

Queensland Youth Detention Review Submission



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Introduction

Mission Australia (MA) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the *Independent Review of Youth Detention* in Queensland. While not aiming to comment on the operations of particular detention centres or prisons, Mission Australia has experience in youth diversion programs, rehabilitation programs and addressing causational issues behind offending behaviour. We also run cultural programs that address the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. We therefore seek to focus on Parts (a)(v) and (vi) of the Review's Terms of Reference and Parts 6 to 9 of the discussion paper.

About us

Mission Australia is a national non-denominational Christian organisation, with more than 155 years' experience in standing together with Australians in need on their journey to independence. Our evidence-based, client-centred community services are focused on reducing homelessness and strengthening communities across Australia.

In the 2014-15 financial year, we supported over 307,000 Australians through 589 programs and services including:

- programs targeting homelessness;
- services providing integrated family support;
- parenting programs;
- early childhood education;
- mental health services;
- residential drug and alcohol programs;
- youth programs;
- access to safe and secure housing; and
- programs to build capacity, resilience and opportunity for local communities.

To achieve our goal, we work in partnership with communities, supporters, government, businesses and other organisations. We measure our impact, collecting evidence of what works to inform our service design and delivery, and to advocate for change.

6. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DELIVERED IN YOUTH DETENTION CENTRES INCLUDING ADDRESSING CAUSATIONAL ISSUES UNDERLYING OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

Appropriate and adapted programs in detention

All programs and Services delivered in youth detention centres need to be

- Culturally appropriate and adapted;
- Trauma informed;
- Holistic; and
- Take into account low levels of literacy and high levels of cognitive disability amongst young people in detention.

This requires Corrections staff to be sufficiently trained to deal with the complex needs and backgrounds of young people in detention. This training should be more intensive than what is currently offered and practice change is required.

The need for connection between programs offered in detention and on release

Support services need to work with young people as early as possible before their release. Post-release services should commence weekly visits months (not weeks) before release to support a successful transition where possible. This allows for rapport to be built resulting in transition programs to be more effective in the short timeframe provided after release.

Services which have provided effective support while young people are in detention should also transition to post-release support rather than attempting to build a new service relationship with the young person. For example occupational therapists assisting young people with disability will have time to build rapport when the young person is in detention. These relationships could be effectively continued on release rather than having to start again to build trust and understanding with a new occupational therapist in the post-release phase.

Cognitive Disability and Mental Health

Disability services are essential considering the high level of young people with cognitive disability in juvenile detention. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with cognitive disabilities and mental health issues are over-represented in the justice system.

A recent study found that those with complex cognitive disability are significantly more likely to have earlier contact with police, more police episodes, be more likely to have been clients of juvenile justice, have more police episodes through life and more prison episodes than those with a single (or no) diagnosis. This high and ongoing contact with the criminal justice system tends to lock them into the criminal justice system very early rather than assist in rehabilitation.ⁱ

Mental health and cognitive disability need to be addressed for young people pre-custody, in detention and on release. This needs to be culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services are most appropriate and

need to be available from diversion, to detention to post release. Mainstream agencies can work in partnership with Aboriginal controlled health services to provide an integrated and holistic response.ⁱⁱ

“We need more mental health services in youth justice.”

Juvenile detention, M, 19, VIC

Current access to specialist services is inadequate in the community and in the criminal justice system. Transitional supports are required to improve prospects for successful reintegration to the community. Reliable identification methods are also required so that young people with support needs are able to access the services available.ⁱⁱⁱ

Early holistic support is crucial for the development and well-being of children and young people with mental health disorders and cognitive impairment, particularly Aboriginal children and young people and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Without such early intervention and diversion, the costs to individuals with mental health disorders and cognitive impairment, their families and communities, as well as the costs to government, can be extremely high. Such costs increase over time, as people with mental health disorders and cognitive impairment become entrenched in the criminal justice system and are further disadvantaged. Robust, holistic, targeted cross portfolio support and intervention for people with mental health disorders and cognitive impairment would reduce the significant economic and human costs of this group of people cycling in and out of the criminal justice system.^{iv}

People with cognitive impairment who are in the criminal justice system are also highly vulnerable to homelessness.^v Integrated approaches are needed for people who are homeless, have a cognitive impairment, a mental disorder or complex needs and are enmeshed in the criminal justice system. Ongoing support with accommodation is required and intensive case management and support has been shown to be effective.^{vi}

Education and Literacy

Young people who have experienced complex childhood trauma may exhibit behaviour problems at school, disengage early through truancy, suspension or expulsion and end up in contact with the criminal justice system. The education system needs to stem this tide by taking a trauma informed approach to students giving young people the early support they need to prevent contact with the justice system. This includes providing teachers with a greater understanding of trauma, culture and disability to better manage young people in mainstream schooling environments and prevent the pipeline to prison.

