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Mr Paul McLeay
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr McLeay

I write in response to your letter of 3 April 2008, with regard to the *Addressing the Needs of Young Offenders Audit Report*.

The Department of Juvenile Justice is constantly investing in methods to improve service delivery to reduce offending behaviour in young people. The department concurs with the recommendations of the report and, as reflected in the attached table, has actioned recommendations, some of which are now complete

The department will continue to work collaboratively with the NSW Police Force and other relevant agencies to address the needs of young offenders and thus reduce the risk of re-offending. If any further information is required, please contact Kay Elphick on 02 9219 9410, or alternatively kay.elphick@djj.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Muir".

Peter Muir
Acting Director General

12 May 2008

IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

D06/0691

Recommendations in the Performance Audit
Addressing the needs of young offenders

Recommendations	Outcome	Actions to be taken	Target completion date	STATUS (completed, delayed, on track) COMMENT	Responsibility
<p>We recommend that by January 2008 the Department of Juvenile Justice, in regard to youth justice conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement a checklist to identify the needs of each young offender and rate their risk of reoffending as either low, moderate or high 	<p>Standard YJC Form 9 amended to incorporate Checklist. Form 9 Checklist addresses risk of reoffending for all young offenders, without ranking as low, mod or high.</p> <p>A number of consultations have been held with NZ Police and BOCSAR re developing a ranking tool. In the interim, convenors address reoffending risk of all offenders, without ranking.</p>	<p>Checklist incorporated into Form 9 (standard YJC form). Consultations re ranking tool on hold between DJJ, and BOCSAR pending further discussions.</p>	<p>Oct 07</p> <p>Sept 08</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing review</p>	<p>DJJ - YJC Operations</p> <p>DJJ Manager Operations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> require convenors to document the results of this review 	<p>Convenors required to complete standard Form 9 checklist, after conference preparation.</p>	<p>Amended Form 9 issued to all convenors</p>	<p>Oct 07</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>DJJ YJC Operations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> require convenors to ensure conference participants consider interventions and rehabilitation 	<p>In conference preparation phase, convenors address</p>	<p>Reinforced with introduction of amended Form 9.</p>	<p>Oct 07</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>DJJ YJC Operations</p>

IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

D08/0691

Recommendations	Outcome	Actions to be taken	Target completion date	STATUS (completed, delayed, on track) COMMENT	Responsibility
<p>programs consistent with the young offender's needs and reoffending risk, which could be included on conference outcome plans.</p>	<p>reoffending risks and needs identified, make any referrals and document them on Form 9.</p> <p>Outcome Plans (OP) are generated by participants. While convenors cannot impose their agendas in an outcome plan, they canvass offenders' reoffending risks and needs in conference preparation. This optimises participants ability to raise these issues in the conference.</p> <p>Whether in the OP or not, such intervention options are addressed in 3 possible aspects of the conference process: in preparation, in conference recommendations and in outcome plans.</p>	<p>To be incorporated in YJC Guidelines for the Conduct and Management of Conferences.</p>	<p>June 2008</p>	<p>On track</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

D048/0691

Recommendations	Outcome	Actions to be taken	Target completion date	STATUS (completed, delayed, on track) COMMENT	Responsibility
We recommend that the Department of Juvenile Justice and the NSW Police Force refer problems they face in accessing services or exchanging information, to the Cross Agency Management of Young Offenders Senior Officer Group or its successor to resolve as part of its strategic cross agency approach to managing young offenders.	Current development of paper addressing cross agency management of young offenders has been submitted to CAMSOG.	DJJ DG is to meet with each CEO of relevant human service agencies to discuss issues and the development of a Juvenile Offender Compact.	Dec 08	On Track	DJJ Director Policy and Government Relations.
We recommend that by June 2007 the Department of Juvenile Justice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete its review of Multisystemic Therapy, a family-based treatment model, regarding its suitability as a response to young offenders with complex needs and whose families are clients of many agencies report its findings to the Cross Agency Management of Young Offenders Senior Officer Group or its successor. 	<i>Review of Multisystemic Therapy completed. Contract signed with licensor. The program became fully operational in two locations, Western Sydney and Newcastle on May 5th 2008.</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE	COMPLETED	Department of Juvenile Justice - Operations
We recommend that the Department of Juvenile Justice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitor results for both one and two year follow-up periods as used in the State Plan report on trends in reoffending for each young offender group commencing with their 2006-07 annual report, both against the State Plan target and using the one and two year follow-up periods. 	DJJ is participating fully in State Plan reporting including reporting on re-offending rates. Through its Results and Services Plan, DJJ has identified the follow up reporting at 12 and 24 months.	Continue reporting	Ongoing	Completed and on track	DJJ