



Australian Human Rights Commission

Call for submissions: Youth Justice and Child
Wellbeing Reform across Australia

14 June 2023

1. Executive Summary

Since 1851 OzChild has been serving vulnerable Victorians, with a commitment to improving the lives of children, young people and families who are experiencing significant challenges, by strengthening families, providing healing, and preventing abuse and neglect.

For more than 30 years we've worked in partnership with the Victorian Government, and in recent times expanded our services working in partnership with government departments in New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and in the ACT to support the needs of at-risk children, young people, and families.

We are proud of the successful outcomes we have achieved and are focused on building our evidence-based approach, being a voice for change and growing our service delivery in areas of greatest need.

This focus drives our submission to support much needed reform for the youth justice system and child well-being across Australia.

One of our four key organisational priorities is to prevent young people entering youth justice, to achieve this we believe a national approach is well and truly needed.

Our vision for children and young people involved in the youth justice system is for them to have access to programs and services that are backed by evidence. A comprehensive strategy that addresses the underlying causes of youth offending and prioritises the health, education, safety, and wellbeing needs of children and young people is a strategy we would be eager to be part of.

During the past seven years OzChild's evidence-based approach has contributed significantly to a reduction in the number of children and young people entering or becoming further involved with the justice system or out-of-home care system. Through the delivery of the early intervention programs Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy we have developed a sound understanding of the benefits of delivering therapeutic and whole-of-family interventions that address problematic behaviours and attitudes that lead to crime before they escalate to prevent violence from reoccurring or escalating into adulthood.

Sadly, we know young people under youth justice supervision are nine times more likely than the general population to have received child protection services. Often referred to as 'Crossover Kids', young people involved with both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems tend to face a greater number of risk factors than youth involved in just one system. Child maltreatment contributes significantly to a young person's involvement with the justice system, as do the eight 'social determinants of justice'.

While there are many factors that need to be considered when protecting the rights and well-being of children and young people, such as raising the age of criminal responsibility and improving sentencing and detention practices, an evidence-based response to improving parenting capacity and support to respond to children's systemic needs and prevent child maltreatment must be considered.

We believe the need for greater investment in evidence-based, targeted, effective interventions for high-risk populations and improved support for families with children who are offending is paramount to effecting long-lasting change for young people and families.

Increasing investment in detention centres, a focus on keeping children and young people in remand and a lack of 'Throughcare' and family led decision making is not working, evidence-based and evidence-informed solutions must be at the forefront of any reform, and changes to the system must focus on building parental capacity, and include therapeutic responses that address the integrated "system" of the child, family/ caregivers, and a trauma-informed approach.

Transforming the juvenile justice system must focus on prevention and early intervention and include alternatives to custody and provisions for throughcare. Family-based programs for preventing and reducing juvenile crime are also critical to reforming the system. Promoting family environments that support healthy development should be an integral part of any solution.

Australia could look to The New Zealand youth-justice system, and the restorative approach to addressing young people's offending. Reducing youth involvement with the courts, promoting diversion, empowering victims, strengthening families and communities, and utilising culturally appropriate practices resulted in:

- Over 75% of youth are handled through police warnings or diversion.
- The overall youth crime rate has recently decreased¹.
- Restorative practices led to high victim satisfaction (82%) with FGC².

Norway is also leading the way, often being described as a frontrunner in criminal policy reforms³. The age of criminal responsibility is 15 only a few YP serve a prison sentence in Norway⁴. Norway utilises a restorative justice system that is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Recognising that a child's early years and environment can significantly impact their future, Scotland's youth justice strategy moved to a preventative approach in 2010 with the Scottish Government introducing its Whole System Approach (WSA) for YP who have offended⁵, which comprises:

- Early and Effective Intervention.
- Maximising opportunities to divert YP from prosecution.
- Providing court support to YP.
- Increasing community alternatives to secure care and custody.
- Improving reintegration and transitions back into the community.

These are just some examples of effective approaches to youth justice and child well-being. In Australia, there is a great opportunity to design a system that is evidence-informed and one that would see an alignment with international standards.

OzChild would welcome the opportunity to work in collaboration with like-minded organisations and the Commission to build a system that delivers real and measurable outcomes for children and young people in Australia.

¹ National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand's Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

² National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand's Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

³ Dag Leonardsen and Therese Andrews (2022): Youth Justice Reforms in Norway: Professional Support for the Panopticon Society?