Recent evidence also shows that high proportions of young offenders have a clinically significant, but previously undetected, oral language disorder.^{vii} Boys with language disorders are often identified as having behaviour problems and managed as such. Early identification and intervention is required as well as the use of evidence-based instruction methods in early literacy.^{viii}

Approaches aimed at improving functional literacy skills in young offenders should be based on a high level of suspicion that underlying language skills are under developed.^{ix} Low levels of literacy also need to be taken into account in all programs developed for these young people and by staff in contact with the young people as they lack understanding of the rules and consequences that apply.

“The Uniform does not distract us from our learning. The making a big deal about Effects our learning by pulling us out of class & getting suspended.”

F, 16, QLD

A review of suspension and expulsion procedures is also required. Young people are expelled when they shouldn't be and often don't make it from primary to secondary school. They may be suspended for uniform infringements or expelled for truanting. Young people with cognitive disabilities or special needs are often expelled for their behaviour rather than supported and more could be done to prevent the flow of these young people into the juvenile justice system.

There is also a need for better connection between the education and justice systems to improve outcomes for young people. Young people in contact with the justice system often cycle between Corrections and flexible learning. Young people with low level offending often come into contact with higher level offenders through the flexible learning centre raising more challenges for their rehabilitation. It is not an appropriate environment with low risk and high risk young people mixed. Transitional education supports to young people need to be improved.

Substance Use

There are strong links between substance use and the criminal justice system. Substance use may increase the likelihood of both violent and property crimes and the justice system often fails to address the addiction that led to the crimes and exits people into a worse situation than before they entered detention. Without appropriate supports to address substance use while in detention and after release, the risk of reoffending is significant.

“Clients exiting jail may only be out a week before they are arrested and back in custody, they are not rehabilitated prior to exit and they are not supported when exiting.”

Program Manager, Youth Homelessness

Substance use disorders, particularly those that are comorbid with mental health disorders, can increase the risk of crime, and especially violent crimes^x. Despite very high and problematic rates of substance abuse among young offenders, Australian and international studies have found that drug

and alcohol treatment referral and uptake occur at very low rates in this population^{xi}. It is essential that young offenders with substance use disorders are able to receive adequate intervention and treatment to help them minimise further substance abuse and the potential for ongoing criminal acts. Some successes have been found with relapse prevention programs conducted within prison settings which focus on building coping skills and developing social skills in the community once released^{xii}.

“Currently prisoners don’t get enough opportunity for long-term change programs such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation, particularly those with shorter sentences.”

Program Manager, Adult Service

There needs to be more emphasis on rehabilitation in detention and more preparation for release. Drug and alcohol workers need to be in contact with the young person prior to release.

“When it comes to drug rehab programs, the waiting lists are incredibly long. People who are ready to seek treatment should be able to access it straight away. Instead, we see people giving up and losing motivation, while their drug use escalates. Worse still, many of these people end up in prison because of offending associated with their drug misuse. Access to treatment options from within the prison system is extremely limited, no matter what Corrective Services might say about the programs they offer.”

Solicitor, Youth Legal Services

It is a small proportion of the population who account for a high percentage of crime statistics, and services which effectively address young people’s substance use would go some way to ameliorating the flow on to criminal activity. This would involve education and early intervention as well as outreach and casework services for vulnerable groups, access to appropriate detoxification and rehabilitation services for young people and after care to ensure that changes are sustained and lives are improved in a holistic way including addressing the underlying issues such as trauma, family dysfunction and disengagement from education and employment.

“There should be extra support for young people in the youth justice system/ education about crime, drugs & alcohol for young kids.”

Mission Australia client – M, 16, VIC

Bail support programs

Consideration also needs to be given to the ways in which homelessness gives rise to contact with the criminal justice system and the impacts of the legal system on homeless people, particularly around bail and remand.^{xiii} Bail support provides an important level of intervention prior to detention. However appropriate accommodation is a significant barrier to bail compliance.

Bail support programs assist accused persons who would otherwise be remanded in custody to access bail and to remain on bail (ie to meet their bail conditions). A lack of appropriate services to support young people to obtain bail and meet bail conditions has been identified as potentially contributing towards the high number of young people on custodial remand, particularly for Indigenous young people and young people from regional or remote areas. Bail support services and programs are an important component of any strategy that aims to reduce the use of custodial remand for young people.^{xiv}

Exit planning and case management supports

Mission Australia supports efforts to provide stronger planning for those exiting prison so that they are not exited into homelessness. We suggest a service model that includes pre- and post-release case management, referral to local and specialist service providers, material support (by way of brokerage), aftercare support and options for the inclusion of Peer Mentoring and AOD Counselling and Support Services. The service should begin 8-12 weeks prior to release, and continue for the two years following release. This model should achieve the following:

- Pre-release support and planning, with seamless transition to post release support and aftercare.
- Individualised support provided to program participants post release for two years, based on personal needs and circumstances as well as ongoing risk assessment (including of criminogenic factors and known offending behaviours).
- Programming that responds (in intensity and types of support) to:
 - The principles of the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model of offender rehabilitation;
 - Match the proven statistical patterns of reoffending behaviour and activity; and
 - Focus on accommodation, relationships/support networks and employment/education participation, as well as fulfilling parole requirements.
- Collaboration and partnerships:
 - With local and specialist service providers to ensure a holistic and comprehensive approach to supporting individual pathways to independence and desistance from criminal activity; and
 - To complement and align with supports provided by Corrections and other relevant agencies.

