journey of an EBP to community implementation across Australia and New Zealand

**11:50am – 12:10pm** Paul Davis

Embedding Culture into Practice: Weaving an Aboriginal young person's cultural story into supervision

**12:10pm – 12:30pm** Hone Fletcher

Ararau: From law to lore

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### **Stream 3: Diversity and inclusion**

**Session Chair - Bill Burton**

**11:30am – 11:50am** Kylie Williams

A Multi-systemic Approach to Diversity and Inclusion

**11:50am – 12:10pm** Robert Webb, Talia Wright-Bardohl and Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni

Building upon Understandings of Māori and Samoan Experiences of Youth Justice

**12:10pm – 12:30pm** Treyce Maynard

Te Timatanga Hou: A new beginning

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**12:30pm – 12:50pm** Break

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**12:50pm – 1:50pm**

**PLENARY SESSION**

**Keynote Address 1: Judge John Walker - Principal Youth Court Judge New Zealand**

The New Zealand Youth Court – Influencing Change in the Wider System

**Session Chair - Allan Boreham**

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**1:50pm – 2:00pm**

Performance

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**2:00pm – 2:20pm**

Break

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**2:20pm – 3:20pm**

**CONCURRENT SESSION B**

**Stream 1: Working together to improve the system**

**Session Chair - Jane Wood**

**2:20pm – 2:40pm** Grace O'Brien

Surveillance, Profiling and Over-policing of First Nations Boys in Australia

**2:40pm – 3:00pm** Karl Severinsen

Oranga Rangatangi: Iwi partnerships and community expertise create bespoke approaches to prevention

**3:00pm – 3:20pm** Kristie Dellar

Poster Presentation - Evaluating the Effectiveness of Intervention Programs for Adolescent Male Offenders in Western Australia

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**Stream 2: Health and Wellbeing**

**Session Chair - Silvia Lapic**

**2:20pm – 2:40pm** Dr John Kasinathan and Dr Leigh Haysom

Collaborative Approach to COVID-19 Associated with Significant Reduction in Self-harm in Young People in Custody

**2:40pm – 3:00pm** Dr Pauline Zardo and Darren Hegarty

Navigate Your Health: Working collaboratively to change young people's story through better health

**3:00pm – 3:20pm** Luke Francis

Occupational Therapy in Youth Justice and a Sensory Modulation Framework for the Youth Custodial Environment

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**Stream 3: Diversity and inclusion**

**Session Chair - Chris Simcock**

**2:20pm – 2:40pm** Joe Graham

Kohine Maia: Prevention programme for wahine Māori (Māori women) who have offended

**2:40pm – 3:00pm** Naomi Fuamutu

Understanding Aiga (family) in Youth Justice: Reflections from the south side

**3:00pm – 3:20pm** Andrea Davidson

Developing a Service Model to Respond to Volatile and Violent Behaviour in Youth Custody

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**3:20pm – 3:40pm**

Break

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**3:40pm – 4:40pm**

**PLENARY SESSION**

**Keynote Address 2: Lisa Ward - Youth Justice Expert Victoria, Australia**

10 Things Every Youth Justice System Must Do

**Session Chair: Phil Dinham**

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**4:40pm – 5:25pm**

**PLENARY SESSION**

**Panel Discussion 1: Children Before the Courts: Addressing access to justice requirements of children with neurodisability**

Kasey Tyler, Sally Kedge, Judge Tony Fitzgerald and Hayley Passmore

**Session Chair - Louisa Hackett**

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**5:25pm – 5:30pm**

Reflection – Phil Dinham

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**DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

**11:00am – 11:10am**

Day 2 Check-in

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**11:10am – 12:10pm**

**CONCURRENT SESSION C**

**Stream 1: Working together to improve the system**

**Session Chair - Pam Honan**

**11:10am – 11:30am** Steve Barracosa

At-risk and Radicalised Youth Offenders: Countering violent extremism in an evolving Australian context

**11:30am – 11:50am** Tommy Wilson

Te Tuinga Whānau and Oranga Tamariki: Weaving the community together

**11:50am – 12:10pm** Alayne Mckee

Collaborating to Ensure Good Communication Practice in Family Group Conferences (FGCs)

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**Stream 2: Health and wellbeing**

**Session Chair - Silvia Lopic**

**11:10am – 11:30am** Dr Rohan Borschmann

Health and Welfare Outcomes for Young People Following Release from Incarceration in Queensland, Australia

**11:30am – 11:50am** Emily Lodge and Aaron Matchitt

Utilising Intensive Wraparound Service to Work Differently with Tamariki (children) At-risk of Future Offending Behaviour

**11:50am – 12:10pm** Dr Gemma Russell and Sally Norton

Responsive Case Management: Knife Crime Program Pilot

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## **Stream 3: Weaving the voices of lived experience with best practice**

**Session Chair - Phil Dinham**

**11:10am – 11:30am** Shaylee Matthews

My Journey My Life (Yinnar)

**11:30am – 11:50am** Shelley Turner

Co-producing Knowledge with Justice-involved Young People: A critical examination

**11:50am – 12:10pm** Justin Power

My Family, Our Decisions, Our Way

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**12:10pm – 12:30pm**

Break

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**12:30pm – 1:15pm**

### **PLENARY SESSION**

#### **Panel Discussion 2: Pae Whakapuranga: Functional Family Therapy – Cross Generations**

Pita Te Ngaru, Juliet Eritje, Jennofer Garton, Silvia Dash and Liesl Niania-Sharples

**Session Chair: Bill Burton**

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**1:15pm – 1:25pm**

Performance

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**1:25pm – 1:45pm**

Break

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**1:45pm – 2:45pm**

### **PLENARY SESSION**

#### **Keynote Address 3: Isaiah Sines - Youth Engagement Officer Just Reinvest NSW, Australia**

Mounty Yarns: Lived Experiences

**Session Chair: Chris Simcock**

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**2:45pm – 3:05pm**

Break

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**3:05pm – 4:05pm**

### **PLENARY SESSION**

#### **Keynote Address 3: Justin Mohamed - Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People Victoria Australia**

Our Youth, Our Way

**Session Chair: Mike Wheaton**

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**4:05pm – 5:25pm**

### **CONCURRENT SESSION D**

#### **Stream 1: Working together to improve the system**

**Session Chair: Ian Lambie**

**4:05pm – 4:25pm** Kristie Dellar

Poster Presentation - Overrepresentation of Young Indigenous Offenders: Differences in criminogenic risk/needs and Implications for practice

**4:25pm – 4:45pm** Tamara Blakemore

Postcards from Practice: Learnings from the Name. Narrate. Navigate program

**4:45pm – 5:05pm** Lindsay Pearce

Multisectoral Data Linkage to Understand Health and Mortality Outcomes for Justice-involved Young People

**5:05pm – 5:25pm** Ngaire Lyall, Megan Hart and Aneta Mihinui

Whakatakopokai: Connecting the past to the present and future

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## **Stream 2: Health and Wellbeing**

**Session Chair - Mandy Loundar**

**4:05pm – 4:25pm** Melanie O'Connell and Melissa Zampatti

A Lessons Learned Approach to FASD Awareness in WA Youth Justice Services

**4:25pm – 4:45pm** Mary Woodward

You Can't Afford to Miss This

**4:45pm – 5:05pm** Larissa Ashton and Melissa Saliba and Luke Francis

Tailoring Interactions in Response to Young People's Sensory and Communication Needs

**5:05pm – 5:25pm** Lucas Calais Ferreira

Non-communicable Disease, Multimorbidity, and Mortality Among Justice-involved Young People: A data linkage study

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## **Stream 3: Building a robust and resilient youth justice workforce**

**Session Chair - Darren Hegarty**

**4:05pm – 4:25pm** Jodie Elder

Co-responder: Collectively responding to high-risk youth offenders

**4:25pm – 4:45pm** Dr Sanne Ostermeijer

Relational Security: Balancing care and control in youth custody

**4:45pm – 5:05pm** Louisa Hackett and Joanne O'Connor

Enhancing Support to Find a New Path in Kurlana Tapa

**5:05pm – 5:25pm** Sally Kedge

Communication Assistants in Court: 'What does that even mean?'

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**5:25pm – 5:30pm** Reflection – Phil Dinnam

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## **DAY 3 – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2021**

**11:00am – 11:10am**

Day 3 Check-in

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**11:10am – 12:10pm**

**CONCURRENT SESSION E**

### **Stream 1: Working together to improve the system**

**Session Chair - Silvia Lapic**

**11:10am – 11:30am** Dr Nessa Lynch

A Principled Approach to Children and Youth Who Commit Serious Offences

**11:30am – 11:50am** Veronica Tone Graham and Ian Lambie  
Reducing the Prison Pipeline: A trauma-focused approach

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## **Stream 2: Health and wellbeing**

**Session Chair - Mike Wheaton**

**11:10am – 11:30am** Sarah Richardson

Youth Justice Pathways: Wellbeing indicators and outcomes for young people involved with youth justice

**11:30am – 11:50am** Melissa Saliba and Ellie Minney

Towards Culturally Intelligent Multi-Disciplinary Assessment in Custodial Settings

**11:50am – 12:10pm** Tina Brendas and Alison Grace

Staff Safety vs Therapeutic Interventions: How to safely juggle the competing priorities

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## **Stream 3: Diversity and inclusion**

**Session Chair - Allan Boreham**

**11:10am – 11:30am** Tracy Karanui-Golf

Enabling Rangatahi (young people) and Whānau (family) to Shape How Participation Happens in Youth Justice Spaces

**11:30am – 11:50am** Kataraina Pipi and Ataru Hamilton

Māori Evaluation as a Powerful Tool for Supporting the Transformation of Youth Justice Settings

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**12:10pm – 12:30pm**

Break

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**12:30pm – 1:30pm**

## **CONCURRENT SESSION F**

Stream 1: Working together to improve the system

Session Chair - Phil Dinham

**12:30pm – 12:50pm** Susan Baidawi

Educational Experiences of Crossover Children in the Youth Justice and Child Protection Systems

**12:50pm – 1:10pm** Kristie Dellar

Poster Presentation- Validation of the YLS/CMI on an Australian Youth Offending Population

**1:10pm – 1:30pm** Keisha Hopgood

Re-thinking Bail: Reducing the remand of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

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## **Stream 2: Connecting to culture – law to lore**

**Session Chair - Michelle Hopkins**

**12:30pm – 12:50pm** Jane Zintl and Anaru Te Rangi

Mana Taiohi: Youth development principles for Aotearoa (New Zealand)

**12:50pm – 1:10pm** Mere Ruru

He Kanohi Kitea: A face seen in places where angels fear to tread

**1:10pm – 1:30pm** Kristina Byers

Te Oranga Pai

**Stream 3: Weaving the voices of lived experience with best practice and Intergenerational experiences of family violence**

**Session Chair - Silvia Lopic**

**12:30pm – 12:50pm** Timothy Warton  
Criminal Identity Development in Practice

**12:50pm – 1:10pm** Kate Melvin  
KIND: Early intervention addressing adolescent family violence and adolescent dating violence

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**1:30pm – 1:50pm** Break

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**1:50pm – 2:50pm** **PLENARY SESSION**

**Keynote Address 5: Judge Louis Bidois - National Rangatahi Court Judge for Rangatahi Courts New Zealand**

Rangatahi Courts  
**Session Chair - Phil Dinham**

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**2:50pm – 3:00pm** Performance

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**3:00pm – 3:10pm** Closing Ceremony

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# ABSTRACTS

The background of the page is a dark blue field. In the lower half, there are several overlapping triangles of different shades of blue and grey, creating a geometric, abstract pattern. The triangles vary in size and orientation, with some pointing upwards and others downwards, creating a sense of depth and movement.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **Encouraging Positive Improvement and Change (EPIC): A journey of best practice and workforce readiness**

**Khademi, Kat**

Youth Justice NSW

This presentation explores the process of embedding a positive behaviour reinforcement approach within routine custodial practice. To achieve this, the 'EPIC Scheme', based on the principles of Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (PBIS), was launched as a 12-month pilot at Acmena Youth Justice Centre in March 2020 and was accompanied by a process and outcome evaluation.

