



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

The Queensland Government has announced the *Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023* second tranche of major youth justice reforms and investments, totaling \$320 million.

Focused on keeping communities safe by tackling youth offending, it seeks to prevent offending, reduce re-offending and remand, and in particular reduce the number of young people held on remand in police watch houses.

Key elements of the Package include:

- \$27M capital funding for immediate construction of, and \$18.3M to operate, an additional 16 beds in Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC), with 35 additional Full Time Employees (FTEs)
- Planning has commenced for a new 32 bed facility in Wacol, at an estimated total cost of \$150M
- \$28.69M over four years to expand Transition 2 Success from 11 to 20 sites (T2S Plus), with 27 extra FTEs
- \$27.47M over four years to continue Restorative Justice Conferencing
- \$18.45M over four years to continue the Townsville Community Youth Response, including the High Risk Youth Court
- \$15M over four years for place-based Community Youth Responses and Diversion Initiatives in three more locations, with seven additional FTEs
- \$6.38M over two years for the Enhanced Youth and Family Wellbeing Initiative, with extra case workers in Indigenous Family Wellbeing Services (IFWBs) in 10 priority locations
- \$1.3M for continuation of the Brisbane City Watch house Youth Justice response team till June 2020
- \$1.22M to continue existing Conditional Bail programs until December 2020

- \$5.6M for eight Specialist Multi-Agency Response Teams for court and bail assessments and service pathways, involving dedicated Youth Justice, Education and Mental Health liaison officers, linking also with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services
- \$0.8M for one year for a Mt Isa Transitional Hub
- \$2.26M for a Queensland Youth Partnerships Initiative including a signature project with retailers and shopping centres
- Complementary support services including \$3.48M to extend the 'Navigate Your Health' initiative, a joint Department of Child Safety Youth and Women/Department of Health project, including 11 FTEs; and \$1.89M over three years to develop and deploy the Risk and Dynamic Assessment Register (RADAR) for youth justice court work
- extension of the Our Child information sharing platform for Youth Justice
- \$9.4M for one year to Queensland Police Service (QPS) for community-based supervision, which will link to Bail Support, Youth Justice, and Community Response and Diversion initiatives
- \$410,000 to extend the QPS 'Framing the Future' mentoring initiative for young people who have participated in Project Booyah, until December 2020.
- \$2.56M to 30 June 2020 to continue an extra specialist Children's Court Magistrate.

The investment package builds on existing and recent investments in extra Bail Support and Advocacy Services, Young Offender Support Services and the Transition of 17 year olds into the Youth Justice system.

Priorities of the Package include:

- keep communities safe by working together to prevent offending and re-offending
- reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the youth justice system by engaging families, community elders and leaders, by partnering with and investing in community controlled and led organisations, and by strengthening cultural interventions.
- fill gaps in youth services and activities, especially after hours, to support police and community efforts to divert children and young people from offending and anti-social behaviours.
- better address the increasingly complex needs of children and young people who are re-offending, especially those with drug and alcohol problems, mental health and health issues, disability and cognitive impairments, trauma and violence related behavioural issues, or who do not have safe or stable homes
- tackle the disengagement of children and young people at risk of offending and re-offending from education, training and employment

- enable young people to address the consequences of their offending behaviours and achieve restoration, reintegration and rehabilitation, and prevent them becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system.

Other measures

The Government has also committed to a comprehensive review of the *Youth Justice Act*.

The Government will finalise over coming months the Youth Justice Strategy Action Plan. This will incorporate initiatives in this investment package, plus other cross-agency initiatives, and actions emerging from related work for the Advance Queensland Priorities or other agency budget submissions.

Place-based approaches will be a feature. Key locations include the high demand areas of Cairns, Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Townsville, Moreton, Mt Isa, Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Toowoomba. This will build on existing community and youth initiatives such as Cairns Safer Streets / Coordinated Care, Townsville Community Youth Response / Stronger Communities, and Community Connect in Mount Isa.

Influences

The investment package incorporates key elements to achieve the *Advancing Queensland Priorities* 'Keep Communities Safe' priority target to reduce youth re-offending, as well as the Government's responses to Bob Atkinson's *Report on Youth Justice* and Major-General Stuart Smith's Report *Townsville's Voice*.

More information

For more information about Queensland's youth justice system, visit www.csyw.qld.gov.au/youth-justice