

# Justice and Community Safety Directorate

## Justice Reinvestment Strategy

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## Justice Reinvestment in the ACT

Justice reinvestment (JR) is about developing a smarter, more cost-effective approach to improving criminal justice outcomes by reducing crime, improving public safety and strengthening communities.

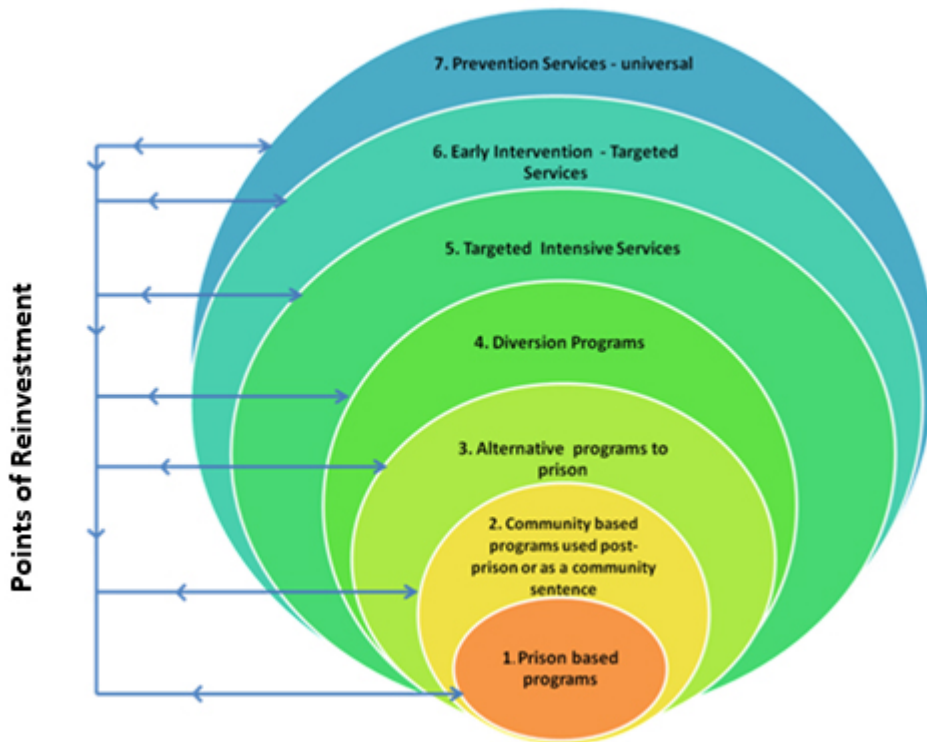
The Justice Reinvestment Strategy supports the Ninth Parliamentary Agreement commitment to reducing recidivism by 25% by 2025. As a plan for reducing recidivism is developed it will draw on the ACT evidence base developed as part of the Justice Reinvestment Strategy.

The development of the Justice Reinvestment Strategy involves the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) working closely with a range of government and community stakeholders, over a four year period (2014-2018), to identify drivers of crime and criminal justice costs and then develop and implement new ways of reinvesting scarce resources - both in the community and within the prison system - in a way that results in a more cost-beneficial impact on public safety.

A critical step to justice reinvestment is identifying how much money can be saved or spending averted across the justice system in the longer-term by reducing prison population numbers (the most expensive part of the justice system). The second step is using the money saved to make changes to the justice system and to run programs that prevent people from entering or re-entering the justice system. This can include:

- diversion from court;
- strengthening programs connected to community corrections or post prison release;
- targeted education responses for those who are disengaged or disengaging from education;
- specialist mental health services; and
- drug and alcohol responses.

The diagram below represents these possible points of reinvestment across the justice system.



## Justice Reinvestment Pathways

JR is consistently described as a place-based process that is applied to a geographic location where money is spent on incarcerating a population who would otherwise reside in that area. In considering the incarceration rate in the ACT and the ACT's geographic layout, which has been described by the ABS as hiding disadvantage (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, ABS 2011), three approaches for justice reinvestment have been developed in the ACT:

## Place-based

- this approach involves understanding the crime reduction and community strengthening impacts of programs and supports that are provided in the same location as the people who need them. An example of this pathway is the High Density Housing Program on Ainslie Avenue