Underpinned by a trauma-informed approach, the Scheme incorporates collaborative problem-solving and utilises positive reinforcement as a tool to improve behaviour. The principles of PBIS are rarely contended in the literature; however, implementing these ideas in a custodial environment came with challenges.

Striving to overcome these challenges, the YJ NSW Practice Team went on a collaborative journey which included transference of ownership from the 'conceptual' team to those working on the frontline. Principally, this was an attempt to implement 'best practice' while managing 'workforce readiness', working together to improve the system at a pace at which the system was ready.

The project team consulted with young people and worked with an appointed working party within the Centre consisting of a cross-section of centre employees and representatives from NSW Department of Education. This complex collaboration worked to co-design and operationalise a whole of centre positive behaviour scheme. With the working party's oversight, the scheme evolved balancing operational viability with program integrity.

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the scheme in general and detail the challenges and successes in practice development in a custodial environment.

### **Youth Justice Demand Model V1 - Implementing an Evidence-based Knowledge Platform for Decision Making**

**Carol Kitson**

Oranga Tamariki Youth Justice NZ

Demand for youth justice services is often cyclic and frequently relates to the social and economic cycles of individual communities. A new model being developed by Oranga Tamariki delivers a baseline of predicted demand to increase our knowledge about these communities and improve localised decision making.

Developing an evidenced-based platform of knowledge, addresses a current gap in the business decision making cycles. This Model pulls together four cohorts of predictive and decision informing data, each drawn from the geographic boundary of eight individual YJ Sites.

The four data sets are:

- YJ Intake – aggregated over 5 years
- Wellbeing Profile – community vulnerabilities
- Monthly Youth Offending Calendar – NZ Police
- Crime Harm Index report – NZ Police

Currently the YJ Intake data is the only data cohort completed. It is already being utilised to inform the decisions of managers at Site and Regional level.

Aggregating historical Intake data over a period of 5 years and highlighting monthly high-low demand trends enables our managers to predict future workforce demand with more confidence. This knowledge assists managers with their planning. More crucially: by sharing this demand knowledge with our community partner services they may more accurately adapt their service to our demand cycles.

The three remaining sets of data currently under construction will provide much needed context to our demand picture, informing our strategic planning, partnership development, program intervention types, existing and future vulnerable communities, and ultimately provide managers with a greater understanding of the drivers and enablers of youth offending in our communities.



## ABSTRACTS

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### **A strong and trusted relationship: Meeting the needs of rangatahi and whānau**

**Liz Marsden**

Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services, NZ

**Erihe, Juliet**

Youth Horizons | Kia Puāwai, NZ

Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services (NISS) and Youth Horizons | Kia Puāwai (YH) have developed a strong and trusted relationship since YH began service delivery in Te Tai Tokerau (TTT) in 2013. The history of their relationship began when YH were encouraged to provide specialised services in TTT. To ensure Ngāpuhi support, YH took several kaumātua north to seek a mandate from the Ngāpuhi Rūnanga. It was agreed and so began their partnership. This presentation will provide a sense of the relationship building experience, while keeping rangatahi and whānau at the centre.

One of the first services they endeavoured to stand up, in partnership, was Functional Family Therapy (FFT). NISS articulated the needs of their rangatahi and whānau and together NISS and YH developed a shared understanding of both the effectiveness and cultural responsiveness of FFT. Given particular needs identified by NISS for rangatahi post remand, the two approached Oranga Tamariki as funders and for support of their approach.

What is FFT and how will it work for NISS?

FFT is an evidenced based, treatment for rangatahi and their whānau, who may have a range of behavioural challenges stemming from struggles within the whānau dynamic. The process is guided by whānau, and the therapist supports them to understand their own strengths and resources. This enables whānau to develop effective strategies that align with their identity and reduce issues associated with conflict and poor communication.

To build on the relevance and effectiveness of FFT for whānau, YH has developed Whaitake Whakaoranga Whānau, over 15 years ago, which has influenced the development of Te Huarahi o Te Rangatahi, a taonga that draws together a therapeutic process informed by te ao Māori principles from Whaitake Whakaoranga Whānau and Pacifica values from the Uputaua framework. With this in hand, NISS also provides the dedicated cultural support to work alongside whānau and the FFT therapists.

## ABSTRACTS

### Multisystemic Therapy – The Journey of an EBP to Community Implementation across Australia & New Zealand

**Hayley Bruce**

Life Without Barriers, NZ

**Rhiannon Outen**

Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, NZ

Multisystemic Therapy (MST), has a 30+ year recognised history of proven results with reducing youth offending and other problematic behaviours, and has been successfully delivering treatment to culturally diverse families across NZ & Australia for the last 20 years.

This paper will share the core treatment principles of MST and demonstrate how these are implemented to ensure families and their informal support network are front and centre of the treatment process. Collaborative, respectful working to empower families to successfully manage problematic behaviour to promote long-term sustainable change is a critical focus throughout treatment.

We will demonstrate how to weave evidence-based practice in a culturally responsive way, that works to improve long-term outcomes. This paper will summarise outcomes achieved across New Zealand and Australia including recent data from an 18-month follow-up, alongside the journey of a family engaging throughout the treatment process and the outcomes achieved from their perspective.

**TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2021**  
**CSA: CONNECTING CULTURE - LAW TO LORE**  
**SYSTEM**

## ABSTRACTS

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### **Embedding culture into practice: weaving an Aboriginal young person's cultural story into supervision**

**Paul Davis**

Youth Justice, Department of Communities and Justice, NSW

Providing the right support and being able to identify the best way to address criminogenic need for Aboriginal young people is critical in our response to their youth justice needs.

Hearing the voices of young Aboriginal people becomes crucial in providing support that values culture and identity as much as it values mainstream interventions. Whilst we work diligently on risk assessments and addressing criminogenic needs generally, the need to determine how we incorporate a cultural approach and focus in these practices, becomes more and more relevant.

Based in the South Coast and Tablelands of NSW, our Cultural Framework begins with the Cultural Story; a tool which provides a snapshot into an Aboriginal young person's cultural experiences and needs. Using our Aboriginal staff to lead the process, we can slowly gain information on a young person's culture, identity, connections, as well as their cultural and personal strengths.

The information gained informs court reports, risk assessments and case plans. The Cultural Story work is the start of the young person's experience with us and continues to grow and weave its way through the entirety of that young person's journey with our team.

This presentation will discuss how the cultural story tool works but also looks at how we incorporate findings into our core business of management, risk assessments, programs, case planning and supervisions.

It will look at how we support our staff by using team Yarning Panels and cultural supervisions of staff, to further cultural inclusions in our work.



## Heretaunga Ararau. From Law to Lore

### Hone Fletcher

Principal Advisor Cultural Practice, Department of Corrections NZ

Heretaunga Ararau/ Kaupapa Māori Pathways programme at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison marks a shift from mainstreaming to Māori-streaming. Priority is given to Tāne Maori who whakapapa to Kahungunu and 30 years of age and under however is not limited to this population.

In a partnership with Corrections, Ngāti Kahungunu is coordinating several new services including supplying navigators with commissioning from Te Puni Kokiri, to work with Tāne and their whānau at a high risk of reoffending, and a new tikanga-driven approach to healing trauma and reconnecting men to their whānau and local iwi. "If whānau are strong, then Iwi are strong". Our role is to support and empower the voice of whānau so they can build and strengthen themselves."

There is a further partnership with MSD so that a more seamless transition back into community will be achieved.

New Māori Pathways initiatives include:

- A new whānau ora Kai Arataki navigator workforce through Iwi
- Tēnei Au: From Te Ao Tawhito into Te Ao Hurihuri
- New staff roles grounded in Te Ao Maori
- A Kaupapa Maori operating model at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison and Hawkes Bay Community Corrections
- Ministry of Social Development roles inside the wire
- Building on what works.

We use our learnings from Te Ao Tawhito to be able to move into Te Ao Hurihuri with Tika, Pono and Aroha to enhance Mana for all people in our care.

Kotahi ano te kaupapa o ta tatou mahi: te oranga me te waiora o te iwi.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **A Multi-systemic approach to diversity and inclusion**

**Kylie Williams**

Multi-systemic Clinical Supervisor, OzChild Australia

According to the social ecological theory of Uri Bronfenbrenner, young people live in an ecology of interconnected systems. These systems impact behaviours directly and indirectly and are both reciprocal and bi-directional in nature. Youth behaviour can be strongly influenced both positively and negatively by their ecology.

Therefore, these same systems can also influence change when included in addressing anti-social behaviours.

A multi-systemic approach incorporates each of these systems and allows practitioners to gather a broader picture of a young person's world and their experiences within it. This approach fosters both diversity and inclusion.

Gaining a deeper understanding of a young person's ecology provides the opportunity to better harness the strengths already existing within systems and target supports to the areas experiencing challenges. To fully assess the diverse needs of a young person we need to first understand their ecology:

- Young person- Who are they and how do they identify?
- Family- Who are considered family?
- Peers- Who do they associate with and what do they gain?
- School/Vocation- Academic/ vocation history. Experiences, strengths and areas of need.
- Neighbourhood- What are the geographical strengths and challenges?
- Community/ Culture- Who are their community? Culture-needs, barriers and strengths.