⁴ Thea Johsefine Austevik, Lara Schwarz (January 2023) - Punishment or Rehabilitation? Comparing Two Countries – Is Norway Succeeding where the UK is Failing?

⁵ Maysa Clam - Centre for Justice and Innovation (2022): Whole System Approach to Youth Offending in Scotland.

2. Questions

1. What factors contribute to children's and young people's involvement in youth justice systems in Australia?

Social determinants

Evidence supports the close relationship between people's health and the living and working conditions which form their social environment (Baum 2018; Wilkinson and Marmot 2003). The World Health Organisation (WHO) identified several social determinants which can influence health equity, which include:

1. Unemployment and job insecurity
2. Housing and Early childhood development
3. Education
4. Access to affordable health services of decent quality⁶.

There is disparity among population groups in their experiences and outcomes in criminal justice systems. A total of eight factors are identified as "social determinants of justice". Analysis showed that your chance of ending up in prison is greatly increased by:

1. Having been in Out of Home Care (OoHC).
2. Receiving a poor education.
3. Being Indigenous.
4. Early contact with police.
5. Unsupported mental health and cognitive disability.
6. Problematic substance abuse.
7. Experiencing unstable housing.
8. Living in disadvantaged locations.

The social determinants of justice provide the basis for a holistic framework for action that addresses the inequity and harm that manifest in who is incarcerated in Australia⁷.

Child maltreatment

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) details the experiences and associated health and social outcomes of all forms of child maltreatment.

Main findings include:

- Child maltreatment is endemic: The prevalence rates included: exposure to domestic violence (39.6%), physical abuse (32.0%), emotional abuse (30.9%), sexual abuse (28.5%), neglect (8.9%)
- Child maltreatment is associated with a massive mental health burden. A significantly higher prevalence of mental health disorders in participants who experienced child maltreatment (48.0% v 21.6%).
- Child maltreatment produces substantial health risk behaviours: Participants who experienced child maltreatment were four times more likely to have self-harmed in the previous year and six times as likely to be dependent on cannabis⁸.

⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing: (July 2022) Social determinants of health: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/social-determinants-of-health>

⁷ International Journal of Crime, Justice and Social Democracy (Ruth McCausland, Eileen Baldry: (2023): Who does Australia Lock Up? The Social Determinants of Justice

⁸ Ben Matthews: The Australian Child Maltreatment Study: (April 2023) - National Prevalence and associated health outcomes of child abuse and neglect

Systemic racism

Recent reviews and inquiries, including the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory and the Victorian Commissioner for Children and Young People's *Our Youth, Our Way* inquiry, have found that systemic racism can play a part in the treatment of children and young people (CYP) by police⁹. This is supported by:

- 49% of CYP aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in 2020–21 identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This is despite only representing 5.8% of CYP aged 10–17 in Australia¹⁰.
- Culturally and linguistically diverse CYP also experience barriers and bias in the youth justice system¹¹.

Age of criminal responsibility

In Australia, children as young as 10 are exposed to the criminal justice process¹². The rationale to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility includes:

- Many children involved in the criminal justice system come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have complex needs better addressed outside the criminal justice system.
- Research on brain development shows that 10 year olds have not developed the requisite level of maturity to form the necessary intent for full criminal responsibility¹³.
- Children under the age of 12 years lack the capacity to properly engage in the criminal justice system¹⁴.

Involvement in the Child Protection system

In 2017, the review of Victorian youth justice services (Armytage & Ogloff 2017), the NSW child protection inquiry (NSW Parliament 2017), and the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory each raised concerns about this group of children. This is supported by the following data:

- Adverse childhood experiences: Almost 73% had been exposed to family violence.
- Child protection involvement: 57% of children were subject to a child protection order.
- Co-occurring challenges: 25% of children had physical health concerns, 50% had diagnosed neurodevelopmental conditions and 61% had been diagnosed with a mental illness.
- Early onset of criminal justice system involvement: Crossover children were three times more likely than other Victorian children to be sentenced under the age of 14¹⁵.

Human Rights

Key deficiencies in the full implementation of The Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC) sentencing principles in Australia include:

- Limited range of evidence based sentencing options in particular jurisdictions.
- Shift to more punitive sentencing regimes for young offenders which governments seek to justify despite no significant increase in juvenile crime in Australia for the past decade¹⁶.

