

Creating a Just NSW

Thinking differently for safer communities

JUST
REINVEST
NSW



**a justice reinvestment
approach for NSW**

Just Reinvest NSW



Just Reinvest NSW was formed by a coalition of more than twenty organisations and individuals from New South Wales to address the significant over-representation of Aboriginal young people in custody.

Aboriginal young people (aged 10 to 25) remain the most over-represented group in our prison population. Half of our juvenile justice population is Aboriginal despite only making up 3% of the general population.

We cannot afford to lose another generation of Aboriginal young people to the criminal justice system.

It is time to implement an approach that would shift spending away from incarceration, towards early intervention, prevention and treatment for Aboriginal young people at risk.

It is time to think differently.

Our key message to the government and the community is that there is a solution; a smarter approach that will reduce crime and create safer, stronger communities.

It is called Justice Reinvestment.

Justice Reinvestment



Justice Reinvestment aims to address the underlying causes of crime and improve outcomes for both individuals and communities.

Justice Reinvestment uses data to:

- identify communities with a high concentration of offenders; and
- assess the particular problems facing those communities.

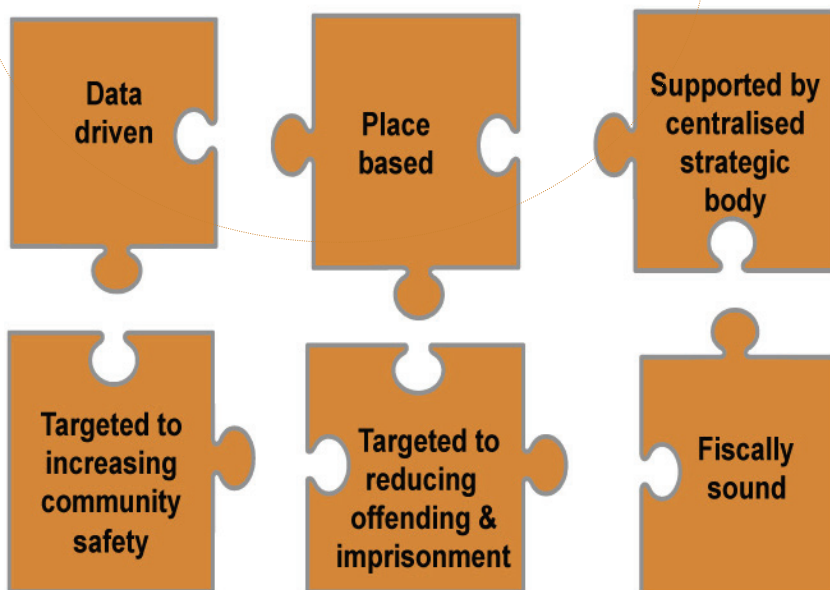
Justice Reinvestment diverts funds into early intervention, crime prevention and diversionary programs, creating savings in the criminal justice system, which can be tracked and reinvested.

Justice Reinvestment reduces crime, offers positive opportunities to Aboriginal young people and saves money for the community.

Justice Reinvestment is a circuit breaker.

It recognises that meeting the complexity of the challenge requires a whole of community response through localised solutions that are supported by organisational and structural realignments.

Just Reinvestment is



The underlying causes of crime are varied and complex.

Research has demonstrated that people who come into contact with the criminal justice system are highly likely to experience multiple and severe social and economic disadvantage including poverty and intergenerational trauma.

Justice Reinvestment provides

communities with the power and the resources to support people to address the circumstances that result in their offending. Justice Reinvestment enables communities to introduce long-term measures, tailored to local needs, that address the underlying drivers of crime.

Justice Reinvestment reduces crime in local areas while also saving money for governments.

Think differently for safer communities



Just Reinvest NSW calls for

1. A commitment to working differently on building safer communities through the implementation of Justice Reinvestment.

2. A multi-partisan approach to developing and implementing a Justice Reinvestment Plan for NSW that would:

Ensure:

- Cross-departmental support, facilitation and implementation of community-driven justice reinvestment initiatives creating new organisational systems and smarter outcomes

Focus on:

- Increasing community safety
- Reducing crime
- Reducing incarceration
- Reducing recidivism
- Reducing long-term justice costs

Remove barriers to justice reinvestment including by:

- reallocating resources into crime prevention and diversionary programs
- increasing greater transparency of, and access to, data for communities
- developing a framework of ongoing research, monitoring and evaluation of justice reinvestment.

Justice Reinvestment is a proven alternative



"Putting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in detention centres and prisons should be the option of last resort.

We'd do far better if we put our resources and political will into trying proven alternatives like justice reinvestment.

If we are serious about closing the gap in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we have to get serious about tried and tested alternatives like justice reinvestment."

*Mr Mick Gooda
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Social Justice Commissioner
Australian Human Rights Commission*



"With Indigenous people less than 3% of the general population yet 50% of the NSW prison population, the need for courageous leadership is clear; courageous leadership that can reflect on such diabolical statistics and truly understand the need for a new approach to such a complex challenge.

