

## **Public Accounts Committee**

### **Examination of the Auditor-General's 2016 Performance Audit Report into reintegration into the community after detention**

Juvenile Justice Executive Director responses to questions taken on notice, based on the transcript of 12 February 2018

#### **1. Measuring integration outcomes**

Within the next 12 months, will Juvenile Justice develop a suite of reintegration outcomes to be reported against in the Juvenile Justice strategic plan and annual report?

Response:

Reoffending data is inherently a crude measure of the success and effectiveness of reintegration programs, as this is a complex cohort, with high recidivism rates. A project to develop a suite of meaningful outcome measures is being undertaken by the Juvenile Justice, in conjunction with BOCSAR and other partner agencies. This project will develop more insightful and effective indicators to measure reintegration outcomes. It is planned to have these measures developed by February 2019. These measures may include measures such as attendance at school, stability in housing and stability in employment.

#### **2. Update 2014-15 reintegration data**

Commission updated reintegration 2014-15 data and publish on website.

Response:

Juvenile Justice Operations Branch will arrange for an update to be posted on the Juvenile Justice website in 2018.

#### **3. Clontarf Foundation**

Examine services provided by the Clontarf Foundation.

Response:

Juvenile Justice's Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit will look more closely at the services available through the Clontarf Foundation to determine if they suit the needs of Juvenile Justice's Aboriginal clients, and how they might be integrated into Juvenile Justice's other programs.

#### 4. Review of case worker positions

Publish the outcomes of the review of case management in June 2018.

Response:

This review is currently underway and on course for delivery by June 2018. Information on the results of the review will be posted on the Juvenile Justice website when complete.

#### 5. Access to TAFE courses

Response:

Access to TAFE courses are organised by the Department of Education. Clients engage with vocational education through in-house TAFE and other community colleges. The range and type of courses and access will vary according to the interests and skills of young people in custody. Detainees develop a Transition Plan during their period in custody and are provided an opportunity to link their study within the Centre to studies at a TAFE or other community colleges in the community. The courses are predominately short courses due to the timeframes that detainees are in custody.

The Waratah Pre-release Program also allows young people to re-engage in their TAFE studies that were previously stopped upon their entry into DJJ. For example a recent student re-enrolled in his second year Roof Tiling studies at Nirimba TAFE. He completed all second studies while in custody, was re-employed by his previous employer and returned to the community/employment at no disadvantage with his vocational accreditation. He continued his third year studies from the community.

If detainees do wish to link their study, staff provide the detainee with contact information for them to enrol with TAFE and provides information to TAFE on the detainees progress at the Centre schools.

Current courses available:

Centre	TAFE Course
Frank Baxter JJC	Horticulture
Acmena JJC	Automotive and Construction
Reiby JJC and Waratah Pre-release Unit	Pathways Construction Job Ready Courses Mentoring / Community Service Allied Timber Trade Online Study Open Training and Education Network Taster Programs: Retail Bakery Shop Fitting Hair and Beauty Access to Work and Training Statement of Attainment in Vocational Support Pathways Information, Digital Media and Technology Retail
Orana JJC	Building and construction Visual arts

	Taster courses: Car detailing, Horticulture
Riverina JJC	Shearing Transition Advisor liaises with TAFE on behalf of young people exiting custody
Cobham	Construction (includes the Safework NSW White Card accreditation) Hospitality Visual Arts (to be offered in 2019)

## 6. Caseworker positions

Recruitment action is complete for all 22 case worker positions in centres.

## **Attachment 2: Juvenile Justice Responses to Additional Questions from the Public Accounts Committee Legislative Assembly**

### **Public Accounts Committee**

### **Examination of the Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports February 2016-September 2016**

### **Additional Questions arising from proceedings before the Public Accounts Committee on Monday 12 February 2018**

1. *The Audit found that there was little evidence of joint planning between Juvenile Justice, the NSW Police Force and Corrective Services, specifically.*

#### **Has any work been done since the Audit to address the joint planning process with these two agencies?**

- Juvenile Justice works with the NSW Police Force across a range of forums. NSW Police are represented on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and the Executive Director of Juvenile Justice sits on the NSW Police Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Board. Juvenile Justice collaborates with NSW Police as part of a number of whole- of-government initiatives, such as the *Their Futures Matter* reforms. The NSW Police are also key partners in the Youth on Track early intervention scheme with the Assistant Commissioner a member of the Youth on Track Implementation Committee and Local Area Commanders attending the Regional Governance Committees.
- Juvenile Justice, NSW Police and Corrective Services are all represented on the Criminal Justice Transformation Board. This Board sets the agenda for reform of the criminal justice system, and continuously improves system operations.
- With regard to the reintegration of young people into the community, NSW Police participates in integrated case management panels in each region.
- These panels comprise a range of government agencies and services working to coordinate support for high-risk young people exiting custody and on community supervision orders.
- In addition:
  - Juvenile Justice is working with Corrective Services NSW to establish updated procedures for the transition of young people aged 18 years and over who are subject to parole and other community-based orders.
  - Juvenile Justice has established its peak advisory group, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. This is an independent body to assist in strengthening the delivery of rehabilitative programs and services. The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from a range of organisations, including representatives from NSW Police, Justice Health and Education.