A multi-systemic lens allows for multiple sources of information and supports a collaborative approach. This assists in improving our understanding of the diverse needs of youth, tailor better interventions, and improve the outcomes for those that come before the youth justice system.



## Building upon understandings of Māori and Samoan experiences of youth justice

**Robert Webb**

University of Auckland, NZ

**Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni**

University of Auckland, NZ

**Talia Wright-Bardohl**

University of Auckland, NZ

This conference presentation draws upon current research from a comparative sociological and criminological project into criminal justice processes and Māori and Samoan youth, whānau/aiga (family) and communities in three jurisdictions (NZ, USA and Australia).

The analysis foregrounds the discussion with an overview of youth and juvenile justice statistics from these jurisdictions. It then discusses the ways community-based methodologies can broaden accounts and offer alternative insights, with illustrations from the narratives from this study with Māori and Samoan communities and their interactions and experiences with youth justice systems and processes.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **Te Timatanga Hou-A New Beginning**

**Treycki Maynard**

Awe Tū, Brisbane Australia

Awe Tū is an Australian based Māori education provider targeting Māori and Pacific Islander young people who are disengaged and at-risk, both within the youth justice system and the broader community.

The programs we offer are designed to correspond with current Government priorities and align with the Queensland Youth Strategy connecting culture, diversity, and inclusion. The percentage of Māori and Pacific Islander young people who enter the youth justice system and detention has risen significantly over the past six years and inspired the creation of Awe Tū, who recognised the need to step into the gap to reconnect young people in a way that families abroad have been deprived of for too long.

Our aim is to connect an individual's sense of purpose in Te Ao Māori (the world immersed in Māori). It is imperative for any individual to know who they are culturally and where they come from, which will give them a strong sense of belonging in their communities, help regain one's self-identity no matter where they are in life.

The foundation program "Te Timatanga Hou-A new beginning", focuses on improving cultural awareness, self-identity, reconnecting back to family, reciting genealogy, learning Māori language, self-discipline taught through the skills of kapahaka, history, prayer, whilst enhancing behaviour, communication, leadership and respect.

The presentation will showcase the programs, the passion which drives them, and the positive outcomes for our young people.

Tihei Mauri Ora (breath of life)

# ABSTRACTS

## Surveillance, Profiling and Over-policing of First Nations Boys in Australia

# Grace O'Brien

Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

Historically, countries such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand have witnessed increasing over-representation of minority groups who are caught up in the criminal justice system.

Per capita, Australia's First Nations peoples have the highest incarceration rates in the world. Of critical importance is the over-representation of young First Nations males in the criminal justice system, many of whom have disengaged from their schooling early, either by choice or by deliberate exclusion from the education system.

Investigation into the ways in which young First Nations males are surveilled as “other” from an early age is critical when considering over-representation in the juvenile justice system.

Young First Nations males are racially profiled in many social situations, including schools and in public spaces. This presentation addresses the key issues of surveillance, racial profiling and over-policing, and offers possible solutions to prevent First Nations children coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

[illegible]



### **Oranga Rangatahi: Iwi partnerships and community expertise create bespoke approaches to prevention**

**Karl Severinsen**

Oranga Tamariki, NZ

Oranga Rangatahi is a community-based programme aimed at preventing young people from offending and entering the formal youth justice system. It is being customised by communities throughout the Central North Youth Justice region.

Oranga Rangatahi originated in Huntly in 2017, as a partnership between Oranga Tamariki and community agencies with the involvement of local iwi. It has been tremendously successful in supporting at-risk young people and families, with record low levels of youth offending in the area since its inception.

We are building on that foundation. Three more communities have embraced the core Oranga Rangatahi approach and are now adapting it to meet their needs. We also saw opportunities to partner directly with iwi organisations, going beyond a traditional contractual relationship.

Oranga Tamariki employs staff directly, and they are embedded with the provider. They have access to the same resources and support that other Oranga Tamariki staff have but the way they work is very much driven by the kaupapa (principles), tikanga (method) and kawa (etiquette) of the organisation they are working out of. Iwi also employ staff directly and together they deliver the programme.

This innovative approach to partnership has led to distinct, localised approaches. Unique community-driven solutions have been able to flourish through simple memorandums of understanding that enable and empower.

Programmes and activities have been designed locally with the knowledge and expertise of the community they exist in. This enables targeted responses drawing on the needs, strengths, and resources of the community to make the biggest impact.

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### **Evaluating the Effectiveness of Intervention Programs for Adolescent Male Offenders in Western Australia**

**Kristie Dellar**

Department of Justice, WA

We present the findings from two studies examining the effectiveness of intervention programs delivered to male juvenile offenders in custody in Western Australia.

The first study examined the effectiveness of the Emotional Management (EM) program which is a 10-session cognitive-behavioural, skills-based group program designed to target a range of general criminogenic needs. Paired group analyses were completed to examine the differences in pre and post program scores for the total sample ( $N = 92$ ) and separate analyses were run for program completers ( $n = 82$ ) and program non-completers ( $n = 10$ ).

Consistent with expectations, the results found that participants who completed the EM program showed statistically significant improvements in their overall levels of emotional regulation ( $t = 2.83$ ,  $p = .006$ ) as well as statistically significant decreases in overall levels of aggressive thoughts and behaviours ( $t = 3.11$ ,  $p = .003$ ).

The second study, currently in progress, examines the Healthy Relationships (HR) program which is an eight-session dating violence prevention and intervention program for male adolescents in detention. Paired measures t-tests will be conducted on pre and post program data to examine the effectiveness of the HR program on attitude change.

It is expected that the HR program will reduce participant endorsement of attitudes supporting traditional gender roles and stereotypes and reduce the acceptance of dating violence.

Suggestions for program improvements and future research directions are discussed.

### **COVID19 collaborative approaches are associated with significant self-harm reduction in young people in custody**

**John Kasinathan**

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, NSW Australia

**Leigh Haysom**

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, NSW Australia

**Objective:** To describe the collaboration between Youth Justice New South Wales (YJNSW) and Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (JHFMHN) during the early COVID-19 Response (CR) across the six Youth Justice Centres in NSW, and the reduced incidence of self-harm noted over this period.

**Methods:** Narrative paper with contributions from the multidisciplinary and interagency COVID Response Committee, with analysis of self-harm incident data during the initial CR period of March to May 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.

**Findings:** During the initial CR period (March to May 2020), there was a highly significant, four-fold reduction in self-harming incidents recorded by both YJNSW and JHFMHN compared with the equivalent time period in 2019 ( $p < 0.00001$ ).

**Conclusion:** The greater than four-fold reduction in self-harm by young people during the early CR may relate to the 'Interagency Response', with the increase in positive interactions between staff and young people allowing the young people to feel safe, occupied and cared for.

The reduction in self-harm and the improvements in mental health should be further explored through standardised interviews with the young people and staff in the centres.



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### **Navigate Your Health: working collaboratively to change young people's story through better health**

**Dr Pauline Zardo**

Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs QLD

**Darren Hegarty**

Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs QLD

Young people involved with youth justice have poorer health and wellbeing outcomes than young people in the general population. To address this need, Navigate Your Health (NYH) was established as an innovative partnership across Queensland's youth justice, health and child protection sectors under the Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-23.

NYH utilises Nurse Navigators to undertake and facilitate health assessments, co-ordinate healthcare referrals, negotiate priority service delivery and build health literacy of young people and families. NYH aims to increase young people's ability to: engage with education, training and employment; regulate behaviour; access stable housing; and engage more fully with community, family and culture.

These needs and risks areas are also predictors of youth offending and reoffending.

As such, NYH presents a critical opportunity to evaluate the link between health and youth offending outcomes. While research has shown young people involved with youth justice have high unmet health needs, there is limited research demonstrating that an improvement in health outcomes contributes to reduced offending through improved capacity to engage and mitigate offending risk and need areas.

This presentation will detail the innovative NYH cross-agency partnership model of care coordination for youth justice involved youth, report on outcomes achieved to date and describe the design of planned evaluation and research projects that seek to make a unique and valuable contribution to literature regarding how health and wellbeing outcomes contribute to reduced reoffending risk and need and improved youth reoffending outcomes following health intervention and over the life course.

### **Photovoice – Using resident voices to inform a world-first youth custodial sensory modulation framework**

**Luke Francis**

Youth Justice, Department of Human Services, South Australia

A project aiming to develop a Sensory Modulation Framework was completed at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre (KTYJC) in 2021. It was one response to a 2019 disability screening project that found approximately one third of the custodial population had significant sensory processing needs.

The lived experience of young people in custody was included in the project through the use of photovoice, a visual research methodology in which participants were provided with cameras and asked to take photographs of the custodial spaces and how they affect them. Participant photographs provided the basis for semi-structured interviews eliciting detailed insights into the things that matter to residents.

This methodology was used to support young people to reflect upon and communicate themes of importance in a manner that reduced cultural, linguistic and disability-related barriers.

This presentation will examine the process and findings of the Photovoice project. First, we will provide an overview of the international context for such research and operational considerations that maximise engagement and quality data.

Second, key themes will be reported that describe resident perceptions of the custodial social, institutional and physical environments to provide a unique insight into the factors that influence engagement, behaviour and day-to-day functioning within a custodial facility.

These themes have prompted a re-examination of the way space is conceptualised in the broader project, and already informed advice and recommendations for future facility redevelopments.

The findings challenge traditional expectations placed on residents and explore the unintended impacts of institutional practices on resident compliance and centre order.

Luke



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### **Te Kohine Maia: (Prevention programme for wahine Maori who have offended)**

#### **Mr Joe Graham (Ngati Ranginui)**

Experienced Educationalist and Maori Youth Development Specialist and Maori Advisor to Blue Light

From our experience working in the youth justice space for many years we have witnessed that interventions for females who offend tend to be based on male-based programmes, are often deficit approaches, are insensitive to gender differences, are often not individualised to the young person's risk factors, don't address their behaviours, their needs and well-being.

This is linked to the evidence that because of this and with the addition of their often-significant welfare needs, females tend to be pushed further up into the system and are more likely to get a detention-based sentence as opposed to a community-based sentence.

Our programme is premised on international best practice. A key focus is on building one-to-one relationships with these wahine in a female only environment. Our female Maori staff are highly skilled and knowledgeable women. Our programme is comprehensive, integrated and will be sustained over time.

The programme is based around a 'moving in', 'moving through' and 'moving on' model.

