

Juvenile Justice NSW

Annual Report Summary 2010–11

WHO WE ARE

Juvenile Justice NSW is responsible for the administration of youth justice conferences and for the supervision of young offenders who receive community-based orders or custodial sentences from the courts.

It is the largest juvenile justice agency in Australia, employing an average full-time equivalent staff of 1439 including many people from Aboriginal and other culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In April 2011, Juvenile Justice became part of the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice.



The Waratah Pre-release Unit at Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre runs education and employment programs for detainees at the end of their sentences to ensure a smooth transition back into the community.

WHAT WE DO

Juvenile Justice's work includes the supervision of young people sentenced to community-based or custodial orders, support for young offenders meeting the conditions of bail, supervision of young offenders who are on conditional bail, supervision of young people remanded in custody pending finalisation of their court matters, and the preparation of reports for the consideration of the courts in determining sentences.

Juvenile Justice also administers the Youth Justice Conferencing program.

Juvenile Justice provides funding to a number of community agencies to give assistance to juvenile offenders and their families.

Juvenile Justice operates under the terms of the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*, the *Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987*, the *Young Offenders Act 1997* and the *Children (Interstate Transfer of Offenders) Act 1988*.



NSW is the first juvenile justice jurisdiction in Australia to form its own drug dog detection unit. The dogs were purchased from the Australian Customs breeding program. They were trained by the agency to undertake searches in centres and in screening of visitors.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2010 –11

The net cost of services for Juvenile Justice 2010 -11 was \$185.2 million.
Cost for each service category (including direct and indirect costs) is detailed below:

Custodial Services	\$114.5M
Community-based services	\$63.9M
Youth Justice Conferencing	\$6.8M

KEY SERVICE MEASURES FOR 2010-11 Custody



	Number
Average daily number of young people in custody	391
Average daily number of young women in custody	30
Average daily number of young people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background	184
Average daily number of young people serving custodial sentences	198
Average daily number of young people remanded in custody awaiting the finalisation of court proceedings	193

Source: DAGJ/JJ Strategic Information System (SIS). Effective date 16 July 2011

KEY SERVICE MEASURES FOR 2010-11 Community Supervision

	Number
Number of background reports and assessments completed for young offenders appearing at court	5052
Number of community-based orders commencing	4458
Number of individual young offenders commencing supervision in the community	2609
Number of hours of community service work allocated to young offenders	30459

Source: DAGJ/JJ Strategic Information System (SIS). Effective date 16 July 2011



KEY SERVICE MEASURES FOR 2010 –11 Youth Justice Conferencing



	Number
Referrals to a youth justice conference	
Total	2134
Police	982
Courts	1152
Referrals resulting in a conference	
Number of referrals resulting in a Youth Justice Conference	1971
Conferences facilitated	1637

Source: DAGJ/JJ Strategic Information System (SIS). Effective date 16 July 2011

ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

- Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART), a new cognitive-behavioural approach for community-based offenders, was rolled out across the state. The program helps young people change their thinking and decision-making processes and ultimately, their offending behaviour. 147 young people have commenced the program since its introduction
- A new 15-bed unit was opened at Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre in Grafton which is self-contained and includes two classrooms. Expansion of the centre also included upgrades to the administration area, visits area and the Court Audio Visual Link suites.
- The Bail Assistance Line received over 130 telephone calls for assistance. Staff arranged safe accommodation for nearly 40 young people to ensure they were not remanded in custody because of accommodation, transport and case support issues.



Above: Bail Assistance Line staff

- The Detainee Behaviour Intervention Framework which has been implemented across all centres, provides custodial staff with a consistent framework for the effective management of detainee behaviour.
- The pre-release 'Waratah Unit' at Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre opened in December 2010. The unit is designed to prepare young offenders for their release from detention. The young people attend external community locations, such as TAFE and employment services, and also undertake community work.
- The Quality Assurance Framework, which has been used throughout Juvenile Justice Centres since 2008, was expanded into community operations covering all aspects of Juvenile Justice Community Services, including youth justice conferencing and court logistics.
- Juvenile Justice partnered with the Sydney Institute of Criminology at Sydney University to run a series of education seminars on juvenile justice issues includ-



Above: Professor Ian Hickie at JJ's brain development seminar
ing rising numbers in remand, adolescent brain development and the issue of Indigenous incarceration.