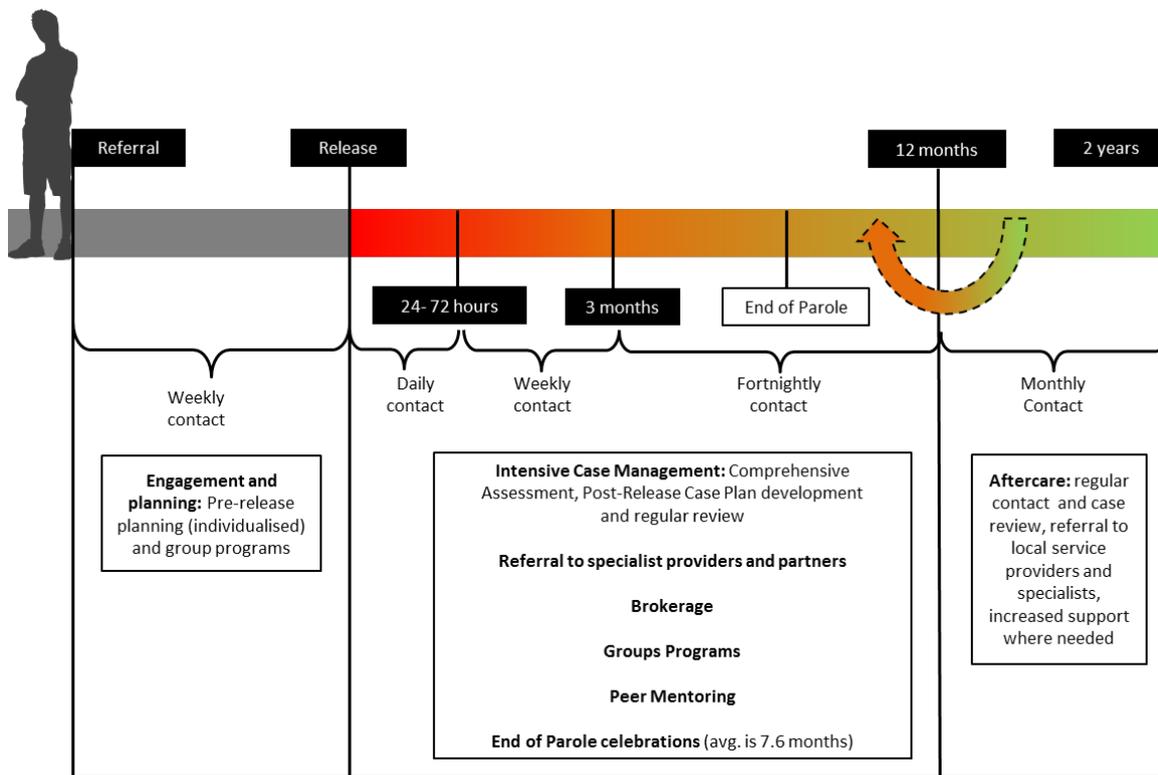


Figure 2. Suggested service model, post-release program

For the youth justice system the model should also include:

- Tailored support to ensure young people in supervised AND community detention can continue to engage with or re-engage with education, vocational training and employment opportunities. For an example of such a program see WorkOut description below.
- Support for young people and their families through the complex court system.
- Family-based interventions that support relationship building and emotional literacy.
- Support provided post-release that is youth friendly and focused on supporting young people into meaningful/productive uses of time including education and employment.
- Diversionary programs linked to education and employment with case management supports that are known to be effective and offer good opportunities for scale.

Working with the Family

Contact with family is extremely important for the young person's rehabilitation and more can be done to facilitate this. Programs that work with young people need capacity to work with the whole family to be effective. Single parent families are under particular stress and may need additional support.

The Critical need for Housing: A zero tolerance approach to exits into homelessness

Mission Australia has advocated for a 'zero tolerance' approach to people becoming homeless when they exit state care including detention centres. Supports need to be provided to people well before they exit institutions and governments should be held accountable for these outcomes over the medium term.