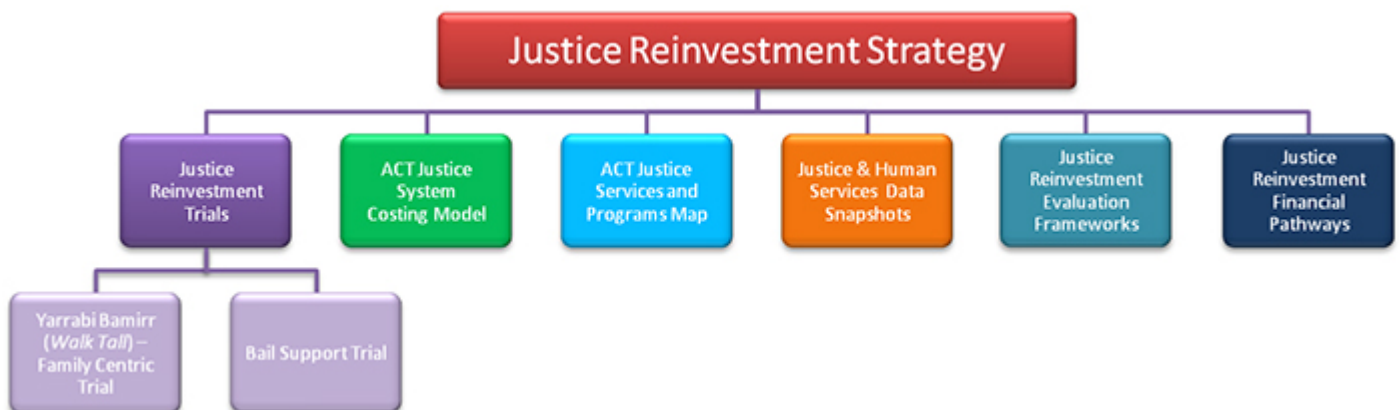
## Point in the system

- this approach involves looking at crucial points in the justice system, for example arrest, bail and remand, where a change to that part of the justice system could reduce a person's future contact with the justice system. An example is undertaking restorative justice as a diversion or post-sentence.

## Cohort

- this approach is about focusing efforts on a particular group (such as parolees, persistent offenders or high and complex needs families) who are in constant contact with justice system and targeting services and support to that group. An example is the ACT Corrective Services Extended Throughcare models of prisoner support

The ACT's approach to JR is multi-faceted. It involves a number of large projects that are being constructed through extensive consultation and data gathering. Rather than undertaking a single intervention, a cumulative approach is being developed that aims to deliver improved outcomes in the community and justice system. The ACT's JR Strategy projects are outlined in the diagram below:



## **Justice Reinvestment Trials**

The first justice reinvestment trial is called Yarrabi Bamirr, Ngunnawal words for Walk Tall. It involves using a family-centric service support model with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to improve life outcomes and reduce or prevent contact with the justice system. An evaluation framework is being developed by the Australian National University. The trial received over \$920,000 of funding from the 2016-17 budget and Confiscation of Criminal Assets Trust Fund and will commence in early 2017.

The second justice reinvestment trial is a 12 month Bail Support trial designed to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on remand and reduce the amount of time spent on remand. Funding of \$400,000 in 2016-17 has been provided through the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Trust Fund. It will commence by mid 2017.

## **ACT Justice System Costing model**

An ACT Justice System Costing Model is being developed to understand the costs of the current ACT adult and youth justice system. The costing model, being developed by KPMG, will cost the individual components of the current ACT justice system from the point of apprehension to post-sentence to establish a baseline cost. It will be completed by mid 2017.

## **ACT Justice Services and Programs Map**

The ACT Justice Services and Programs Map will create an evidence base for government and the community sector on the programs and services that support people (adults and young people) who have contact, or are at risk of having contact, with the ACT criminal justice system (this includes victims of crime and perpetrators of crime). Nous Group has been contracted to undertake this project and it is anticipated that the project will be completed by mid 2017.

## **Justice and Human Services System Data Snapshots**

The Justice and Human Services Data Snapshots forms another important part of the ACT JR evidence base. The first snapshot will show data about people experiencing disadvantage in the ACT and their contact with the ACT justice system. The second snapshot will detail a data series specifically about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Informed by the data snapshot developed by Bourke's justice reinvestment initiative, a broad range of cross government and community consultation has occurred to identify and develop these snapshots. It is anticipated that the snapshots will be finalised by mid 2017.

## **Justice Reinvestment Evaluation Framework**

As part of the Justice Reinvestment Strategy a series of existing ACT government JR programs that appear most promising as a means of preventing crime and recidivism have been identified. This evaluation framework includes: the High Density Housing program; Out of Home Care Strategy; ACT Corrective Services Extended Throughcare model of prisoner support and Restorative Justice.

For more information on the ACT Justice Reinvestment Strategy please contact the Justice Reinvestment

Team on 6205 4786.