Research Priorities

The Department has identified the following Research Priorities to maximise the benefits of research undertaken with our staff and clients.

Further information on the Research Priorities is contained in this document, including a list of research topics for each priority.

All research applications are assessed on their merit. Research priorities are used to encourage researchers to investigate critical areas of relevance to the department and inform the research approval process.

We work to ensure our policies, programs and services are informed by rigorous and robust evidence.
Intervene early

Research Priority
Acting early to address the needs of children, young people, families and carers to stop entry into the youth justice system.

Research Topics
- Understanding young people's pathways into the youth justice system
- Understanding intervention points where entry into the statutory youth justice system can be prevented

Keep children out of court

Research Priority
Early intervention and diversionary programs for children and young people with early or low-level offending.

Research Topics
- Early intervention and diversionary programs
- Reconnecting young people with education and vocational training

Keep children out of custody

Research Priority
Effective processes and supports that reduce the number of young people who are remanded in custody.

Research Topics
- Remand reduction strategies
Reduce re-offending

**Research Priority**
Evidence-based interventions for young people who are repeat offenders that reduce reoffending and support successful reintegration with families, culture and communities.

**Research Topics**
- Effective responses for repeat offenders
- Therapeutic responses for young people with complex needs
- Throughcare, aftercare and re-entry programs
- Reintegration with families, culture and communities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

**Research Priority**
Working with and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deliver culturally-safe and responsive solutions that result in positive futures for their children.

**Research Topics**
- Building the evidence base for programs and practice that address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- Family and community engagement
- Trauma informed practice

Building the evidence base

**Research Priority**
Building an evidence base about ‘what works, for whom, and in what circumstances’ for young people in the youth justice system.

**Research Topics**
- Robust evaluations of new programs and justice options
- Improving responses for specific populations, such as young women and LGBTQI young people