The Journeys Home research found that respondents that have been incarcerated, whether in juvenile detention, adult prison or remand, are particularly prone to homelessness, even when compared to other similarly vulnerable people. The risk is especially high for respondents who spent a considerable amount of time (i.e. 12 months or more) in juvenile detention. Those recently incarcerated were particularly prone to primary homelessness.^{xv} On the other hand, stable housing may contribute to a decrease in reoffending and drug use.^{xvi} Accommodation is a primary need for many people at the time of their release.^{xvii}

Homeless people with criminal records may also encounter substantial barriers to exiting homelessness such as discrimination.^{xviii} Families who are evicted from public housing are left with no alternative and are at extremely high risk of homelessness. Services report that Aboriginal families have been targeted and discriminated against in housing and that where there is a behavioural issue with one child, the siblings suffer the consequences of housing instability.

Social and economic disadvantage play an underlying and compounding role in both criminal behaviour and homelessness. Other forms of intersecting disadvantage include mental illness, unemployment and substance abuse.^{xix}

There is often a lack of recognition that releasing young people to an overcrowded home or to couch surfing is still releasing to homelessness and that homelessness is more than just rooflessness

We know that overcrowding is a particular issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. On Census night in 2011, people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent made up 2.5 per cent of the Australian population, but accounted for 25 per cent of all persons who were homeless^{xx}. Of those who were classified as homeless, 75 per cent were in severely overcrowded dwellings^{xxi}. Most of the severely overcrowded dwellings are based in very remote areas.^{xxii}

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people also continue to be over-represented among specialist homelessness service clients. Almost one quarter of clients who provided information on their Indigenous status identified as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.^{xxiii}

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may experience homelessness as an intersection with multiple disadvantages including multi-generational crowded housing, poorer health and higher rates of poverty and incarceration.^{xxiv}

In remote communities, home building has not kept pace with population growth. The private rental market in regional centres such as Cairns is largely unaffordable due to a lack of supply and competition with high income earners from mining and other industries. Discrimination against Aboriginal people attempting to lease a property has also been reported. Due to a lack of adequate and appropriately located housing, homelessness amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people takes many forms including rough sleeping, couch surfing and overcrowding.^{xxv}

More resourcing is required for pre and post-release programs to prevent homelessness among those exiting detention and reduce re-incarceration.

Case management is required to address underlying and intersecting issues including family disconnection, contact with the justice system, exits from out-of-home-care, mental health issues and domestic and family violence which are all heightened risks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who face multiple disadvantages.

Indigenous people need to be involved in solving the complex problems around homelessness including poverty, disadvantage and the lack of appropriate housing^{xxvi} and investment should be directed as a priority to address overcrowding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Going Places

Mission Australia's Going Places program in Cairns (funded by Queensland Department of Communities) involves homeless outreach which moves long-term homeless people into sustainable housing.

This program works with significant numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. In a cost benefit assessment, it was found that for every \$1 invested, the government saved \$5.10 in public services no longer required. The savings reflect benefits including reduced need for crisis accommodation, incarceration, court proceedings, police time, diversionary services, time in hospital, and participants being able to support their own children.



Moving from Reaction to Prevention and Early Intervention

“Many of the young people should not be in the justice system at all.”

Youth Justice Worker, Queensland

Much of the funding for juvenile justice is reactive and only gets to young people at the end of the line. There is a strong need to engage earlier in the community and prevent vulnerable young people from coming into contact with the juvenile justice system in the first place.

We need to move away from populist rhetoric about cleaning up crime and deal with the underlying issues. In some case punitive approaches and shaming of individuals has resulted in vigilante attacks on young people in some cases.

“Initiatives that have shown good results have sadly been defunded. This includes the Youth Support Coordinator Initiative that was able to work with the whole family and provide service brokerage. The focus needs to be returned to early intervention and prevention.”

Program Manager Youth Housing

There is scope for a justice reinvestment approach which is targeted at reducing offending and increasing community safety at a local level. A justice reinvestment approach is particularly relevant in Indigenous communities where it can be led by elders and owned by the community giving a greater sense of self determination. Justice reinvestment is also fiscally responsible as it involves a shift in spending from prisons to prevention rather than an increase in spending.



Justice Reinvestment – Bourke NSW

In 2013 Just Reinvest NSW began working with the Bourke community in north-west NSW on the first major justice reinvestment trial in Australia, the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project.

Justice reinvestment recognises that tough on crime approaches have resulted in increased numbers of people in detention and skyrocketing costs socially as well as economically.

Justice reinvestment focuses on the underlying issues including homelessness, child protection, disability, high-risk drug and alcohol use, violence, poverty and a lack of appropriate services.

A long-term, whole of government justice reinvestment approach can address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait young people and the current system's failure to rehabilitate.

7. CURRENT CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN ADDRESSING THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUTH DETENTION

Need for cultural understanding

Many of the young people caught up in the juvenile justice system in Queensland are Indigenous and dealing with intergenerational and complex trauma. As noted above it is essential that the system takes account of these young people's underlying and cultural needs at every stage of the process.