- The results of the Young People in Custody Health Survey were released providing important data and insight into the background of young people in custody. The survey results can be found on the Juvenile Justice website.
- Juvenile Justice hosted the Child Wellbeing Unit for the Department of Human Services until July 2011. During the year the unit took over 1,000 calls and provided advice to staff from all agencies. They also delivered 93 training and education sessions to staff in Juvenile Justice, Housing and Ageing, Disability and Home Care across the state. The unit has moved to the Department of Family and Community Services, however Juvenile Justice staff continue to have access to the unit's services.
- Under the state's Homelessness Action Plan and the Implementation Strategy for the National Partnership on Homelessness Juvenile Justice is responsible for three Commonwealth funded projects. Contracts to provide supported accommodation were awarded to CatholicCare in South West Sydney; Homelessness Assistance Youth Service, YP Space MNC, and Northern Rivers Social Development Council for mid and far north coast services; and Mission Australia for the Riverina Murray region.
- The average number of days from a Youth Justice Conference referral being received to the conference being held was reduced from 61 days to 43 days. This is a 19% decrease. Victim participation increased from 58% in 09/10 to 71% in 10/11.
- A revised Aboriginal Strategic Plan, with updated performance measures, was approved by the Juvenile Justice Executive Committee in June 2011.
- An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and retention strategy was also completed and released.

- During the year a total of 37 (85%) families of 44 enrolled successfully completed the Intensive Supervision Program. Twelve (80%) out of 15 Aboriginal families enrolled completed the program. The program also served families with a Pacific Islands, New Zealand, Asian, South American and European background.
- The pilot for Youth Conduct Orders (YCOs) has been extended to three years, finishing on 30 June 2012. Juvenile Justice took over the co-ordination of the project in June 2011. It is operating in Campbelltown, Mt Druitt and New England. YCOs are linked to the State Plan priorities of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in NSW and operate in conjunction with the antisocial behaviour pilot projects also operating in these areas.



- An employment program has been established between Juvenile Justice NSW and community organisation Whitelion which includes referrals from community offices and centres, particularly the Waratah Pre-release Unit at Reiby.

- Monash University's Professor Chris Trotter made a successful application to the Australian Research Council for funds to conduct research around the Act

Now Together Strong (ANTS) model, an educative and interactive model of intervention that aims to give offenders and their parents better management skills so they are able to make better choices. One hundred young people will take part in the research project.

- A TAFE accredited Sheep Shearing program was introduced for low risk detainees at Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre. Six detainees completed the program in March 2011, with two detainees now involved in work experience with a local shearing contractor.



- The therapeutic program at the Robinson Unit at Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre was revised during the year.

The new model encompasses a collaborative approach using evidence-based cognitive behavioural therapy. More than 20 staff members, including six from the Department of Education and Training, were trained in the new program and the unit was renamed in June to the *Warby Unit: Collaborative Intervention Program*.

- At Orana Juvenile Justice Centre detainees were involved in a 'Go-Kart' program. The detainees constructed and decorated the go-kart which was then donated to the Dubbo branch of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). The go-kart was raffled and raised \$5000. Another Go-Kart construction program was planned for July 2011 and this kart will be donated to the Broken Hill branch of the RFDS.
- The Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre has implemented a Wild Life Education Program where, guided by a youth officer with expertise, detainees at the centre are being taught how to care for Australian wildlife.

WHERE WE ARE

Juvenile Justice head office is located on Pitt Street, Sydney, housing the Operations, Management Services, and Office of the Chief Executive directorates.

There are nine juvenile justice centres located around NSW. Female detainees are held at Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre in Lidcombe.

Across the state, there are 34 Juvenile Justice Community Services offices incorporating Youth Justice Conferencing. A full list of locations can be found on the Juvenile Justice website.

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