The statistical data screams out "There is a problem here!" and the economic data says clearly "This approach makes no sense!"

Justice Reinvestment offers a more cost effective and more efficient approach that is worth contemplating by courageous leadership."

*Dr Chris Sarra
Executive Chairman
The Stronger Smart Institute*

NSW has the opportunity for a better future



NSW currently spends \$237, 250 each year on every young person incarcerated, and costs are increasing.

We cannot afford to continue down this path.

There is a better way to invest our resources.

NSW is in a unique position. We are the home state for two pilot sites for Justice Reinvestment, in Bourke and Cowra. These sites will offer the learning and experience essential for the government to embrace a Justice Reinvestment approach for the State.

A long-term, whole of government approach is needed now to address the disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people being caught in a system that fails to rehabilitate, fails to deter and fails to keep communities safer.

NSW has an opportunity to take the lead in Australia in redirecting spending away from imprisonment and towards early intervention and prevention in a fiscally and socially responsible way.

NSW has the opportunity to be a leader in creating better and safer communities



"Aboriginal young people surely need our help and our support to address the circumstances that lead to prison.

Communities need more help to support Aboriginal young people.

More programs indeed are required that can make a real difference and positively engage Aboriginal young people who may be at risk of offending.

Incarceration is not the solution.

More community cohesion, more hope and a better future for our valuable young people are required."

*Her Excellency Marie Bashir
Former Governor of New South Wales*



"This just makes sense.

I know the talent, potential and value that young Indigenous people have, and if we can support them to build the skills to harness that power in the right way, it will be of huge benefit not only for Indigenous people, but for the nation as a whole."

*Jack Manning-Bancroft
CEO, Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)*

An unacceptable situation



On an average day, Indigenous young people aged 10 - 17 were 18 times more likely than non-Indigenous young people to be under community-based supervision, and 28 times more likely to be in detention.

2014	Juvenile Justice	Adult Corrections
Incarceration rate	32 per 100,000 people Down from 46 per 100,000 in 2013.	181.6 per 100,000 people Up from 175.5 per 100,000 people in 2013
Population held in full time custody	293 An increase of over 16% in the previous 3 months. Over 3,000 young people are received into custody at a juvenile detention centre each year.	10,630 An overall increase of 7% from 2013 and projected to exceed 12,500 in 2015.
Proportion of people in full-time custody who are Indigenous	51% Young Aboriginal people make up approximately 4% of the NSW population. In Australia since 2010 the level of over-representation of Indigenous young people in detention increased from 22 to 25 times the rate of non-Indigenous young people.	24% In 1984 Aboriginal people made up just 7% of the NSW prison population. The proportion of Indigenous people in NSW in full time custody aged between 18-25 years is over 34%.
Cost to the State each year for full time custody	More than \$70 million (\$237,250 / young person / year or \$650 / person / day)	More than \$1 billion (\$94,999 / adult / year or \$260 / adult / day)

NSW has the opportunity to be a leader in creating better and safer communities



"In simple terms substantial money has been invested in the correctional system. It has made no headway in reducing the Aboriginal overrepresentation in prison.

Aboriginal Australians are increasingly filling our prisons and juvenile detention centres at alarmingly disproportionate rates.

We need treatment services and rehabilitation services. Not bloody prisons."

*Associate Professor Ted Wilkes
National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University*



"The incarceration rate of Aboriginal youth in Australia is a national disgrace, and an indictment on all of our Australian governments.

STOP the penal attitude and start looking at prevention. Poverty should not be a crime. From poverty comes homelessness and substance abuse. This lifestyle can lead to committing minor offence which leads to incarceration which leads to a criminal record.

How can something so preventable be so hard to fix? It can be fixed, at a much lesser cost than it is to imprison our young people.

Start listening to community. Start funding community based programs focusing on preventive projects and programs that will keep Aboriginal families together with a fine quality of life. Maybe then we will see a reduction in the imprisonment rate of our people.

Our target should be a 50% reduction of incarceration of Aboriginal youth by 2020. If the goodwill and funding is provided by governments, it can be achieved."

Aunty Millie Ingram, Redfern Elder

Think differently this time



It is time to think differently about criminal justice in NSW.

Given the enormous costs of incarceration – social, health and economic – it is clear that a new way of thinking is required to address the poor outcomes from the present system for everyone involved: in particular we need to address the unacceptable overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in our detention centres and prisons.

Justice reinvestment is about making communities safer by reallocating taxpayer dollars from prisons and putting them back into communities.

Justice reinvestment benefits the entire community.

It reduces crime, reduces costs and creates better futures.



JUST
REINVEST
NSW

***'give them a life
not life in prison'***

justreinvest.org.au

Join us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
Watch us on YouTube

©Just Reinvest NSW
February 2015
info@justreinvest.org.au