Protective factors for Indigenous young people that may reduce offending risks include cultural resilience, or positive cultural factors that operate today despite changed circumstances; personal characteristics that facilitate self-esteem and confidence; family characteristics based on strong attachment and social bonds; and a positive sense of cultural identity..^{xxvii}.

In some cases young people's disconnection from community and shame from past behaviour will prevent returning to the community. Cultural camps provided by Mission Australia link young people to their cultural identity and could also be provided while young people are in detention to better utilise this time for rehabilitation.

Elders play an important role in helping young people to stay connected to culture and need to be engaged at every step of the program. However many elders are already under substantial pressure with community obligations as well as engagement in court processes. This can be a burden personally, financially and on families and support needs to be provided for this vital role.

“Police have a negative attitude towards young people, picking on young people. They need to spend time with young people to understand them.”

Aboriginal male, 18, VIC

Training is also essential for police, justice, custodial and correctional health staff, to increase their cultural competence—that is, their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, cultural distinctiveness and diversity. Key service workers having a greater depth of cultural understanding will improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people..^{xxviii}

Mission Australia also has a range of evidence based culturally responsive programs and has established cultural competency principles, which ensure ongoing cultural security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities accessing our services.

Mission Australia recognises that to best support Aboriginal people we need to work in the context of their social and familial environment. In order to do this, Mission Australia uses the cultural mapping tool as a guide to understanding relationships, supports and the environment a person

comes from. This is then used in conjunction with the case plan and identifies what support can be offered to people in the cultural map. See Appendix for an example of a cultural map.

Additionally, Mission Australia utilises cultural consultants (i.e., Aboriginal people from the local area such as NSW Police ACLOs, Aboriginal Health Workers, etc) to assist in the identification of cultural mapping priorities and key relationships within the community.

Mission Australia is a signatory to the *ACOSS Principles for a partnership-centred approach*,¹ which set out the importance of working collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including working together on the design and delivery of any activities to be implemented.

Addressing underlying disadvantage and strengthening communities

Incarceration rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women are both worsening, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women now being the fastest growing prison population in Australia.^{xxix}

Issues such as social and economic disadvantage, poor education and mental illness increase the risk of young people entering the criminal justice system. To address issues such as these, there needs to be community-based approaches which focus on developing strengths and addressing the underlying causes of criminal behaviour. This includes efforts to improve the social economic and health disadvantages faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.^{xxx}

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system. Culturally appropriate programs of justice reinvestment can be part of the solution to this situation, as can stable and appropriate housing within indigenous communities.

The Change the Record Coalition's Blueprint for Change should be urgently adopted, including a commitment to supporting the development of community controlled justice reinvestment initiatives that can allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led solutions to dramatically turn around justice outcomes.

For young people in particular, the approach to crime needs to change. Young people need support and positive reinforcement to have positive outcomes and reach their full potential. Detention is not only a negative experience for young people: exposure to youth detention also substantially increases the likelihood of involvement in crime as an adult.^{xxxi}

The impacts of crime are felt most keenly by people in the community where it takes place, and early intervention and prevention strategies will not only cut offending and imprisonment rates, but importantly will increase safety by addressing the root causes of violence and building stronger communities.^{xxxii}

Within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, resolving violence is often focussed on community healing, restoration of family cohesion and processes that aim to let both the victim and perpetrator deal with their pain and suffering. The rebuilding of family and kinship ties is often central to developing any type of response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence.

As with other programs and services, family violence interventions should be shaped by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities themselves.^{xxxiii}

Australia is falling short of providing equal life opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A different approach is needed to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people across the spectrum of life domains.

The outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people will only improve with significant, long-term and targeted efforts led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.^{xxxiv} Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people need to be at the centre of policy and programming decisions. Policies must be made with and not for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and must be long-term and adequately funded, local, holistic and evidence-based.

There have been repeated calls for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations to lead these changes. This is the essential paradigm shift required for closing the gap in outcomes and re-setting the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians.

See Mission Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Report for more:

https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/publications/research/young-people/doc_download/587-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-youth-report

8. ANY INFORMATION ON CURRENT POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PROGRAMS RELATING TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE IN YOUTH DETENTION CENTRES IN QUEENSLAND AND OTHER AUSTRALIAN JURISDICTIONS

In Queensland, Mission Australia provides the following programs directly targeted at young people in contact with the criminal justice system

Supervised Community Accommodation (Townsville)

This program provides supervised accommodation in the Townsville community for up to four young males leaving detention or within ten weeks of leaving detention who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness. Young people are provided with case management support and are accommodated for up to six months.

Young people develop improved living skills, learn to control drug and alcohol use, improve their physical and mental health and have reduced re-offending. Many of the clients are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and the service is culturally appropriate and adapted. Where possible, initial services for young people are established while in detention.