The 12 principals of the programme required in the delivery of the programme can be recognised under the 4 dimensions of Te Whare Tapa Wha model:

- Taha Tinana – Physical Well-being
- Taha Hinengaro – Mental & Emotional Well-being
- Taha Wairua – Spiritual Well-being
- Taha Whanau Relationships/Family.

In our model the young person is in a journey in their waka that has become non-sea worthy and has had to come ashore (their offending- moving in). They need help to fix their waka back on shore (interventions and support- moving through). Once their waka is seaworthy again we help re-float them back on their journey (supported transition – moving on).

### **Understanding Aiga in Youth Justice: A study of the responsiveness of the Aotearoa New Zealand Youth Justice system to different models of family**

**Naomi Fuamatu**

PhD Candidate, University of Auckland

Families are essential support systems for young people who become involved with the youth justice system. The role of the family has been influential in developing state driven interventions in seeking justice for young people.

The youth justice system in Aotearoa, New Zealand has been lauded for its innovative Family Group Conference (FGC), which was implemented in 1989 through the Oranga Tamariki Act (1989). When the governing legislation was ushered in, it led to the inclusion Te Reo Māori concepts of Family (which incorporated the use of whānau, iwi and hapu) which recognised the importance of the extended whānau to indigenous Māori.

While these articulations of whānau/ family group continue to be embedded within youth justice legislation in Aotearoa for over three decades, indigenous Māori and Pacific/Samoan youth continue to be disproportionately represented within the youth justice system.

This presentation will draw on preliminary findings from doctoral research conducted in 2018-2021.

This study was also part of a Marsden Research Project which explored the experiences of Māori and Samoan young people and their families across three jurisdictions (Australia, United States and Aotearoa, New Zealand). (Suaalii-Sauni, Tauri and Webb, 2018).

My research sought to understand how the youth justice system in Aotearoa, is responsive to different demographics of families, with a focus on the Samoan aiga (family).

The findings presented in this presentation are based on engagement with Samoan families/aiga, young people and youth justice professionals within the South and West Auckland area.

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### **Developing a service model to respond to volatile and violent behaviour in youth custody through an action learning approach: drawing on lived experiences and lessons learned from twelve months of Victoria's Intensive Intervention Unit**

**Andrea Davidson**

Youth Justice Victoria, Department of Justice and Community Safety - Victoria

A common challenge for youth justice custodial systems is the safe management of a small cohort of young people who pose the highest risk of harm to others in secure environments.

For Victoria, this was a key observation of the 2017 Youth Justice Review and Strategy (The Review) – which estimated that 'between two and five per cent of young people in custody pose the highest risk, presenting with highly volatile and violent behaviour that will be persistently disruptive to custodial settings.'

In response to the Review, the Victorian Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2030 committed to introducing a new Intensive Intervention Unit (IIU), a therapeutic environment designed to provide assessment and intensive intervention, with staff that are trained to develop behaviour support plans and facilitate safe transitions back onto home units.

The IIU opened in mid-2020 at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct, providing a new option for addressing risks and needs of the high risk custodial cohort, aiming to strengthen self-regulation and prosocial behaviours, as well as identify strategies to manage responses to triggering events.

Aligned with the Health and Wellbeing stream, this presentation explores lessons learned by Victorian Youth Justice in the development of the IIU, underpinned by an action learning approach.

The action learning undertaken has drawn on the voice of staff and young people with lived experience of the model across its first twelve months, as well as other key stakeholders, in order to inform service improvement and ongoing innovation, as well as evaluate the efficacy of the model against its aims.



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### **Children and young people before the Courts: addressing access to justice requirements of children who are neurodiverse with neurodisability**

**Kasey Tyler**

University of Sydney, Australia

**Sally Kedge**

Talking Trouble, NZ

**Judge Tony Fitzgerald**

NZ Youth Court, NZ

**Hayley Passmore**

Telethon Kids Institute WA

This Panel will reflect on growing awareness of the overrepresentation of children in contact with the criminal justice system who face neurodevelopmental challenges.

It will introduce common characteristics of neurodiversity, discuss common challenges faced by children before the Court, acknowledge the challenges facing criminal justice professionals and discuss solutions.

The panel will reflect on the role that criminal justice professionals need to play in ensuring appropriate accommodations are put in place to facilitate access to justice principles.

The panel will draw on case studies from two jurisdictions – Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

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### **At-Risk & Radicalised Youth Offenders: Countering Violent Extremism in an Evolving Australian Context**

**Steve Barracosa**

Youth Justice New South Wales

In 2018, the New South Wales (NSW) Government announced the establishment of a specialist Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Unit for the state's youth justice system.

The Youth Justice NSW CVE framework was described as the first of its kind in Australia. It was designed to provide youth-specific CVE services to at-risk and radicalised young people, and to directly contribute to reducing the risk of young people engaging in violent extremism through diversionary and disengagement-based approaches.

This presentation will review the evolution of the Youth Justice NSW CVE Unit. This will include exploring experiences, lessons learned, and enduring challenges working across the increasingly complex landscape of at-risk and radicalised youth.

This presentation will address the relevance of young people in relation to new and emerging ideologies, the development and implementation of youth-specific CVE policy, and practice-based approaches for effective identification, assessment, case management and social reintegration.

Opportunities for future research and critical evaluation will be discussed.

The Youth Justice NSW experience indicates that youth criminal justice settings are well placed to tackle the challenges posed by CVE. This is largely due to dynamic and innovative client-focused approaches, collaborative relationships, capacity building opportunities for staff, and a strong commitment to social reintegration and community engagement. Youth-specific approaches to CVE represent an area of great potential.

There does however remain a lot to learn.

### **Te Tuinga & Oranga Tamariki – Weaving the community together**

**Tommy Kapai Wilson**

Te Tuinga Whanau, NZ

When Te Tuinga Whanau Support Services was formed 37 years ago by The NZ Maori Women's Welfare League it was given the name by our wise elders. Te Tuinga – to weave together the lost the lonely, the broke and broken hearted – and our disconnected rangatahi.

What we have learned over these 37 years is we all need a place to belong - our Turangawaewae - our place to stand and this is what we have been doing in partnership with Oranga Tamariki over the past 2 years in our fit for purpose residences and the kaupapa of providing a whare for these disconnected youth to belong and stand on their own mana is a mirror of what we are doing by our 117 staff with the 200 homeless families under our care. Simply put, we are giving them a purpose to belong with a whanau who care and who will help them get to a place where they can stand strong.

Thus far we have opened residences.

- Whare Tuhua – Youth Residence
- Whare Matariki – High Needs Residence
- Whare a Rongo - Care & Protection Residence
- Whare Tauhuru - Bail Residence

Each of these residences have a strong foundation built on tikanga or code of practices from a Maori world view. We see each of our incoming residences as an opportunity to reconnect them back to their own whanau, hapu and lwi and while this is happening, we become a pseudo whangai (taking them under our korowai of care as if they were our own family) for them to belong to.

Together with Oranga Tamariki and their Youth Justice team we at Te Tuinga have not only joined our community and its rangatahi together and back to their whanau but equally we have woven together a strong relationship with our treaty partners.

Tihei Mauriora



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### **Collaborating to ensure Good Communication Practice in Family Group Conferences (FGCs): Enabling everyone to understand, to participate, and to have their say**

**Alayne McKee**

Talking Trouble Aotearoa New Zealand

Speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) can create significant challenges for young people involved in justice settings and processes e.g.

- Difficulty interacting with the police, other justice staff, and community services.
- Limited understanding of legal jargon, processes, and instructions, e.g., appointment requirements, expectations, and bail conditions.
- Difficulty accessing and benefitting from intervention programs as most of these involve lots of talking.
- Reduced engagement in 'talked-based' restorative practices such as FGCs.

We know that when young people with SLCN are under pressure, e.g., within a restorative justice context, they are more likely to give vague, basic, monosyllabic responses to questions.

The stress and language demands of a situation can also mean that they may withdraw from the situation or become reactive.

These types of responses can be misinterpreted as surliness, or disrespect, and can significantly impact the outcome of their Court matters, as well as their ability to enact their human rights.

Talking Trouble Aotearoa New Zealand has been collaborating with Family Group Conference Coordinators, Social Workers, Lawyers and Police to help them to identify and support the communication strengths and needs of the people they are working with.

Hear how these practitioners are adapting their interactions, language, and processes to hold FGCs that meet the speech, language and communication needs of everyone involved.

### **Health and welfare outcomes for young people following release from incarceration in Queensland, Australia: a prospective cohort study**

**Rohan (A/Prof.) Borschmann**

The University of Melbourne (Justice Health Unit)

**Background:** The transition from prison to the community can be a difficult process and may present different challenges for adolescents (aged <25 years) compared with their older peers.

**Methods:** Using data from a prospective cohort study in Australia we compared the health and welfare outcomes of adolescents (aged <25 years) and adults (aged ≥25 years) people at 1-, 3-, and 6-months after release from incarceration.

**Results:** After one month, adolescents were less likely to be unemployed (adjusted odds ratio [aOR] 0.31; 95%CI 0.15-0.63), report low levels of social support (aOR 0.41; 95%CI 0.21-0.80), or report high psychological distress (aOR 0.50; 95%CI 0.25-0.99). After three months, adults were more likely to have visited a general practitioner (aOR 2.05; 95%CI 1.04-4.07) and adolescents remained less likely to be unemployed (aOR 0.37; 95%CI 0.19-0.74).

After six months, adolescents were three times more likely to have used amphetamine-type stimulants (aOR 3.42; 95%CI 1.29-9.09).

**Conclusions:** Adolescents experience different challenges than their older peers when transitioning from prison to the community. Age-specific, integrated support is needed for adolescents during this critical period, including strategies to promote early primary care contact, capitalise on social support networks, and discourage risky substance use.



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### **Utilising Intensive Wraparound Service to work Differently with Tamariki (children) At-risk of future Offending Behaviour**

**Emily Lodge**

Oranga Tamariki, NZ

**Aaron Matchitt**

Oranga Tamariki

The Mana Tamariki team was established to meet the needs of whānau and tamariki who have indicators of future offending behaviour such as coming to the attention of the police, disengagement from education, challenging behaviours at school and/or home, and familial offending behaviour.

Additionally, the tamariki referred to the programme are currently in kin care or at risk of coming into the care system. The Mana Tamariki programme utilises an Intensive Wraparound Service model to support tamariki aged 6 to 11 years, scaffold whānau and bring together a community.

Social workers are also trained in therapeutic modalities such as motivational interviewing, parenting strategies and skills-based emotional regulation strategies. The goal is to build tamariki and whānau capacity and capability through facilitating natural and enduring support systems, so that, after a period of sustained therapeutic social work, the risks of offending and other negative outcomes are reduced – and, more importantly, the tamariki and whānau can flourish.

