

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Indigenous Support

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The RJU have a position called the Indigenous Guidance Partner(IGP). This position was established to provide guidance and assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and victims referred to or involved in restorative justice.

The position is a dedicated position that supports closing the gap between the participation rates and agreement compliance rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth compared with that of non-Indigenous youth.

The Indigenous Guidance Partner works alongside the restorative justice convenors.

The IGP makes the first contact with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth referred to restorative justice by going out to their home or other suitable location, introducing themselves and providing an explanation of restorative justice under the *Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004*, and an explanation of their role and what support they can provide to assist them through the process. There are other benefits in this contact in that often other members of the young person's family or community are present and the profile and understanding of restorative justice is enhanced by the IGP's presence and explanation. Significant others also know what is required of the young person in relation to their restorative justice referral with respect to attending appointments and are more able and likely to support the young person in fulfilling these obligations.

Where a young person has agreed to be considered for a restorative justice process, the IGP attends all interviews undertaken by the convenor to determine suitability for participation in restorative justice and prepare the young person for the conference. The IGP also attends the conference and provides support and guidance to the young person in fulfilling their outcome agreements. This support may be in the form of providing transport to placements or appointments resulting from the restorative justice agreement or by supervising or being present at a placement with a young person. Regular contact by the IGP with the young person about how they are going and what assistance and support they may require during the post conference period is also provided by the IGP.

You can contact the Indigenous Guidance Partner on 6207 1803.