Youth Bail Support Service

Young people on bail or remanded due to a lack of stable and positive support in their community are eligible for the service. The service includes case management, brokerage, outreach and referrals to enable the young person to improve compliance with bail conditions, reduce risk factors that may lead to breaching bail conditions and improve protective factors which encourage pro-social behaviour and prevent offending during bail.

Traditional Camp

Mission Australia, in collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS), provides Indigenous camps on local, traditional country to support local indigenous youth who are involved in the criminal justice system and are at high risk of reoffending. Up to 10 camping trips per year are planned to a local national park to do culturally appropriate activities to strengthen young people's connection to culture and country.

These programs have had success in rehabilitating young people and could be expanded to meet need. Some case studies of the young people supported are set out below.

From family violence to cultural connection with the right supports

David*, a 16 year old Aboriginal male was referred to the Bail Support Program for his first offence – a domestic violence matter involving his mother and sister. The needs assessment with David and his family identified that he was at risk of homelessness due to his long-term threatening behaviour towards female family members. As part of the case plan process, David and his family identified that Mission Australia's Supported Community Accommodation Townsville (SCAT) was the most appropriate housing service and a referral proposal was sent to the Townsville Youth Justice Service.

For a small period of time, David was a client of both services, whilst appropriate referrals and case-plan goals were established in both programs. The SCAT program worked with David to identify his individual goals and then worked with him to achieve these – including, but not limited to: life-skills

training; appropriate, non-violent, respectful, culturally appropriate relationships between male and females; anger-management techniques; and communication skills.

Through referrals a strong relationship with the local PCYC boxing program, connected him with Aboriginal mentors, and got him involved in billycart building and other local NGO initiatives. The Young person's day included boxing training, visiting his mother, and returning to the SCAT at night for curfew. Over the course of the next 6 months, David stopped mumbling and learned to speak clearly; he also grew in confidence and began to speak to female staff, and then the females in his family respectfully.

During his stay at SCAT, David also took part in the first Cultural Camp run by Mission Australia and ATSILS. Following the camp the young person has not re-offended; his relationships with his family have continued to improve; and, he continues to have a strong relationship with 3 of the camp volunteers – the young person has brought cultural and spiritual concerns to these mentors, and has re-established connections with elders from within his family.

Making friends, getting healthy and moving to independence

Adam* was 17 when he entered Supported Community Accommodation Townsville (SCAT) and had no social connections or networks in the area. Sadly Adam had a history of self-harm and suicide attempts and had left school in the eighth grade. After three months of support Adam has made great strides with no new police charges, improved independent living skills and completion of automotive training certificates through TAFE. He is also on the journey to recovery with support from counselling services and Headspace and has been improving his health with a commitment to physical activity and abstinence from alcohol. He is engaging in meaningful activities including fishing and checking his crab pots, study, expanding his social networks through TAFE and playing video games that gives him satisfaction. He has also begun saving money and speaking with housing agencies with minimal support.

A birthday to remember

Michael* entered the Supported Community Accommodation Townsville (SCAT) as a 15 year old. He was a young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and significant history of substance misuse. He had truanted from school until completely disengaging in grade 8 with very low literacy and numeracy making him ineligible for some specialist services. He has now begun literacy and numeracy and computer skills training and worked with his worker to creating goals to provide a feasible alternative to criminal offending. Michael turned 16 while in SCAT and the workers helped him realise a long term dream of having a birthday cake and birthday celebration – something he had never had before.

*All names have been changed for privacy reasons.

9. ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MODELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY RESPONDING TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO THE REVIEW.

Mission Australia runs a variety of programs in other states and Territories that provide successful models for diversion, addressing substance abuse, legal support and cultural connection for young people at risk of contact with the criminal justice system as follows:

Youthbeat (WA)

Youthbeat is a Mission Australia safety and early intervention program supporting youth on the streets of the Perth CBD. This comprehensive program provides mobile outreach to young people in the Northbridge and inner city areas, as well as counselling and goal setting. Youthbeat also runs a recreation program for young people on Thursday and Friday nights.

Youthbeat's brightly coloured vans are staffed by professional youth workers who are trained to deal with alcohol and drug-fuelled incidents and support young people experiencing homelessness. The service provides safety, information and guidance for young people at risk and connects them with local community services, family and peers. A key feature of the model is follow-up support with young people and their families. Youthbeat helps young people to become strong, healthy adults who play active roles in their communities.

The Drug and Alcohol Youth Service (WA)

DAYS is a 24 hour residential rehabilitation service provided by Mission Australia to young people aged 12 to 19 years throughout Western Australia who are experiencing alcohol and other drug issues. This facility provides a 3-month structured rehabilitation program that is evidence based and client directed where possible. Consultation and collaboration is at the cornerstone of the program. From the point of referral the young person is invited to engage in a comprehensive assessment process. Treatment plans belong to the client and reflect treatment pathways they want to engage in.

