

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE BY YOUTH OFF THE STREETS AT LAW AND  
SAFETY COMMITTEE HEARING, 10 MAY 2018**

**Question:**

**Ms JENNY LEONG:** We have heard about good pilot programs that worked and seemed to be effective but were not continued because the landscape changed. It would be helpful if you would take on notice identifying programs that were working well and could be considered by the Committee, in order to help us to get the historical perspective.

**Answer:**

*In past years the Government supported capacity building as one aspect of its standard funding contracts for this sector. The capacity building components of funding have been severely watered down or removed which places a distinct medium to long term strain on service providers. The inability to devote resources to capacity building also has downstream issues for staffing and the retention of staff which will ultimately flow through to service delivery standards.*

**Question:**

**Ms JENNY LEONG:** I would appreciate it if you could take this on notice. As you can hear, the issue of the STMP has become a focus of this Committee partly because it has been identified in submissions as working against the good strategies and diversionary programs that are being currently run by the New South Wales Government. Given that we have heard different perspectives—we appreciate your honesty in giving those perspectives—it would be helpful to get additional information, maybe case studies and information from Youth Off The Streets, in relation to your interaction with the STMP and the young people that you work with, potentially their views on it and those kinds of things.

**Answer:**

*Whilst we acknowledge the reality that NSW Police need to know “who is getting out & when” it is the delivery of the STMP that we as an organisation find disturbing. The vision statement of Juvenile Justice is “To provide services to young offenders to decrease their re-offending and increase their capacity to successfully reintegrate into their communities”. What we see however with the STMP is a barrier to reintegration as young people are placed in a fight or flight situation with Police constantly checking on them.*

*From a young person’s perspective the treatment is seen as overly restrictive and a basic suppression of their rights to move about freely. The short term benefits to Police are that young people are moved away but the longer view indicates that the STMP only serves to widen what is already a significant gap between the young person, Police and the Justice system. Anecdotal evidence we have found is that many young people react to the extreme attention by arguing with Police, this can then lead to an “assault Police” charge and they*

*are then returned to detention for a breach of conditions. Our opinion is that there must be a better form of reintegration. We appreciate the position of the Police in these situations but we believe that this program only serves to reinforce negative behaviours and put young people straight back into the system we are trying to get them out of.*