Mana Tamariki has key relationships with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Ministry of Education and specialist psychologist support to increase our ability to engage and deliver the programme effectively, including ongoing training and holding the programme to account.

The presentation will outline the programme including its development, challenges and outcomes.

## Responsive Case Management: Knife Crime Program Pilot

**Dr Gemma Russell**

Department of Justice and Community Safety, VIC

**Sally Norton**

Department of Justice and Community Safety, VIC

There has been a significant amount of previous research and policy development conducted in the United Kingdom and the United States in response to the prevalence of knife crime and more broadly weapon use by young people.

This presentation will explore a new Knife Crime Program, developed in house. Youth Justice developed the Knife Crime Program to equip front-line case managers who work directly with young people and their families, to respond to the individual and systemic drivers that place young people at risk of knife crime.

The Knife Crime Program is an evidence-informed approach that combines cognitive behavioural and systemic interventions to target both offence-related and offence-specific needs of young people associated with knife crime, and more broadly violent offending.

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### **My Journey My Life (Yinnar)**

#### **Shaylee Matthews**

Youth Justice NSW

The program has been adapted and developed from My Journey My Life (male version) to address anti-social, violent and aggressive behaviour in Aboriginal young females who have contact with the justice system.

This adaptation was developed in collaboration and co-produced with young people from Reiby Youth Justice centre as a codesign model. Having young people involved in the design helped to ensure that their needs and values are genuinely addressed. It also creates opportunities for Youth Justice NSW to have a better understanding of the issues faced by young people, and to use those insights and their voices to explore new possibilities for solutions. T

he outcome of this project also led to greater relationships and reinforces self-determination and co-design principals for young people.

Eligibility for this program includes violence-based offences, both domestic and community related, or concerning anti-social or aggressive behaviour, extending to Aboriginal young females who have been charged with sexual related offence.

The aim of the program is to support young Aboriginal females to develop knowledge and strategies to identify the underlying reasons for violence and aggression that led them to contact with the Justice system and to develop and practice alternative and pro-social methods of managing anger, violence and anti-social behaviour.

Participants in this session will gain insight into how program utilises Cognitive Behaviour Therapy methodology to teach young Aboriginal females' pro-social strategies, in a culturally safe and responsive manner, with the key purpose of teaching young people to manage their own anti-social behaviours.

The purpose of the program is to provide an Aboriginal female specific intervention program that is:

- Culturally appropriate and responsive.
- Address anti-social attitudes and beliefs Female specific Strengths based.
- Socio-emotional and wellbeing focused.



### **Co-producing knowledge with justice-involved young people: a critical examination**

**Shelley Turner**

Monash University, Victoria

While much is written and said about justice-involved young people in the public discourse, rarely are their own voices and lived experiences included.

Currently, lived experience is receiving a surge of recognition as an important source of knowledge for building a holistic evidence base for health and human services practice and policy – including criminal justice.

While this is a welcome development, especially after decades of a narrowly-defined ‘what works’ agenda, the statutory context of youth justice poses some specific ethical and practical challenges for those seeking to engage in lived experience and co-production endeavours.

Moreover, the existing literature largely overlooks these challenges and offers limited ethical or practical guidance for those working in youth justice contexts.

This paper presents an overview of a research project that examined young people’s lived experiences of youth justice service provision, and the key methodological, ethical and practical issues that arose during the research.

The paper also draws on the findings of a review of the literature, to critically examine challenges posed by the inherent power disparities of the inquiry context, and the limitations and potential of existing guidelines and principles for co-producing knowledge with justice-involved young people.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2021  
CSC: WEAVING THE VOICES OF LIVED  
EXPERIENCE WITH BEST PRACTICE**

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### **My Family, Our Decisions, Our Way**

#### **Justin Power**

QATSICPP (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)

QATSICPP is the peak representing 35 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations in Queensland, Australia.

We work closely with our members, our communities, practitioners and policymakers to support children, young people and families in child protection and youth justice.

A number of government inquiries at a state and national level over the past decade have concluded that effective solutions to preventing or reducing the recidivism of First Nations children and young people in the youth justice system need to be developed and delivered locally by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

In this presentation, QATSICPP will provide an overview of community led practice and policy youth justice initiatives in Queensland, with a focus on:

'My Family, Our Decisions, Our Way'; a trial of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Justice Youth Family Led Decision Making focuses on empowering families, children and young people to have a stronger voice in Youth Justice processes and decisions, delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled ((ABTSICC) organisations.

Following the completion of a program evaluation in 2020, QATSICPP is working with government and its member organisations to refine the model.

Efforts to embed the elements of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle into the Youth Justice system, recognising the importance of partnership, participation and connections to family, community, and culture in upholding and asserting the principle of self-determination

Developing a model of wrap around intensive support for recidivist, high needs Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people involved with the Youth Justice system.



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### **Pae Whakatupuranga | Functional Family Therapy – Cross Generations (FFT-CG); a panel discussion**

#### **Panel Facilitator**

#### **Meier, Phyllis**

Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children

I mean, we've been through therapy with other places, but it was like it was all aimed at [our son].... With [Pae Whakatupuranga] it wasn't, it was the whole family, which was really good, the [therapist] included everyone. (Parent)

Families can help reduce youth offending. In New Zealand, Oranga Tamariki – the Ministry for Children has partnered with multi-disciplinary cross-sector agencies (Corrections, Police, Youth Horizons | Kia Puāwai and the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) model developers) to pilot a new adaptation of FFT, with the aim of breaking the intergenerational cycle of offending for rangatahi (young people) and improve whānau (family) wellbeing.

An international first, the three-year pilot programme weaves three existing adaptations of FFT with Te Huarahi o Te Rangatahi - a practice manual consisting of Functional Family therapy intertwined with Whaitake Whakaoranga Whānau and Uputāua, a te ao Māori and Pasifika way of being.

The approach enables therapists to intervene effectively with families at multiple entry points within the justice system. The programme is whānau-centred. It enables clinicians to develop the skills needed to therapeutically assist the family unit, within a culturally appropriate and strengths-based approach.

Supporting the pilot is a three-year, multi-stage mixed methods evaluation that:

- assesses how well Pae Whakatupuranga is implemented and delivered.
- provides early signs of the programme's effect on reoffending and wellbeing.
- identifies key recommendations for extending the programme (if effective).

This panel discussion will cover delivery of the programme, development of Te Huarahi o Te Rangatahi and how the integration of cultural frameworks' affects how the therapy is conceptualised and delivered, and outcomes of the pilot thus far.

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### **Overrepresentation of Young Indigenous Offenders: Differences in Criminogenic Risk/Needs and Implications for Practice**

**Kristie Dellar**

Curtin University, WA

**LynnRoberts**

Curtin University, WA

**Kristy Downe**

Department of Justice, WA

**Jonathan Bullen**

Curtin University, WA

**Robert Kane**

Curtin University, WA

Indigenous youth are overrepresented in the Australian criminal justice system, yet little is known about how they differ from non-Indigenous youth in terms of criminogenic risk and need profiles in relation to reoffending.

This paper expands on findings of our previous study (Dellar et al., 2020) and present the results of two analyses. The first is a comparative analysis of the differences in criminogenic risk and need factors in a sample of 4653 youth. Results raise questions about how Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth differ on type of criminogenic needs and how risk/needs are defined in an Indigenous context.

The second analysis examines the predictive validity of a shortened version of the YLS/CMI in a subsample of 921 youth. Results show that a specific combination of five items for Indigenous youth corresponds to an improvement in AUC scores from  $c. = .65$  for the full version to  $c. = .73$ . For non-Indigenous youth, the selected set of five items corresponds to an improvement in AUC scores from  $c. = .66$  for the full version of the YLS/CMI to  $c. = .73$ .

Implications of these findings for research, policy, and reducing Indigenous overrepresentation are discussed.

### **Postcards from practice: Learnings from the Name.Narrate.Navigate program**

**Dr Tamara Blakemore**

University of Newcastle, NSW

**Claire Stanners**

Caseworker and Court Intake Officer at Maitland Youth Justice

This paper provides an overview of practice learnings from the Name.Narrate.Navigate (NNN) program. NNN was designed with the community to tackle the pipeline to prison for young people disengaged from education and demonstrating violence in their relationships with parents, carers, partners and peers. Alongside, has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the NNN as a DFV intervention tool for Youth Justice clients. The program's collaborators also include Department of Health, Department of Education, Police and Department of Premier and Cabinet.

NNN provides creative, experiential psychoeducation and skill development to change how young people engage with key drivers of violence, including emotional literacy; consent and communication; empathy; power and control; blame, shame and choice. Uniquely, the program is trauma-informed and culturally responsive, recognising that many young people who use violence commonly exist as a cross-over cohort, simultaneously victims and perpetrators, characteristically disadvantaged and disengaged and lacking appropriate and accessible interventions.

To date NNN has provided direct service to over 100 young people and training to over 500 cross-sector professionals. Pilot work has been conducted in the Maitland community with young people who have perpetrated DFV and are current clients of Youth Justice, but who reside in communities of Maitland, Raymond Terrace (Port Stephens), and Cessnock and surrounds. These target areas were identified given the rates of young people reported to have been cautioned and warned by police in relation to violence; the rates of in-school suspension, caution and warnings for violence; and the rate of DFV across the community, meaning likely victimisation and lived experience among young people.

The program achieves results; young people go back to education, training or start employment, reduce their offending and improve their relationships skills and choices.



## ABSTRACTS

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### **Multisectoral data linkage to understand health and mortality outcomes for justice-involved young people**

**Lindsay A Pearce**

Justice Health Unit, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health  
The University of Melbourne

Justice-involved young people experience disproportionately high rates of comorbid mental illness, cognitive disability, substance use, infectious disease, and premature mortality from preventable causes such as suicide, injury, drug overdose, and violence.

Despite their extreme vulnerability, little is known about their health needs after they transition out of the justice system. Multisectoral data linkage is an underutilised but highly effective tool to address the “black box” that exists between youth justice contact and adverse health and mortality outcomes.

This information is urgently needed for evidence-informed policy and practice improvements. We present two ongoing studies led by the Justice Health Unit (University of Melbourne) that utilise multisectoral data linkage to advance health and social service improvements for this population: the Queensland-based YJ-Mort study, linking youth justice records with state-level mortality records for 48,670 young people from 1993 to 2014, and the National Youth Justice Data Linkage Study, linking national youth justice records (Juvenile Justice National Minimum Dataset; JJ-NMDS) with health (Medicare, prescribed medications (PBS), emergency department, and admitted patient records) and mortality records for over 95,000 justice-involved young people in Australia from 2000 to 2019.