⁹ Save the Children: 54 reasons - Putting children first: A rights respecting approach to youth justice in Australia (April 2023)

¹⁰ Save the Children: 54 reasons - Putting children first: A rights respecting approach to youth justice in Australia (April 2023)

¹¹ Save the Children: 54 reasons - Putting children first: A rights respecting approach to youth justice in Australia (April 2023)

¹² Save the Children: 54 reasons - Putting children first: A rights respecting approach to youth justice in Australia (April 2023)

¹³ Australian Human Rights Commission: Australia's third UPR (2021)- The minim Age of Criminal Responsibility

¹⁴ Australian Human Rights Commission: Australia's third UPR (2021)- The minim Age of Criminal Responsibility

¹⁵ Australian Government: Australian Institute of Criminology – Trends and Issues in crime and criminal justice: Susan Baidawi and Rosemary Sheehan (December 2019): Crossover kids: Offending by child protection-involved youth

¹⁶ Australian Human Rights Commission: Human Rights Brief 2 - <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/human-rights-brief-no-2>

2. What needs to be changed so that youth justice and related systems protect the rights and wellbeing of children and young people? What are the barriers to change, and how can these be overcome?

Supporting and Protecting CYP

Changes required at a system level include:

- Policing:
 - Limit police veto discretion of CYP's diversion.
 - Limit policing practices (i.e. strip-searching that violate child rights).
- Bail and remand:
 - Repeal recent legislative changes to ensure pre-trial detention remains a last resort.
 - Increase investment and availability of bail supports and accommodation.
- Diversion:
 - Broaden access to diversion at the earliest possible age.
 - Increase access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CYP.
- Sentencing practices:
 - Ensure sentencing principles are informed by culturally safe practices.
 - Repeal serious youth offending sentencing changes that limit the court's discretion to take specific circumstances of a child's offending.
- Detention practices:
 - Ensure that adult facilities are not used to detain CYP.
 - Prohibit the use of isolation and segregation.
- Age of criminal responsibility:
 - All jurisdictions commit to raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and ensure CYP get the familial, therapeutic, restorative and rehabilitative assistance needed¹⁷.

From a service intervention perspective, we need evidence-based response to:

- Improve parenting capacity and support to respond to children's systemic needs and prevent child maltreatment¹⁸.
- Invest more in universal prevention in targeted, effective interventions for high risk populations¹⁹.
- Improve family support for children offending early in life²⁰.

¹⁷ Save the Children: 54 reasons - Putting children first: A rights respecting approach to youth justice in Australia (April 2023)

¹⁸ Ben Matthews: The Australian Child Maltreatment Study: (April 2023) - National Prevalence and associated health outcomes of child abuse and neglect

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²⁰ Australian Government: Australian Institute of Criminology – Trends and Issues in crime and criminal justice: Susan Baidawi and Rosemary Sheehan (December 2019): Crossover kids: Offending by child protection-involved youth

Increased investment in Evidence Based Programs

A significant shift in government investment is needed in what the evidence says works. This includes increased funding involving building parental capacity, therapeutic responses addressing the integrated “system” of the child, family/ caregivers, along with a trauma informed approach to CYP. An overview is provided in *Attachment A*.

Barriers and Enablers

Key Barriers	Supporting evidence	Enablers
Increased investment in Youth Detention facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than \$357 million was provided to open Cherry Creek youth justice facility in Victoria²¹. The Queensland government will spend over \$320 million building new youth detention centres²². 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift investment into evidence-based prevention and early intervention initiatives. Increase the age of criminality and utilise youth detention facilities as the last resort.
Keeping CYP in remand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over (76%) young people (YP) in detention were unsentenced²³. Queensland's detention of children in watch houses and youth detention has increased by 27% recently²⁴. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer trauma informed therapeutic responses to CYP in police custody.
System not geared to support CYP post release ('Throughcare').	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YP are vulnerable to reverting to criminal activity immediately following release from custody²⁵. Australia provide insufficient and/or inappropriate programs for the rehabilitation of YP²⁶. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase investment to address social determinants associated with recidivism through targeted wraparound services supporting systemic drivers of offending.
Family Group Conferencing (FGC)/ Family led decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sentencing Advisory Council highlighted the importance of family group conferencing which addresses the causes of offending behaviour and is responsive to the complex needs of CYP²⁷. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD communities, thereby reinforcing the strength cultural support to prevent CYP re-offending.
Nonalignment of Australian States & Territory jurisdictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the age of criminality is inconsistent, with Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory committing to 14 years compared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Federal Government to lead national reform in response to key industry peak agencies and government inquiries advocating for change.

