



AYJC 2021 Online Final Report Summary

AYJC 2021 Online – “*Delivering Youth Justice for the Community, by the Community*”

Report Summary

The Australasian Youth Justice Administrators has received the Final Report for the 4th Australasian Youth Justice Conference, which confirmed the Conference to be successful in terms of planning, attendance, the level of delegate satisfaction and engagement, the level of industry involvement, and the financial return.

AYJC 2021 Online was originally scheduled for 13-15 April 2021 to be hosted in-person at the University of Auckland. Due to the uncertain travel conditions and the ongoing Covid-19 situation in both New Zealand and Australia the AYJA membership agreed to pivot the three-day conference to a virtual format and delay the delivery to 16-18 November 2021.

All content from the Conference has now been saved and is available to the public through the AYJA YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPHBsMAmnzPDu3Mc8W-6NzQ/videos>

Key Points from the Report

- AYJA and Oranga Tamariki were responsible for promoting the Conference and encouraging registrations. A variety of forums and channels were used for promotion, particularly to encourage and support community organisations, who would have been very unlikely to attend an in-person event due to costs and impact on their organisation, to participate. Even though the event was changed to an online format, it was recommended by event management that a cap of 800 registrations be set for technical reasons. Consequently, promotion was targeted rather than broad, to ensure places available were not exceeded.
- Over 650 people registered, with many more watching the presentations either in a group ‘watch party’ setting or through the sharing of logins after the Conference, which was permitted under the terms of participation.
- Timing of sessions had to be managed to enable the greatest participation from people across three different timezones. This meant some early starts for Western Australia and late finishes for New Zealand.
- There was a total of 61 presentations, with 115 abstracts originally submitted by 85 authors. The most popular format was the ‘Oral Presentation’ which received a total of 107 submissions or 93% of all submissions. All abstracts were blind peer reviewed by the Conference Program Committee (CPC), with comments and reviewer scores forwarded to the CPC for final acceptance and allocation
- AYJC 2021 Online also had five notable keynote speakers and these sessions were particularly well-watched.
- The Conference completed its financial activities with a surplus of funds from high registration numbers, which will support delivery of the next Conference in 2023. This was accommodated alongside a significant reduction in the registration fee resulting from the shift to online.

Feedback from Survey Participants

The University of Auckland surveyed registered participants following the Conference. There were 134 responses.

- 121 respondents would recommend the Conference to others.
- Benefits from attending included being able to see and assess what others are doing in the youth justice space, including:
 - comparative narratives and practice with indigenous communities
 - being able to connect and collaborate with others
 - knowing who to reach out to in different organisations for information.
- While there were some technical problems and it was noted by some attendees that the platform didn't easily support conversation and challenge, the online platform's usefulness as a learning tool and the ability to engage with content 'on demand' were seen as huge benefits.
- People were disappointed at not being able to connect in person and network, as well as not being able to focus entirely on the Conference in the same way they would if physically present.
- There were a lot of suggestions made about future Conference themes, including:
 - working in partnership,
 - supporting working with families
 - youth justice from the perspective of young people
 - youth crime prevention and innovation in practice.

Feedback from the University of Auckland (event partner)

AYJC 2021 Online was the largest virtual conference hosted by the University both in terms of session numbers and delegates.

The University and AYJA learned a lot about hosting online conferences, which can be applied to future events.

Important things for AYJA members to consider in the future:

- Need to ensure clarity:
 - who is presenting
 - including all co-presenters and ensure that they are provided with the right kind of registration and training
 - ensure that abstract information matches the intended presentation and presenters.
- When using online platforms, specifications and testing need to be done well in advance of events to ensure that they comply with Government department regulations and technological operating environments.