

## **Bourke Youth Justice Community Office**

1. The Committee heard evidence from other inquiry stakeholders that the Youth Justice Conference process is 'under-utilised'. Can you comment on the effectiveness of Youth Justice Conferences?
  - a. What opportunities do you see to strengthen the conferencing system, or improve access?

**I don't believe YJC is under-utilised in our area.**

### **Opportunities to strengthen the conferencing system, or improve access?**

- **Staff within Youth Justice to work specifically with YJC clients e.g. YJC Case workers, especially in regional and remote communities where support services are limited.**
  - **Develop short programs that YJ staff can deliver to YJC clients.**
  - **YJC convenors having access to our Client Information Management System (CIMS). This will decrease the paperwork, save on doubling up of tasks and allowing more time for the AM to focus on supporting convenors and making YJC more effective.**
  - **YJ offices to work more collaboratively with YJC convenors in our area.**
  - **Increased collaboration between YJ with Magistrates and YLO's**
  - **I also believe Police being understaffed has impacted YJC's in our area.**
2. How can children and young people be better supported to comply with their bail conditions?
    - **There needs to be a collaborative approach from gov & non gov agencies to provide support for young people subject to bail. For instance, some young people on bail are disengaged or suspended from mainstream education and no alternate educational programs are available. Some young people who do attend school, have significant literature problems and need a supportive classroom environment to address these needs. (Young people with literature problems are ashamed to go to school because they can't read or right) so they need specialist support.**
    - **Access to evening programs or supported accommodation, when the home environment is considered unsafe.**
  3. How can bail processes be improved to prevent recidivism in young people and protect community safety?
    - **There needs to be somewhere safe for the young people to go when they are struggling within the home environment and committing further offences in the community.**
    - **Any facility would require wrap around services to be involved, such as: health, education, employment**