²¹ The Premier of Victoria: May 2022: Supporting Victims And Stopping Crime Before it Starts. <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/supporting-victims-and-stopping-crime-it-starts>

²² Palaszczuk Government announces historic new investment in Youth Justice reform: (April 2019): <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/87221>

²³ Australian Government - Productivity Commission- Report on Government Services 2023

²⁴<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-17/children-held-in-queensland-watch-houses-for-almost-40-days/101986364>

²⁵ Associate Professor Julie White, Professor Kitty te Riele et al: Improving educational connection for young people in custody – Final Report (June 2019)

²⁶ Australian Human Rights Commission: Human Rights Brief 2 - <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/human-rights-brief-no-2>

²⁷ Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare – (September 2021): Inquiry into Victoria’s Criminal Justice System.

Key Barriers	Supporting evidence	Enablers
	<p>to 12 years in the Northern Territory²⁸.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Queensland Government Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023 aims to respond to serious repeat offenders²⁹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian State & Territory governments agreeing to explore legislative and systemic changes in unity.

3. Can you identify reforms that show evidence of positive outcomes, including reductions in children’s and young people’s involvement in youth justice and child protection systems, either in Australia or internationally?

New Zealand

The New Zealand youth-justice system has been commended internationally for its restorative approach to addressing YP’s offending³⁰. The Children’s and Young People’s Well-being Act 1989 (the Act) established a restorative approach to youth justice. The Act’s goals included reducing youth involvement with the courts, promoting diversion, empowering victims, strengthening families and communities, and utilising culturally appropriate practices. Key components include:

- 1) Statutory Limits on Arrest: Arrest occurs only in about 12% of cases of youth offending³¹.
- 2) Standard Use of Restorative Practices for Youth with Serious Offences: FGC is used as the standard mechanism for processing serious cases³².
- 3) Formal Court Processing Becomes a Last Resort: The number of YP charged in court decreased from approximately 6,000³³.

The implementation of these changes has resulted in:

- Over 75% of youth are handled through police warnings or diversion.
- The overall youth crime rate has recently decreased³⁴.
- Restorative practices led to high victim satisfaction (82%) with FGC³⁵.

With the overrepresentation of the Maori community within the youth justice system, Māori pressure helped to reform New Zealand’s youth justice system.³⁶

²⁸ Australian Government – Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Youth Justice in Australia in 2021-22

²⁹ Queensland Government – Report No. 41, 57th Parliament – Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=167&id=4235>

³⁰ Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor, Professor Sir Peter Gluyckman (June 2018)- It’s never too early, never too late: A discussion paper on preventing youth offending in New Zealand.

³¹ National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand’s Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

³² National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand’s Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

³³ National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand’s Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

³⁴ National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand’s Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

³⁵ National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand’s Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

³⁶ National Juvenile Justice Network: New Zealand’s Youth Justice Transformation (2018): Lessons for the United States

Norway

Norway has often been described as a frontrunner to criminal policy reforms³⁷. The age of criminal responsibility is 15 only a few YP serve a prison sentence in Norway³⁸. Norway utilises a restorative justice system that is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its restorative justice approach emphasizes three different questions:

1. What is the nature of the harm resulting from the crime?
2. What needs to be done to repair the harm?
3. Who is responsible for this repair?

This includes a Mediation Process, which provides an opportunity for victims and offenders to develop a mutually acceptable plan. This has demonstrated success as evidenced below:

- 95% of mediation sessions resulted successfully;
- Victims who met offenders were more satisfied than vice versa (79% versus 57%);
- After meeting offenders, victims were significantly less fearful³⁹.

Additional key principles of Norway's approach include:

- The system is well-integrated and delivered by local municipal services to ensure connection to the outside during imprisonment.
- Imprisonment of YP is seen as extremely negative in terms of healthy development⁴⁰.
- Prisoner officers go through education and every prisoner has their own contact officer assisting in contacts with third parties⁴¹.

Scotland

Scotland's youth justice strategy has moved to a preventative approach, recognising that a child's early years and environment can significantly impact their future. In 2010, the Scottish Government introduced its Whole System Approach (WSA) for YP who have offended⁴², which comprises:

- Early and Effective Intervention.
- Maximising opportunities to divert YP from prosecution.
- Providing court support to YP.
- Increasing community alternatives to secure care and custody.
- Improving reintegration and transitions back into the community.