Using these two studies, we aim to:

- illustrate the practical value of multisectoral data linkage for improving the health and mortality outcomes of justice-involved populations
- outline study methodology and processes undertaken to link multisectoral data
- discuss key challenges and opportunities to advance and improve multisectoral data linkage for research and quality improvement.



### Whakatakapokai: connecting the past to the present and future

**Ngaire Lyall**

Oranga Tamariki , NZ

**Megan Hart**

Oranga Tamariki

**Aneta Mihinui**

Oranga Tamariki, NZ

Whakatakapokai is an innovative secure residence that was opened in 2021 to provide care and support for up to 15 young people at a time. This presentation explores the development of Whakatakapokai to provide a special new kind of service and increase the diversity of the youth justice residential network.

Whakatakapokai differs from other youth justice residences in that its therapeutic foundations have been co-created with Mana whenua and Tangata whenua. The presenters explain the design and development of a Maaori-informed service in partnership with Tangata whenua. The residence's unique features are discussed and contextualised against a backdrop of rapid organisational, and wider societal, changes.

We examine the alignment between Whakamana Tangata - a Maaori centred approach - and the residence's philosophical orientation; and wider operating systems, policies and processes, discussing how these two elements reinforce each another.

The presentation highlights some of the key challenges encountered by Tangata whenua in creating a Maaori-centred operation alongside a largely Pakeha project team and discusses the limitations of Western European research and business models. Presenters highlight how Te ao Maaori and European approaches can be complementary in supporting rangatahi, whaanau and communities to work in holistic and restorative ways that ultimately reduce the likelihood of future reoffending.

Finally, the wider future implications of operating a Maaori-centred service, for youth justice, are considered.

This presentation is nestled within conceptual frameworks provided by Public Health Theory and Systems Theory.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **A Lessons Learned Approach To FASD Awareness in WA Youth Justice Services**

**Melanie O'Connell**

Department of Justice, Western Australia

**Melissa Zampatti**

Department of Justice, Western Australia

Research conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute in partnership with WA Department of Justice between May 2015 and December 2016 identified unprecedented levels of severe neurodevelopmental impairment amongst sentenced young people housed at the Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

The Banksia Hill Project findings published 2018 in British Medical Journal identified 89% of Young People in that facility had at least one form of severe neurodevelopmental impairment, while 36% were found to have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder .

Research was conducted utilising a multidisciplinary assessment with diagnosis achieved in accordance with Australian Guide to the Diagnosis of FASD. 166 young people were approached during the study period to participate in the research with 99 young people completing a full assessment of which 93% were male and 74% Aboriginal.

In 2019 TKI researchers presented to the AYJA conference and provided input to partners focused on this research.

Since this presentation the Department of Justice has progressed its capacity to diagnose, manage and navigate the complexities of FASD within the WA justice setting.

This presentation will provide a lessons learned overview of strategies applied by Department of Justice WA to progress responsiveness and support for Young People engaged in the Justice System in Western Australia from a FASD context.

## You Can't Afford to Miss This!

**Mary Woodward**

Speech Pathology Australia

Recent years have brought increasing awareness of the high prevalence of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) of young people and adults in contact with the justice system, and recognition of the role that speech pathology can play in identifying and supporting these needs.

Despite this, speech pathologists are not adequately included in the multidisciplinary workforce in the majority of Australian justice services. Service managers, budget holders and commissioners frequently report an understanding of some of the potential benefits of speech pathology, but an inability to provide services due to budget constraints. Speech Pathology Australia therefore sought to explore the economic benefits that may be associated with the provision of speech pathology for people with SLCN who are at risk of, or in contact with the Australian criminal justice system.

Speech Pathology Australia commissioned the Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), in conjunction with The Centre for Health Economics and Research at the University of Technology, Sydney, to investigate the potential impact of intervention for people with SLCN on their risk of future contact with the criminal justice system and the costs associated with this.

Evidence from existing literature on the outcomes of speech pathology interventions was used in combination with a regression analysis of data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and evidence from a unique dataset held at UNSW of people with known diagnoses who have been in the criminal justice system in NSW. Then, a decision-analytical model and economic modelling approach was utilised to demonstrate the impact and associated cost savings to the justice system of intervention of different intensities and at four different points in an individual's life.

This presentation will provide an overview of the method and results of the project. It will demonstrate the importance, and potential cost-savings, of timely and appropriate speech pathology interventions for people with speech, language and communication needs at risk of, or in contact with the justice system.



## ABSTRACTS

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### **Responding to young people's sensory and communication needs**

**Larissa Ashton**

Youth Justice, Department of Human Services SA

**Luke Francis**

Youth Justice, Department of Human Services SA

**Melissa Saliba**

Youth Justice, Department of Human Services SA

This presentation will increase awareness of the impact of sensory and communication needs which impact young people's success and engagement within Youth Justice.

The Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology disciplines are relatively new in the Youth Justice space. A multi-disciplinary disability screening project conducted in the youth custodial environment in South Australia in 2019, found one third of participants had significant sensory processing needs and nine out of ten were at risk of having a Language Disorder. Two key resultant recommendations will be presented - (1) the Sensory Modulation Framework Project and (2) the Enhancing Communication Access Project.

The processes, findings, and recommendations from the Sensory Modulation Project will be presented. This includes an investigation of the impacts of the physical, sensory, institutional and social environments on resident behaviour and functioning, and a discussion of recommendations relating to resources, environmental considerations and staff education to respond to sensory processing needs of young people.

The Enhancing Communication Access Project will also be discussed. Young people in Youth Justice are frequently presented with complex written and verbal information that surpasses their literacy and language abilities.

This project improves young people's understanding by modifying existing client-facing documents into communication-accessible versions that contain simple language and meaningful images. Examples and outcomes will be presented.



# Non-communicable disease, multimorbidity, and mortality among justice-involved young people: A data linkage study

**Lucas Calais-Ferreira**

Justice Health Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia  
Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia

**Rohan Borschmann**

Justice Health Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia  
Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia

**Stuart A. Kinner**

Justice Health Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia  
Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia

**Background:** Young people with a history of contact with the youth justice system are at considerably higher risk of mortality compared to their counterparts without any such contact. This constitutes an important public health inequity. Despite evidence that these young people also experience higher levels of chronic and co-occurring disease, to date no studies have examined the prevalence of non-communicable disease (NCD) or multimorbidity among young people who die after contact with the youth justice system.

**Methods:** We established a retrospective cohort of all young people who had contact with the youth justice system (YJS) in Queensland, Australia between 30 June 1993 and 1 July 2014. A total of 49,228 young people recorded 529,107 episodes of contact with the YYS and these were probabilistically linked to the National Death Index (NDI) up to 31 January 2017.

**Results:** The median follow-up time in the study was 13.5 years (interquartile range 8.4-18.4). In this presentation we will quantify the incidence of mortality from NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, respiratory diseases, diabetes and other conditions), and explore multimorbidity in contributing causes of death of 1431 young people who died during the study. We will investigate the association between youth justice history and mortality in the youth justice population, while adjusting for sex, age, Indigenous status and other covariates.

**Conclusions:** Our findings highlight a significant burden of NCDs and multimorbidity among justice-involved youth, and can inform the development of targeted interventions to improve their health outcomes, both in detention and in the community.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **Co responder: collectively responding to high risk youth offenders**

#### **Jodie Elder**

Co Responder Team, Youth Justice Operations and Practice, QLD

In March 2020, the Queensland government released a five-point action plan in response to community concern about youth crime, with community safety being the number one priority. Under this plan Co responder strike teams, comprising of a youth justice practitioner and a police officer, were established to provide 24/7 responses to high risk youth offenders.

Through this initiative, young people are diverted earlier with specialist responses and pro-active referrals to community driven programs and services.

This joint initiative has been imperative in legislative amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 which aims to target high risk young people, particularly those who repeatedly breach their bail conditions or reoffend.

The collaborative partnership between Queensland Police and Youth Justice focuses on the whole continuum of the youth justice system. From early intervention and prevention including providing diversionary responses, to a holistic and collaborative response to young people entrenched in the youth justice system.

Co Responder recognises that youth offending needs a holistic response including police, youth justice and the community to truly impact on crime prevention, recidivism and community safety.

This presentation will provide an overview of the model and the outcomes realised to date. Additionally, the benefits and opportunities that come from genuine collaborative partnerships in addressing youth crime will be explored.

### **Relational security: balancing care & control in youth custody**

**Sanne Oostermeijer**

The University of Melbourne, VIC

**Poni Tongun**

The University of Melbourne, VIC

Youth custodial staff have the complex task of balancing care and control during their daily interactions with incarcerated people. The use of 'relational security' has been identified as a crucial part of establishing a safe environment, whilst also facilitating a more therapeutic approach. It refers to the knowledge and understanding that staff have of the environment and people in their care, and the way this knowledge is used to maintain safety.

Our study investigated the current views on, and use of, relational security approaches by Youth Justice custodial staff, and identified challenges and opportunities for improvements.

We interviewed a total of 26 custodial staff members working at a Youth Justice facility in Melbourne. Thematic analysis revealed that most staff identified their role as mentoring, coaching and caring for young people. Staff noted that ensuring a safe environment involves building rapport with young people, maintaining professional boundaries and providing consistency.

However, several challenges were identified including staff retention, frequent rotation, and an absence of team unity and staff support.

Our results indicated that staff views and intentions are aligned with a relational security approach. However, several crucial challenges beyond their control impact upon their ability to effectively balance care and safety.

The current study gives hope and future focus points to build a more resilient workforce and enhance the use of relational security in youth custodial facilities. Ultimately, this is likely to reduce institutional violence and the use of coercive control.



## ABSTRACTS

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### **Enhancing Support to find a New Path in Kurlana Tapa**

**Louisa Hackett**

Youth Justice, Department for Human Services, South Australia

All Youth Justice agencies face the challenge of implementing contemporary, evidence-informed approaches to caring for children and young people in custody, for both short and longer terms. Increasing awareness of the prominence of trauma and disability-related needs necessitates a new path.

Young people's movements in and out of the custodial setting can be swift and the opportunity for staff to gather the detailed information about a young person's personal history and functioning, which should ideally inform individualised responses to their behaviour, is limited.

Operational staff with responsibility for making rapid decisions about use of force, mechanical restraints, and safe rooms (for example) are often not fully informed about a young person's individual needs, and the clinical rationale that could and should underpin such operational tactics (or the use of alternative strategies).

