



AUSTRALASIAN YOUTH JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

Terms of Reference

Purpose: The Australasian Youth Justice Administrators (AYJA) is the only nationally recognised youth justice body in Australia and New Zealand and works collaboratively as a decision-making collective to lead and influence the development of youth justice systems to provide better outcomes for young people and the communities we serve.

This will be achieved by:

- Promoting the national principles and standards of youth justice
- Providing youth justice data and information to relevant committees
- Promoting and maintaining relevant benchmarks for youth justice administration through national principles, standards and guidelines for states and territories to model
- Sharing relevant information among youth justice jurisdictions
- Providing a mechanism for information exchange.

To meet its objectives AYJA undertakes to:

- Make use of data and research available to progress jurisdictional agendas on youth justice issues
- Identify and advise on efficiencies and effectiveness in practice
- Support and contribute to building the evidence base for effective youth justice responses
- Maintain and enhance information and research partnerships and reporting authorities
- Maintain a focus on issues of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island young people, Māori young people, other cultural groups, and vulnerable groups throughout the work AYJA pursues
- Establish links with relevant forums and key partners to ensure consideration of youth justice issues
- Provide oversight and strategic direction to the Youth Justice Data and Information Group (YJ DIG)
- Continue the development of the Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS)
- Deliver a youth justice conference on a biennial basis.

AYJA Membership:

- Each jurisdiction agrees to participate in AYJA and provide at least one senior executive responsible for the delivery of youth justice services
- Two face-to-face meetings will be held each year with each participating jurisdiction committed to hosting a meeting on a rotational basis
- Each jurisdiction agrees to provide chairmanship to AYJA for a two-year period on a rotational basis
- The Deputy Chair will shadow the AYJA Chair for a two-year period in preparation to take over as AYJA Chair for the next two-year period
- Each jurisdiction agrees to provide chairmanship to AYJA subcommittees as required
- The Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori Advisory Group will be an invited member of AYJA to provide cultural advice and expertise to inform decisions that will impact Indigenous children, families/whānau and communities/iwi and hapū.