The WSA established three main policy strands to target the reduction of young offenders:

1. At the point of arrest (POA): Early intervention involves a Juvenile Liaison Office risk assessment team.
2. After POA: Pre-referral screening: An early diversion case is sent to a multi-agency screening group to identify appropriate diversionary programs to help young offenders.
3. Post screening: The most appropriate agencies take lead in diversion⁴³.

³⁷ Dag Leonardsen and Therese Andrews (2022): Youth Justice Reforms in Norway: Professional Support for the Panopticon Society?

³⁸ Thea Johsefine Austevik, Lara Schwarz (January 2023) - Punishment or Rehabilitation? Comparing Two Countries – Is Norway Succeeding where the UK is Failing?

³⁹ Marsida Grami - Institute of European Studies, University of Tirana, Albania (June 2021) Juvenile Justice and the Restorative Approach in Norway.

⁴⁰ Thea Johsefine Austevik, Lara Schwarz (January 2023) - Punishment or Rehabilitation? Comparing Two Countries – Is Norway Succeeding where the UK is Failing?

⁴¹ Marsida Grami - Institute of European Studies, University of Tirana, Albania (June 2021) Juvenile Justice and the Restorative Approach in Norway

⁴² Maysa Clam - Centre for Justice and Innovation (2022): Whole System Approach to Youth Offending in Scotland.

⁴³ Maysa Clam: – Centre for Justice and Innovation (2022): Whole System Approach to Youth Offending in Scotland.

Scotland has experienced successes over the last 10 years:

- 78% reduction in the number of YP prosecuted in Scotland's courts.
- 83% reduction in the number of children referred to the Children's Reporter on offence grounds.
- 64% reduction in the number of 16 and 17-year old's in custody⁴⁴

4.From your perspective, are there benefits in taking a national approach to youth justice and child wellbeing reform in Australia? If so, what are the next steps?

The benefits of a national approach are evidenced below:

Closing the Gap

In March 2019, Closing the Gap was established between the Commonwealth Government, State and Territory governments and Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations⁴⁵. This aims to close the health and life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.

Progress includes:

- The target to have 95% of Indigenous four-year old's enrolled in early childhood education by 2025 is on track.
- The target to halve the gap for Indigenous Australians aged 20–24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent by 2020 is on track.
- The target to halve the gap in child mortality rates by 2018 has seen progress in maternal and child health.
- The target to halve the gap for Indigenous children in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade has driven improvements⁴⁶.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

In March 2013, NDIS legislation was passed and the NDIS Act 2013 was created, along with the Scheme. Benefits of NDIS include: Wellbeing gains to people with disabilities, higher rates of employment of people with disability and gains to carers:⁴⁷.

Key highlights in several key outcome areas:

- For young participants starting school): 68% of parents/carers say their child can make friends (33% relative increase).
- For participants aged 0 to 14 years: 88% of parents say their child fits better into everyday family life (19% relative increase).
- For families and carers: 55% of families/carers are in paid employment – a 21% relative increase⁴⁸.

⁴⁴ Scottish Government (June 2017): Preventing Offending: Getting it right for children and young people Progress Report.

⁴⁵ <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/partnership>

⁴⁶ Australian Government - Closing the Gap Report 2020

⁴⁷ Public Interest Advocacy Centre: Background Paper: What were the original intentions of the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

⁴⁸ NDIS participants, families and carers reports significant improvements in outcomes:

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/8648-ndis-participants-families-and-carers-reports-significant-improvements-outcomes>

Next Steps

- Develop national standards to reflect research and international best practice through a community co-design process.
- Increasing the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14.
- Implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and improve oversight of youth detention facilities.
- Establish legislated human rights protections including in relation to racial injustice.
- Withdraw Australia’s reservation to the CRC which requires CYP not be detained with adults⁴⁹.

At a systemic level, we need to aim for a relatively consistent approach towards implementing changes as previously outlined in *Section 2 - Supporting and Protecting CYP*, along with adopting the following key principles:

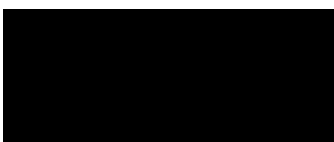
- Investing in and evaluating early intervention programs.
- Greater emphasis on providing trauma informed support.
- Utilising detention as the last resort.
- Transitioning CYP back into the community.
- Address the over-representation of CYP that:
 - Identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CYP and CALD communities
 - Reside in low socioeconomic areas
 - Diagnosed with development challenges and conditions.