In South Australia, a new multidisciplinary Enhanced Support Team (EST) was introduced in 2021 to work closely alongside operational youth workers to provide a more intensive and timely response for young people whose behaviour is complex and harmful to themselves and others.

Underpinned by the principles of Positive Behaviour Support and therapeutic models of care for residential environments, the EST focus on intensive behaviour support planning and interventions with young people to assist them with emotional and behavioural stability, whilst simultaneously supporting operational staff to enhance their own practice expertise and relational skills.

This presentation will outline the EST model, the organisational change processes undertaken with the workforce, lessons learned and ground gained.

## ABSTRACTS

## Communication Assistants in Court: "What does that even mean?"

## Sally Kedge

# Talking Trouble Aotearoa NZ

The talking involved in legal interactions typically requires a complex level of oral language and literacy. People need to understand charges, evidence, the legal process and their options, and follow the interaction between professionals. They need to provide instructions to counsel, and they may need to answer questions in cross examination. They need to understand the outcome of the legal process and any expectations they must fulfil.

These are challenging communication activities for most people, but particularly challenging for children and young people and those who have speech, language and communication needs.

Communication Assistants (CAs) are now often appointed in Aotearoa New Zealand to assist with the communication involved in legal interactions for defendants/ complainants /witnesses. Their role is to advise all involved about how to enable effective communication for the appointed person.

This presentation will explore the Communication Assistant process and provide case examples involving young people, including what they have said about the experience of being assisted by a CA. Practical strategies that all can use to support effective communication will be demonstrated.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2021**  
**CSD: BUILDING A ROBUST AND RESILIENT**  
**YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM**

## ABSTRACTS

## A principled approach to children and youth who commit serious offences

# Nessa Lynch

Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ

Across Australasian jurisdictions, responses to minor and moderate offending are generally tolerant and youth specific. Where children and youth commit serious offences, particularly homicide, exclusion from all or part of the protections of the youth justice system is inevitable.

This article surveys jurisdictions locally and globally, finding that the typical response to a homicide charge against a child or young is prosecution and sentencing in the adult jurisdiction. Reforms, such as alterations to trial procedure, and lower sentencing starting points, have focussed on mitigating the excesses of adult trial and sentence.

A principled approach requires a different lens. Practical strands of an age appropriate response include custody as a last resort and only where there is a risk to public safety, an automatic prohibition on publication of identifying biographical details, and a child/youth-specific jurisdiction.

The prevailing societal interest is in reintegration.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with ten sets of horizontal dashed lines. Each set consists of three parallel lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are evenly spaced vertically across the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. The margins at the top and bottom are wider than those between the ruled sections.



## ABSTRACTS

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### Reducing the prison pipeline – A Trauma Focused Approach

**Veronica Tone Graham**

University of Auckland, NZ

**Ian Lambie**

University of Auckland, NZ

Despite decreased youth offending numbers, youth justice residential remands have been on the rise for the past decade.

The research is clear that remand is undesirable, and where youth become involved with the justice system, they are significantly more likely to be involved in adult offending and periods in prison.

NZ Government Ministries have sought to adopt new strategies to address issues associated with youth on remand.

A 2015 expert panel recommended that whenever possible, alternatives to residential care should be tried ahead of placing young offenders into youth justice residences.

This presentation will describe the development, piloting and some findings of a trauma informed decision making tool (Remand Option Investigation Tool - ROIT) which was piloted in Manukau, Christchurch and Rotorua Youth Courts for young people whose bail was opposed.

**THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2021**  
**CSE: WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE**  
**SYSTEM**

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### **Youth Justice Pathways: wellbeing indicators and outcomes for young people involved with youth justice**

**Sarah Richardson**

Oranga Tamariki, NZ

Discussions around the outcomes of people who are involved in youth justice often focus on whether people flow from the youth justice system onto the adult justice system.

This presentation focusses on a piece of analysis carried out on a cohort of New Zealanders born between 1993-2002, following them through the care and protection, youth justice, and adult justice systems.

The analysis divides the cohort into four groups: those with involvement in both youth justice and care and protection, those with experience in youth justice only, those with experience in care and protection only, and those with no statutory involvement in either.

This presentation explores the pathways young people take to the youth justice system; provides information around what their wellbeing indicators and outcomes look like before, during and after youth justice involvement; and discusses how they compare with people who had no youth justice involvement.

The results show that those with both care and protection and youth justice experience are the most vulnerable, followed by those with experience in youth justice only. Young people involved in youth justice deal with a range of complex factors and often have contact with many government agencies years before entering youth justice.

This suggests there is an opportunity for early cross-agency support. Young people involved in youth justice also experience higher rates of imprisonment and community sentences than other groups.

The analysis also shows that interaction with care and protection does not place children on the path to offending.

Over half of those involved with care and protection do not offend as adults, and the vast majority do not end up in the care of corrections.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **Towards Culturally Intelligent Multi-Disciplinary Assessment in Custodial Settings**

**Melissa Saliba**

Youth Justice Assessment and Intervention Service, SA

**Ellie Minney**

Youth Justice Assessment and Intervention Service, SA

Youth Justice in South Australia is in the early stages of developing a framework for culturally intelligent assessment and report writing with Aboriginal young people.

This oral presentation highlights the cultural considerations associated with administering and interpreting cognitive and language assessments and is presented in the form of a case study which was characterised by complex cultural, psychosocial, linguistic, and legal considerations.

The case study will present the multi-disciplinary assessment of an Aboriginal young person who was from a regional area, within the unique features of the custodial setting. Participants will be taken through the assessment process, including cultural consultation and collaboration, the use of interpreters, selecting and implementing assessment tools, and the interpretation and implications of assessment results.

Challenges, solutions, and future directions as they relate to culturally intelligent assessment protocols within Youth Justice custodial settings will also be open for discussion.



### **Staff safety vs Therapeutic Interventions: How to safely juggle the competing priorities**

**Tina Brendas**

Bimberi Residential Services, ACT

**Alison Grace**

Bimberi Residential Services, ACT

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is the Australian Capital Territory's only youth justice centre. Bimberi provides safe care and custody to male and female young people, aged 10 to 21 years old, remanded or sentenced to a period of detention by the ACT Childrens and Supreme Courts. Bimberi has the physical capacity to hold up to 40 young people, but an operating capacity of 21 young people.

On 26 August 2019, Bimberi experienced a major incident which involved an unprovoked attack by young people against staff, in an attempt by the young people to escape. While many would consider the incident small in size, it involved six young people and lasted less than 90 minutes, the impacts on a youth justice centre the size of Bimberi was significant.

Two years on the impacts of this one incident are ongoing. This presentation will discuss the impacts of a major incident on a small jurisdiction, including on young people, staff, resources and ongoing operations and what learnings have been achieved.

Bimberi has been the focus of five major reviews since 2017, including two of the 26 August 2019 incident. These reviews have resulted in 141 recommendations with intended benefits for young people, staff and the safety and security of the Centre.

The presentation will discuss the relationship between Government and oversight agencies and the role reviews play in influencing strategic direction and how resourcing is allocated.

The presentation will discuss how Bimberi has worked to balance review recommendations with legislative requirements, Government priorities and resources and best practice in youth justice.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **Enabling rangatahi and whānau to shape how participation happens in youth justice spaces**

**Tracy Karanui-Golf**

Talking Trouble Aotearoa New Zealand

The Youth Justice process can require whānau Māori to participate in assessments, programmes, and meetings. Historically these processes have been based on a western world view and as such have not always considered the historical, contextual, and social factors that have and continue to impact whānau Māori in Aotearoa.

Understanding these factors should support professionals to better collaborate with whānau Māori and establish the best ways for engagement and participation so interactions can happen in a culturally safe and responsive way.

The communication involved in assessments, programmes and meetings is not always well-matched to the needs of whānau Māori in Aotearoa. When given the opportunity whānau Māori in Aotearoa can provide practitioners with advice around:

- the best ways to engage
- things that can help everyone to understand what is going on
- things that help everyone say what they want to say
- ways that Practitioners can adapt communication to create time and space for rangatiratanga.

This presentation will provide youth justice professionals with the opportunity to consider the communication demands in their work and how they can make participation easier for the young people and whānau they work with.

They will explore how the Meihana Model and Hui Process can improve assessment experiences for whānau Māori. These frameworks are well-established in related professions e.g., medicine and psychology, and have relevance and utility for other professionals. Participants will be provided with opportunities to explore how they can utilise these frameworks in their own practice and plan the practical and achievable steps for better participation and outcomes that they can take wherever they work. They will learn how speech-language therapists and communication assistances have been supported to apply these frameworks when working in justice settings

# Kaupapa Māori evaluation as a powerful tool for supporting the transformation of Youth Justice settings

**Kataraina Pipi**

FEM Ltd. NZ

**Ataru Hamilton**

Hikitia – Member of the Tuakana Teina Evaluation Collective

Kaupapa Māori literally means a 'Māori way' of doing things and the concept of kaupapa implies a way of framing and structuring how we think about and do evaluation with Māori.

Kaupapa Māori in the context of evaluation, is concerned with both methodology (a process of enquiry that determines the methods used) and method (the tools that can be used to produce and analyse data).

A Kaupapa Māori approach is open to a wide range of methods but critically signals the interrogation of those methods in relation to tikanga Māori (Māori values and practices). Kaupapa Māori research practices provide guidance for ethical research with Māori communities.

These include a respect for people (aroha ki te tangata), being a face that is known in the community (kanohi kitea), looking, and listening before speaking (titiro, whakarongo, kōrero), being humble (ngākau māhaki), being careful in our conduct (kia tūpato) and ensuring we uphold the mana of all people (kaua e takahia te mana o te tangata).

Kataraina has been at the forefront of advancing kaupapa Māori and indigenous evaluation within Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally for the last two decades.

Drawing on previous experiences and current projects in Youth Justice settings, Kataraina will discuss the power of kaupapa Maori evaluation approaches in supporting the transformation of Youth Justice services and how agencies might better support kaupapa Māori evaluation to better meet the needs and aspirations of rangatahi, whānau, hapu, iwi, and communities.



## Educational Experiences of Crossover Children in the Youth Justice and Child Protection Systems

**Dr Susan Baidawi**

Monash University, Victoria

Children involved with child protection services experience disproportionately high rates of youth justice system contact. Such 'crossover children' are at risk of earlier and more entrenched youth justice involvement as a result of a range of systemic, environmental and individual factors.

Despite evidence that education is among the most important protective factors for justice-involved children, little is known about the educational experiences and needs of crossover children, and how these differ from the broader youth justice cohort.

Drawing on a Children's Court case file analysis of more than 500 children who in 2016-17 came before three youth criminal courts in Victoria, Australia, this presentation outlines the education-related experiences and needs of crossover children, and compares these with children solely involved in the youth justice system.

