



Working Together Changing the Story: second tranche of major Youth Justice reforms – Cairns fact sheet (April 2019)

The Queensland Government is committed to changing the story for Cairns' young people in the youth justice system and has committed to extra funding and initiatives to help keep the Cairns community safe.

The Cairns initiatives will work to reduce offending, reduce reoffending and address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system.

These new and continued initiatives are the second major tranche of the Palaszczuk Government's youth justice investments, and begin to implement key elements of Queensland's first Youth Justice Strategy *Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023*, released in December 2018.

Improving outcomes for the Cairns community

Additional funding will be provided over two to four years to:

- establish a new Transition 2 Success program
- establish a Community Youth Response which may comprise services like an after-hours diversion service, mentoring program and an alternative education bridging program
- employ extra case workers at Cairns Family Wellbeing Services to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and young people - nearly \$1 million across two years (\$480,000 per annum)

Existing initiatives in Cairns will continue

- Integrated Case Management to work intensively with high risk young offenders and their families

- An extra \$600,000 per year announced in 2018 in the Cairns/Yarrabah region to boost existing bail support and legal advocacy services, giving young people on remand or at risk of coming into contact with the youth justice system additional support to keep them out of detention.
- Cairns High Risk Initiative (Trial), in partnership with the Queensland Police Service, a joint on-call trial in Cairns to explore ways to improve outcomes for young people and reduce remand in custody including bail options. This project engages with at-risk young people and families, and works across agencies, to develop bail options.
- Stronger Together delivered by Youth Empowered Towards Independence (YETI), provides culturally appropriate support to high risk adolescents and their families including intensive support and case management to reduce recidivism, and
- Cairns Safer Streets, a local approach where government agencies work together to improve community safety in Cairns, deter offending and restore community confidence.

More information

For more information about Queensland's youth justice system visit <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/youth-justice>