2. *The response to the Audit's recommendations noted that the partnership between Juvenile Justice and Justice Health is ongoing, and that the expansion of Community Integration Teams is dependent on Health Funding<sup>1</sup>.*

**Have you received any update for a possible increase of funding for this program?**

- Justice Health advises that the Community Integration Team is a state wide service of the Justice and Forensic Mental Health Network, which forms part of NSW Health.
- The NSW Government has invested an additional \$1.6 million recurrent funding toward the Team's annual budget since 2015-16, as part of the NSW Government's \$115 million commitment to *Living Well - A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW*.

**Has a review been undertaken regarding the effectiveness of Community Integration Teams?**

- Justice Health regularly collects and monitors data on a range of metrics for the service.

**If so, has the review demonstrated that this program is effective, and has this evidence supported any bid for increased funding?**

- It is appropriate that Justice Health respond to this.

3. *In response to the recommendation regarding the need to work with Education to roll out the Statewide framework for transitioning young people into school, you note that Juvenile Justice has maintained its ongoing meetings with Education.*

**Has anything specific emerged from these meetings regarding the roll out?**

- Juvenile Justice is committed to continuous improvement, in particular improving outcomes for young people leaving custody through improved exit planning and support, as outlined in the 2017-20 Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan.
- Juvenile Justice has in place a case management framework to improve communication and collaboration between Juvenile Justice, Education, mental health providers and families.
- To support this framework, in July 2016 Juvenile Justice introduced 22 new caseworkers across its six detention centres. These new caseworkers have strengthened our exit planning and provided continuity for young people transitioning between community and custody.
- From the point of admission to exit caseworkers focus on working with young people and relevant stakeholders to develop and support community reintegration, including working with principals in schools.

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<sup>1</sup> Responses to questions in relation to Community Integration Team were provided by NSW Health, Justice and Forensic Mental Health Network

- A new Juvenile Justice Case Management policy was implemented in 2016.
- This policy embeds transition and exit planning as standard aspects of case management. The policy requires workers in custody and community to plan for transitions, including a discharge case conference at least six weeks prior to release. The policy provides clear direction on what a discharge case conference should cover. A community caseworker is present at these meetings to connect with education providers.
- Juvenile Justice is continually up-skilling its staff. Case Management training was delivered to all caseworkers between August and November 2016. This ensures staff have the skills required for effective case management, with a special focus on transition and exit planning. The Case Management policy will be reviewed this year to identify and address any gaps.

**Have there been any outputs from the co-funded research with the Department of Education regarding the transition of school-aged young people from detention to the community?**

- The research report '*How Juvenile Justice and Education Support the Transition of School-Aged Youth from within a Custodial Environment to the Community*' was published by the University of NSW, School of Education.
- UNSW researchers presented the findings and recommendations regarding the transition framework to the Juvenile Justice Centre and Area Managers meeting in September 2017.
- Juvenile Justice and Education are currently reviewing their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with a focus on strengthening exit planning and transition. Recommendations from the research are being considered as part of this process. Learning from the report is informing the review of the MOU.
- Juvenile Justice is currently working with Education to develop Key Performance Indicators in the MoU that measures both agencies success at transitioning young people back into school - for example, sustained school attendance.
- Reintegration will be a key theme at the annual Juvenile Justice Principals and Centre Manager's Forum, occurring later in 2018.

**Has this research fed into the development of a Statewide transition framework, as originally intended?**

- Transition planning encompasses a model based on coordination, communication and partnership among Education, Juvenile Justice, community and health services and families.
- Juvenile Justice's case management framework is designed to improve outcomes for young people from the point of admission to exit. The primary focus is working with young people and all stakeholders, including education, to develop and support community reintegration.

- This integrated framework has been informed by experience and research in the field, including the University of NSW, School of Education report.

4. *The Audit made reference to Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre's supported accommodation model, and recommended working with FACS to determine if it could be extended to other centres.*

**Given Juniperina no longer provides Juvenile Justice services is this supported accommodation still being used in other detention centres?**

- Yes
- The supported accommodation program for female detainees was transferred to the Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre.

**Has Juvenile Justice undertaken a review to determine the effectiveness of this model? If so, what were the outcomes of the review?**

- Yes
- The review identified the resources required to implement the program in other centres. The further implementation of the program is now being considered in conjunction with a review being undertaken by the Department of Family and Community Services Homelessness Strategy Working Group.

**What have been the outcomes of the ongoing discussions between FACS and Juvenile Justice regarding the potential expansion of this model?**

- Juvenile Justice is working with the Homelessness Strategy Working Group on a business case and implementation plan for the NSW Homelessness Strategy, which will be presented to Cabinet later in 2018.