

8TH ACISO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

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MCG, MELBOURNE

DO PRISONS

CHANGE LIVES?



Justice Reinvestment: Investing in young peoples lives

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Victorian Legal Services
BOARD + COMMISSIONER

The
Kimberley
Foundation

What is “Justice Reinvestment”?

- Premise and Concept
- International experiences
 - US, UK, NZ
- Australian context
 - Current JR pilots



Justice Reinvestment – The Australian Context

- Change the Record campaign:
www.changetherecord.org.au
- Myer Innovation Fellowship –
international examples of place-based,
community led successes:
www.hrlc.org.au/unlockingcommunity



Imperative for JR approach in Victoria

Increase in prisoners & returns

- 25% increase in prisoners in the last 3 years
- prisoners on remand have nearly doubled since 2011
- 11% increase in recidivism in last 5 years
- Prisoner reoffending rate @ 44%, 53% for under 25s
- Number of children in detention on sentence down, however 57% increase in remand un-sentenced.



Imperative for JR approach in Victoria

Increase in cost

- Up to \$ 1billion this year on adult system
- 31% increase in budget in last 5 years
- \$270 per day per adult prisoner vs \$27 per day per CCO offender
- \$1,277 per day in youth detention vs \$116.52 for community based supervision



Imperative for JR approach in Victoria

'If we continue in this way, current trends in both prisoner numbers and cost mean it will not be long before we have to make hard decisions between prison beds or hospital beds, better schools or more security.'

Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass (2015)

Imperative for JR approach in Victoria

Proportion of vulnerable groups increasing

- Rates of imprisonment, reoffending & remand of Aboriginal people
- 1/4 of Victoria's adult prisoners are from 2% of the state's postcodes & 1/2 from just 6% of postcodes (2007 to 2014)
- 35% of prisoners were homeless, more than 50% were unemployed and more than 85% did not complete high school on arrival at prison
- Young people from low socioeconomic area 7 times likely to be under supervision in Victoria



Imperative for JR approach in Victoria

Proportion of vulnerable groups increasing

Those living in the most disadvantaged 3% of postcodes in Victoria (cf. to remaining 97% are:

- 3.5 times more likely to have been charged with juvenile offending
- 3 times more likely to have been exposed to child maltreatment
- over 2.5 times more likely to have a low level of education.

A Justice reinvestment approach in Victoria

‘Using justice reinvestment methodology, pilot and evaluate local approaches to crime prevention and community safety in disadvantaged Victorian communities with the aim of reducing reoffending and increasing community safety.’

Victorian Ombudsman (2015)
Recommendation 2
Investigation into the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in Victoria

Building the case for youth justice reinvestment



Create awareness about the benefits of a JR approach for Victoria



Identify communities interested in a JR approach



Build the case to adopt a JR policy & trials





To find out more:

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