Clients have access to a range of integrated services allowing a continuum of care throughout their stay and post-treatment. Service integration provides a single point of entry into the core drug and alcohol youth services and supports comprehensive data collection and monitoring of service delivery.

Elders Visiting Program (NT)

The Elders Visiting Program was developed in partnership between the NT Department of Justice, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Community Council and elders, and commenced in 2005 throughout NT Correctional facilities both adult and youth. The objectives are to support the mental health and wellbeing of Indigenous prisoners by maintaining links to community and culture while in prison, and to improve the reintegration prospects of Indigenous prisoners by talking about behaviours that led to their incarceration and discussing their post release plans, obligations and expectations upon returning to the community. The program also provides an important link between Indigenous prisoners and Corrections staff, advising staff on cultural and community issues that may impact on an inmate's behaviour or ability to address their offending.

Spin 180 (NT)

Spin 180 Youth Sailing Program is an initiative between Mission Australia's Spin180 Youth Homelessness Program and the Darwin Sailing Club to provide an opportunity for young people to participate in a Nationally Accredited Beginner's Sailing course. The program aims to provide an opportunity for young people who are partially or completely disengaged from education, from family, at risk of homelessness or are homeless or young people looking for pathways to volunteer work, training and employment and/or engaged in the Criminal justice system in Darwin. The program equips young people in areas of critical thinking, problem solving and conflict resolution; builds resilience, self-confidence, self-esteem and courage; builds and strengthens leadership skills, communication skills and team-work capabilities; and engages young people in a positive, interactive and practical environment and to learn new things.

WorkOut (VIC)

WorkOut delivers an individualised, responsive and assertive service facilitating quality sustainable training and employment outcomes for young people within Youth Justice Custodial Services across Victoria. The service is an integral support for young people exiting custody as part of their case planning. WorkOut staff and Youth Justice Custodial Services Coordinators work in collaboration to ensure there are no gaps that a young person can slip through, and that together they provide comprehensive and consolidated case planning and case management processes.

"I need to get a job to help keep me out of trouble."

Juvenile detention Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, M, 19, VIC

Synergy (VIC)

Synergy Repairs is a social enterprise based in North Melbourne that offers customers a full suite of smash repair services, while providing on-the-job training and work experience for marginalised youth; notably young people who have had trouble with the law. The program harnesses participants' interest in cars and aims to help them build a career in a field that matches their interests. Unique to Australia at the time of its inception, the program has engaged with over 100 young people, and the business has repaired more than 600 cars. The program is a partnership between Mission Australia, Suncorp and the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council.

An independent evaluation of the success and efficiency of the program after two years found that all young participants agreed that Synergy had given them a strong basis from which to grow the skills needed to make them employable within the automotive industry. The program is innovative and has the opportunity to offer long-term positive outcomes to young people, with the aim of helping get young people 'back on track'. Both the participants and staff felt that the Synergy program had a transformative effect on the young people who participated.

Act Now Together Strong (NSW)

Mission Australia has collaborated with Juvenile Justice in New South Wales and Monash University in the Western NSW Region for over four years in the delivery of the Act Now Together Strong (ANTS) program. Based on Professor Chris Trotter's Collaborative Family Work model this is an evidence based 6-8 week program focussing on developing pro-social skills and communication skills within the family unit. The Western NSW Region is presently evaluating this model, however anecdotal evidence is showing that it is highly effective in reducing recidivism.

The model has been evaluated in Dandenong Victoria with a youth justice population. Some 95% of clients indicating the model was either 'totally successful' or 'mostly successful' in meeting their family goals; 74% of families indicating that the family is 'getting on much better' after the intervention and 80% of families suggested the target problem is 'a lot better' after intervention. There is significant evidence to suggest that short term behavioural family intervention has significant impact on reducing recidivism.^{xxxv}

The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre (NSW)

Shopfront is a free legal service for homeless and disadvantaged young people aged 25 and under. Established in 1993 and based in Darlinghurst in the inner city Sydney, the Shopfront is a joint project of Mission Australia, the Salvation Army and the law firm Herbert Smith Freehills.

The Shopfront's main area of practice is criminal law. The Shopfront's clients come from a range of cultural backgrounds, including a sizeable number of Indigenous young people. Common to nearly all clients is the experience of homelessness; most have been forced to leave home due to abuse, neglect, domestic violence or extreme family dysfunction. Most clients also have limited formal education and therefore lack adequate literacy, numeracy and vocational skills. A substantial proportion also has a serious mental health problem.

