

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Justice Reform Strategy

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The Justice Reform Strategy was a two year project (2014-16) which reviewed the sentencing laws and practice in the ACT. Funding for the strategy was provided by the Government in the 2014-15 budget.

Development of the Strategy was guided by: [Justice Reform Strategy - terms of reference](#) [PDF 94KB]

The initial focus of the Justice Reform Strategy was to formulate recommendations for a community based sentencing alternative to imprisonment. The strategy also considered broader reforms, including options relating to restorative justice and therapeutic jurisprudence.

The work of the strategy was guided by an [Advisory Group](#) [PDF 46KB] with a broad membership including representatives from key government directorates, the justice sector and other agencies and academics. A series of theme-based core design workshops were held to focus on specific issues, such as therapeutic jurisprudence, and drew on the expertise available in the Territory in these areas. The project was also informed by wider consultation with a variety of stakeholders and the community, as well as a number of research projects to ensure any reforms were evidence-based.

The [Justice Reinvestment Strategy](#), also funded in the 2014-15 budget and is ongoing, intersected with the Justice Reform Strategy. Justice reinvestment is about developing a smarter, more cost-effective approach to improving criminal justice outcomes by reducing crime, improving public safety and strengthening communities.

First Stage Report

[Justice Reform Strategy - First Stage Report](#) [PDF 2.3MB]

The First Stage Report (PDF) for the Justice Reform Strategy details the work undertaken in the first year and was published together with an invitation for submissions in response.

Second Stage Report

[Justice Reform Strategy - Second Stage Report](#) [PDF 2.80MB]

The Second Stage Report (PDF) for the Justice Reform Strategy provides an update to the First Stage Report and details completed tasks, ongoing projects and work which may inform future sentencing and related reforms.

Research

The two research papers referenced in the First and Second Stage Reports are:

[Intensive Corrections Orders](#) [PDF 826KB]

[Bail Support Literature Review](#) [PDF 643KB]