We are ready to work alongside you

I hope this document supports the National Children’s Commissioner’s project that investigates opportunities for reform of youth justice and related systems across Australia, based on evidence and the protection of human rights.

Having delivered and evidence-based models such as FFT and MST for over five years across three State and Territory jurisdictions, OzChild welcomes the opportunity to contribute towards youth justice reform nationally in support of vulnerable CYP and families.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Dr Lisa J. Griffiths
Chief Executive Officer

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⁴⁹ Save the Children: 54 reasons - Putting children first: A rights respecting approach to youth justice in Australia (April 2023)

ATTACHMENT A

Service Intervention	Brief Overview	Research Effectiveness	Youth Justice Continuum
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	<p>A family-based therapeutic intervention designed primarily for at-risk youth aged 11-18 years who have been referred by the juvenile justice, mental health, school, or child welfare systems. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate youth referral problems (i.e., delinquency, oppositional behaviours, violence, substance use) • Improve prosocial behaviours (i.e., school attendance) 	<p>FFT has been shown to be effective in achieving positive clinical outcomes in 20 studies across six countries with over 13,000 youth/families over the past decade as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower arrest rates for adolescents as they transition into early adulthood • Lower rates of internalizing and externalizing problems • Significant cost-savings for youth/families, primarily due to lower rates of outplacement¹. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughcare</p>
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	<p>An intensive family and community-based treatment program that focuses on addressing all environmental systems that impact chronic and violent juvenile offenders aged 12- 17 years. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate youth referral problems (i.e., delinquency, oppositional behaviours, violence, substance use) • Improve prosocial behaviours (i.e., school attendance) • Improve family and individual skills 	<p>MST is the only intervention for high-risk young people where results have been repeatedly replicated by independent research teams. This is supported across 74 published studies across 57,000 families highlighting the following outcomes at the close of treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% young people live at home • 86% in school or working • 87% no juvenile arrests². 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughcare</p>
MST -Building Stronger Families	<p>Addresses the individual, family, peer, school, and community-level problems of families who come under the guidance of</p>	<p>Demonstrated results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93% of families who began MST-BSF completed treatment. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody</p>

¹ FFT LLC Research Table: Summary of research outcomes by study type: Efficacy, Effectiveness, Dissemination/Implementation, Basic, and Process 2019.

² MST Services - www.mstservices.com

	<p>Child Protection due to physical abuse and/or neglect plus parental substance abuse. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To eliminate parental substance, reduce parent and child mental health difficulties, prevent re-abuse and out-of-home placement of children ages 6-17. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45% spent fewer days in Out of Home Care (OoHC) across 24 months. 80% of caregivers had no reported maltreatment across 24 months. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughcare
Stop Now And Plan (SNAP)	<p>A cognitive behavioural model teaching CYP with behaviour issues and their parents, effective emotional regulation and problem-solving skills. SNAP targets CYP either in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep at-risk children in school and out of trouble Increase self-control skills in children and their parents. Increase social competency 	<p>Long-term outcomes (12+ months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued improvement in the parent's ability to use effective child management strategies No involvement with the criminal justice system Delayed and less frequent trouble with the police/delayed entry into the youth justice system³. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input type="checkbox"/> Throughcare
Trauma Focused – Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (TF-CBT)	<p>A therapeutic intervention for children and adolescents who are experiencing significant emotional and behavioural difficulties related to traumatic life events. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve child Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depressive and anxiety symptoms Improving child externalizing behavior problems 	<p>Research comparing TF-CBT to other tested models and services as usual (such as supportive therapy, nondirective play therapy, childcentered therapy) has shown that TF-CBT resulted in significantly greater gains for children and parents⁴.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input type="checkbox"/> Throughcare