Junaa Buwa and MAC River (NSW)

Junaa Buwa and MAC River are Mission Australia's residential rehabilitation centres for teenagers who have entered, or are at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system and have a history of alcohol and other drug use. Funded by NSW Juvenile Justice, they offer residential and outreach services as well as educational and living skills training and aftercare support. The services cater for young people aged 13-18 years in New South Wales with Junaa Buwa located in Coffs Harbour and MAC River in Dubbo. Young people undertake residential rehabilitation for 12 weeks which is followed by 12 weeks after care. The services take a holistic approach including case management addressing mental, physical, social and inter and intra personal challenges. Over 80% of clients are Aboriginal young people.

"It is estimated that 89-95% of young people in our juvenile justice programs such as MAC River have experienced domestic and family violence."

Program Manager, Western NSW

Sydney South West Youth Services (NSW)

The Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) program offers intensive case management, developmental programs, and re-engagement with education/ employment and early intervention strategies for young people aged 10-18 years who are considered to be at serious risk of entering detention.

Juvenile Justice Family Intervention - Joint Support Program (NSW)

Mission Australia delivers the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice Joint Support Program under Family Intervention Stream funding in Sydney, Petersham, Blacktown and Penrith. Participants are usually mandated to participate as a condition of a legal mandate (such as a Good Behaviour Bond or Probation). The program is modelled under an intensive case management framework that seeks to address the four main factors associated with the risk of recidivism. These are referred to as the 'Big 4' or the 'Central 8'.^{xxxvi} The program provides interventions to young offenders to decrease their risk of reoffending and increase their capacity to successfully participate within their communities.

Youth on Track (NSW)

Youth on Track is a NSW government early intervention scheme for 10–17 year-olds that identifies and responds to young people at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system. Youth on Track provides the Police and Education with an opportunity to refer young people, known to be at medium to high risk of offending, to a support service without requiring a mandate. The young person's engagement in Youth on Track is voluntary. Youth on Track has the benefit of multi-agency support. It aims to work collaboratively with other service providers to ensure consistent service provision without duplication of service. From December 2016 Youth on Track will be offered in Central West NSW by Mission Australia.

Pasifika (NSW, now ceased)

The Pasifika project operated in NSW from June 2005 until June 2009. During this period the project supported more than 250 Pacific young people who voluntarily participated in the program. An external evaluation^{xxxvii} found that the program achieved impressive reductions in re-offending with some 65% of participants not re-offending within 12 months of the program. Other important outcomes achieved included family reconnection, re-engagement with school, and other training and employment outcomes. A measure of the program's success was its 'community access' component, which saw the peers and siblings of young people referred to the service actively seek to participate, without formal referrals from police. A critical success factor of the project was the initial connection with an experienced case worker who engaged with the client about their goals and objectives. This case worker also assisted participants to 'reframe' their approach to and their participation in programs and services if this was considered necessary.

The program proved to be cost effective at approximately \$2500 per individual for the duration of their three to six month involvement with the project (representing a cost of \$13.75 to \$27.50 per day^{xxxviii}). This compares very favourably to the average real operating expenditure per prisoner per day around that time (2007-08) where the national cost was \$220 per day, and \$174 per day for the NT^{xxxix}.

Specialist interventions targeting risk factors:

Mission Australia (MA) also provides a range of specialist group interventions to target the Central 8 risk factors. For example:

- **History of Antisocial Behaviour & Antisocial Associates:** MA delivers a range of social groups and social skills programs to promote pro-social behaviours and establish pro-social connections, including culturally based activities, positive relationships and community access.
- **Antisocial Personality Pattern:** MA delivers a range of programs working with individuals including targeted anger management programs such as the RAGE program, emotional regulation, and effective communication skills.
- **Antisocial Cognition:** Programs that are offered to support individuals include programs focussed on victim empathy such as Juvenile Justice X-Roads and the Koori Cognitive Skills Program.
- **School/Work:** MA delivers a range of pre-employment and employment programs including the Skills for Education and Employment and Disability Employment Service.
- **Leisure/Recreation:** MA has trained staff to deliver a range of positive leisure and recreation programs including cultural programs, sporting programs and living skills programs.
- **Substance Use:** MA delivers the SMART recovery program across NSW, which is a cognitive behavioural group program focussed on harm minimisation. We also deliver CRAFT, an evidence based intervention designed to help concerned family members to engage treatment-refusing

Mission Australia also delivers culturally responsive and adapted programs:

- **Out of the Dark:** Out of the Dark is a 5-6 week group program which aims to educate women about family violence in order to make positive changes in their lives.
- **Seasons for Healing:** A program for children, young people or adults who have experienced significant change or loss.
- **Circle of Security:** Implements decades of attachment research in an accessible step-by-step process for use in group settings, home visitation, or individual counselling.
- **Parent to Parent Safe Passage:** A parenting program designed to support parents raising teenagers.
- **Aboriginal Triple P:** A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioural and emotional problems in children and teenagers.
- **Keeping Children Safe:** Six week parent education program designed to promote the care and protection of children and young people.

Endnotes

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