Findings highlight the higher rates of educational disengagement and complexity of support needs among this group, alongside key stakeholder recommendations to prevent and address educational disengagement and exclusion of crossover children.

THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2021  
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SYSTEM

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### Validation of the YLS/CMI on an Australian Juvenile Offending Population

**Kristie Dellar**

Curtin University, WA

**Lynne Roberts**

Curtin University, WA

**Kristy Downe**

Department of Justice, WA

**Jonathan Bullen**

Curtin University, WA

**Robert Kane**

Curtin University, WA

There is a wealth of research that shows juvenile justice systems that utilise structured and validated assessment tools, such as the YLS/CMI, are far more effective at reducing rates of recidivism than those who do not. In line with this research, the Department of Justice (DoJ) in Western Australia adopted the YLS/CMI as the standard risk assessment tool for evaluating the criminogenic risk and needs of youth entering the justice system. While there is evidence supporting the utility of the YLS/CMI in predicting recidivism, there is little research demonstrating its effectiveness in Australian juvenile populations and no such research in a West Australian population. There is also a lack of research on the utility of the tool with young Indigenous offenders, which is particularly concerning given the significant overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the Australian criminal justice system. Our study was the first to examine the reliability and predictive validity of the YLS/CMI on a sample of West Australian juvenile offenders. In this paper, we present the results of two analyses. The first examines the properties of the YLS/CMI in a cohort of 4653 juvenile offenders in Western Australia, including factor structure, internal consistency, and differences between male and female youth and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. Consistent with our hypotheses, the tool demonstrated excellent internal consistency ( $\alpha = .91$ ) and cross-validation analyses identified significant differences between groups on total YLS scores and risk domains. The second analysis examines the predictive validity of the YLS/CMI in a subsample of 921 youth with a minimum follow-up period of two years. The overall recidivism rate was 74.8% and there were differences in scores and recidivism rates for Indigenous compared to non-Indigenous youth, although the predictive accuracies in terms of AUC were similar (c.  $=.65$  and c.  $=.66$  respectively).

### **Re-thinking Bail: Reducing the Remand of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children & Young People in NSW**

**Keisha Hopgood**

Aboriginal Legal Service, NSW/ACT

**Jenny Lovric**

Just Reinvest NSW

We know that children and young people do not have the cognitive or psychological maturity of adults. Further, we know that those who enter the criminal justice system have a high incidence of intellectual and other disabilities, mental health issues and trauma. In NSW, as in other domestic and international jurisdictions, this understanding is not adequately or appropriately reflected in our bail laws nor always in our approach to youth bail.

Further, consideration of the Aboriginality of a child or young person adequately is not adequately provided for. In NSW, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people represent 6% of the population yet account for 40% of those in custody, the majority of whom are on remand.

Fortunately, in NSW, there is much work being done in this space by all stakeholders.

This presentation looks at how we are seeking to reduce the remand of Aboriginal children and young people in custody. It discusses the purpose of bail and the need for child specific legislation and a standalone provision for Aboriginality and focuses on two projects; a collaboration with NSW Police in a regional town in NSW seeking to reduce breaches of bail; and work being done with Youth Justice, NSW and other stakeholders aimed at reducing avoidable incidences of short term remand.

The presentation illustrates that working collaboratively supports a genuine re-thinking of bail for children and young people, and how we can better support them away from the criminal justice system.



# ABSTRACTS

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## Mana Taiohi: Youth development principles for Aotearoa (New Zealand)

**Jane Zintl**

Ara Taiohi

**Anaru Te Rangi**

Ara Taiohi

This presentation provides an introduction to the youth development principles of Aotearoa.

This is a principle-based framework that informs the way we work with all young people in Aotearoa.

These principles have evolved from those that were previously expressed in the Youth Development Strategy of Aotearoa, and are the result of a comprehensive national review, informed by the voice of young people, Te Ao Māori, people who work with young people and Aotearoa based research and literature.

The presentation invites participants into a journey of exploring and understanding positive youth development in the context of youth justice in Aotearoa/NZ.

Together we explore the mana young people carry, and how positive youth development approaches can enhance this mana.

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### He kanohi kitea: A face seen in places where angels fear to tread

#### Mere Ruru

Kaiwhakahaere of Te Ikaroa Rangatahi Social Services

'He kanohi kitea' means 'a face seen' and as a Māori concept emphasises the importance of being present – being there is everything.

Te Ikaroa Rangatahi (Te Ikaroa), a social service provider based in Flaxmere, a suburb of Hastings in the Hawkes Bay, has been a face seen in the Hawkes Bay for over 20 years through their provision of youth justice services for rangatahi (young people) and support for their whānau (families).

Being present and having deep roots in communities where others fear to tread has led to an ability to be trusted to work in the Hawkes Bay to achieve positive outcomes for rangatahi and whānau.

Te Ikaroa successfully delivers youth justice services for the community because it is completely embedded in the community.

Mere Ruru, Te Ikaroa Kaiwhakahaere, will explain their focus on whakapapa (genealogy and heritage), whānau, and whānaungatanga (a sense of belonging and relationship developed through shared experiences and working together) to achieve change, and share success stories.

The organisation promotes the vision of Te Ao Kōhatu (reclamation of ancient knowledge systems and values) and their vision empowers kaimahi (practitioners) to use Kaupapa Māori service delivery models including the Mauri Ora framework. Two whakataukī that guide their work are:

- Ka pū te ruha ka hao te rangatahi (Capturing the wisdom of rangatahi into adulthood)
- Kia ū ki tōu tupuna, kia mātauria ai, I aha mai koe I hea, e anga ana koe ko hea (Casting the net wider to include whānau, hapū and iwi).

## ABSTRACTS

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### **Te Oranga Pai – The First Year**

#### **Kristina Bryers**

Best Care Whakapai Hauora, NZ

#### **Rachel Ngataki**

Best Care Whakapai Hauora, NZ

Te Oranga Pai (The journey to overall whānau ora) a partnership between the tangata whenua Rangitāne o Manawātū through their whanau ora and health arm (Best Care Whakapai Hauora) and Oranga Tamariki.

The first ever of its kind, A Rangitānenuirawa and Kaupapa Māori Youth Justice pathway, that is designed for all mokopuna and whānau who reside in the 4412 Area of Palmerston North. We focus on the aspirations of the whānau rather than the deficit.

The name Te Oranga Pai was gifted to us from Rangitāne and Ngati Raukawa tohunga (leaders). Te Oranga Pai is made up of two wāhine Māori with a passion for Rangatahi Ora and Youth Justice.

Kristina Bryers, Kaiarataki (means a path to keep the rhythm and tempo, to make speech and to challenge) the first ever statutory Iwi Youth Justice Practitioner that sits with the Iwi. She comes to the role with 14 years' experience in Oranga Tamariki, 12 years in Youth Justice. Kristina has a passion for Youth Justice and working with and for Māori.

Rachel Ngataki, the Kairuruku (means to bind together) Iwi Youth Justice Co- Ordinator comes to the role with Residential Youth Work experience and 7 years working for Whakapai Hauora in various health promotion roles.

The aspirations of Te Oranga Pai is that all mokopuna Māori that enter the Youth Justice space have the option to access a Te Aō Māori pathway that supports their Mana Motuhake.

In conclusion; Te Oranga Pai recognise that oranga is a Journey, we value whakapapa, we respect the mana of all people and we believe that leading with aroha is vital to positive outcomes.



### **Criminal identity development and practice: Using established practice models to promote pro-social identity changes with young people**

**Timothy Warton**

Youth Justice NSW

Identity development is a social and psychological phenomenon that has been extensively researched but has had limited application in the criminological literature or in practice with people who persistently offend.

Based on research undertaken with Monash University and YJ NSW, this presentation will discuss criminal identity development amongst young males. Specifically, the function human identity plays for adolescents who have had frequent and distinctive, criminally related experiences.

The findings of this research were guided by the intersection of two usually unrelated bodies of literature. Namely, the identity literature – found in psychology, social psychology and sociology and the broader criminological literature – most prominently social learning theories of crime, labelling theories and the desistance literature.

The findings indicated that a criminal identity amongst young people in YJ was associated with certain identity-forming events and social influences that influence very clear criminal identity ideologies. These ideologies had important social, personal and behavioural repercussions. This presentation will provide an overview of adolescent criminal identities, how they are constructed and how specific influences shape and maintain an identity to preserve a sense of self and a social role.

While these findings hold important considerations for policing, Court practices and Youth Justice policies, there are valuable applications for direct practice with young people to promote non-offending lifestyles.

This presentation will outline how these findings and ideas can help in working with young people in the Criminal Justice System, particularly those involved in family violence as perpetrators and often victims as well. The guiding principles of empirically-based practices such as CBT and problem solving and using other, less prominent approaches – particularly narrative approaches – will be discussed as vehicles for promoting pro-social identity exploration or “identity crisis” for young people in these tumultuous circumstances.

## ABSTRACTS

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### **KIND – Early Intervention Addressing Adolescent Family Violence and Adolescent Dating Violence**

**Kate Melvin**

Youth Justice Assessment and Intervention Service, Youth Justice South Australia

KIND is an early intervention program for adolescents who are perpetrating family or dating violence. KIND (Kinship, Improving Relationships, No Violence, Developing Skills) is based on the principles of restorative justice, trauma informed practice and an understanding that early intervention is key in addressing the ongoing issues of Family and Dating Violence in Australia.

KIND was developed with a focus on adolescent development, supported by research which concludes that adolescent perpetrators need a focussed intervention that is distinct from adult Perpetrator Intervention Programs.

KIND is an evidence-informed program, utilising existing frameworks, tools and assessments, and is implemented by practitioners skilled in family systems work, therapeutic practices and domestic and family violence interventions.

KIND works with the adolescent perpetrating violence, the victims(s) and the family of the perpetrator/ victims through individual sessions with each, followed by joint sessions.

The intervention takes three months to complete and utilises community and professional resources that exist around the client and family to support the family post intervention.

This presentation will discuss the overarching goals and key aims of the KIND program, including the therapeutic methods and processes utilised.

Pilot implementation outcomes from 2017 will be presented along with an update on a multi-jurisdictional implementation and evaluation initiated in 2021, developing a community of practice across Queensland and South Australia.



**Acknowledgement – The corner design of the conference banner is from a piece of art work entitled ‘Community’ that a young person created at the Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre in 2015. Young people residing in Kurlana Tapa at the time gave AYJA permission for several art works to be used in AYJA documents and displayed on the AYJA website on the proviso that their names not be shown.**