³ <https://www.childdevelop.ca/programs/snap/snap-outcomes>

⁴ Child Welfare Information Gateway: Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: A Primer for Child Welfare Professionals: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/trauma.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving parenting skills and parental support of the child. 		
Parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT)	<p>A behavioral parent training approach to treat young children aged 2- 12 years with externalizing behavior problems and support families of children who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing maltreatment.</p> <p>Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build close relationships between parents and their children using positive attention strategies Help children feel safe and calm by fostering warmth and security between parents and their children. 	<p>Multiple randomized clinical studies have found PCIT to be effective in treating children with behavioral problems and their families (Osofsky, Stepka, & King, 2017).</p> <p>PCIT has shown to decrease behavior problems in children, increase children’s compliance with parental instruction, and improve the parent-child relationship (Wilsie et al., 2017; Thomas & Zimmer-Gembeck, 2007).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input type="checkbox"/> Throughcare
Communities That Care (CTC)	<p>A prevention system designed to reduce levels of adolescent delinquency and substance use through the selection and use of effective preventative interventions tailored to a community's specific profile of risk and protection. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use prevention science as its base to help communities select and implement tested & effective prevention programs and policies. 	<p>CTC has shown to be effective in reducing alcohol use, substance use, antisocial and violent behaviour, improving academic performance, and strengthening protective factors. In addition, CTC communities are more likely to adopt and implement evidence-based programs compared to control communities⁵.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input type="checkbox"/> Throughcare
Triple P Parenting Program	<p>Helps parents learn strategies promoting competence and self-regulation in CYP aged 0-16 years. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent development of severe behavioral, emotional and developmental problems in children 	<p>Multiple RCTs have been conducted. The program is associated with significant improvements in children's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> externalising and internalising behaviours; lower incidence of negative behaviour in children with developmental disabilities; 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input type="checkbox"/> Throughcare

⁵ <https://www.communitiesthatcare.org.au/research/publications>

	<p>and adolescents by enhancing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase parents' use of positive parenting strategies in managing their children's behaviour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant improvements in the mental health of parents; • improvements in parental competence and skills⁶. 	
Youth Advocacy program (YAP)	<p>A family support initiative for juvenile offenders returning to their community after spending time in correctional institutions. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the support of a mentor, offer critical support at a time of immense change to ensure a young person with complex needs is successful in their transition from or post care. 	<p>YAP'S effectiveness has demonstrated positive outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved results in education, and school engagement • family restoration • transition to independence or semi-independence⁷. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughcare
Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI)	<p>Offers a rehabilitative and therapeutic model where youth are treated in a humane and nurturing environment Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the cognitive therapies needed to address the adolescent's faulty beliefs and thinking errors which lead to harmful choices • Focus on the strengths developed to recognise triggers, contain reactions and resolve traumatic experiences to the best of their ability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff members are 13 times less likely to be assaulted • 95% of youth earn high school credits compared to 50% nationally • Three years after discharge, 7% of youth released from Missouri DYS returned to juvenile or adult system compared to 20-70% in other States⁸. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughcare

⁶ https://aifs.gov.au/research_programs/evidence-and-evaluation-support/cfc-program-profiles/triple-p-positive-parenting-program

⁷ <https://www.lwb.org.au/services/child-youth-and-family/youth-advocate-program/>

⁸ <https://www.mysiconsulting.org/>

<p>Diagrama</p>	<p>An alternative juvenile detention model building relatively small-scale residential facilities often referred as 're-education centres'. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educating young people • preparing them for release • supporting them to gain the social and formal skills needed to obtain employment and re-integrate into their local communities. 	<p>The Diagrama 'therapeutic' model of care achieved a comparatively low recidivism rate of around 20 per cent⁹.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughcare</p>
<p>The Intervention for Vulnerable Youth (IVY) Project</p>	<p>Uses a multi-disciplinary approach to provide risk formulation, assessment and intervention for young people who present with complex needs and high risk, violent behaviour. Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the young people and the professionals supporting them have access to the best advice, practice assessment and interventions addressing mental health, psychological and forensic risk and needs. 	<p>The evaluation of IVY has found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has led to improved outcomes for over 220 young people, their families, communities and wider systems. • The young people benefit from the assessment and their communities also benefit through the reduction of the violent tendencies of these young people. • The expertise of the IVY Project makes the decision-makers' assessments more informed and, as a result, more defensible¹⁰. 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughcare</p>

N.B. Across all the above proposed service interventions, OzChild reinforces the importance of embedding a community led approach, which involves establishing community partnerships, alongside outcomes focused case management programs to support young people and their families.

⁹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-21/what-does-youth-detention-look-like-in-other-parts-of-the-world/101671932>

¹⁰ <https://justiceinnovation.org/project/intervention-vulnerable-youth-ivy-project>