

Juvenile Justice NSW

Research Agenda

2017-2020

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
JJNSW Priorities 2017-2020.....	2
JJNSW Research Priority Areas.....	3
Policy and Procedures for Applying to Conduct Research within JJNSW .	5
Research & Information Unit Contact Details	5

Introduction

Juvenile Justice NSW (JJNSW) serves an important role in the criminal justice system in New South Wales. Through the supervision of young people on community-based orders and in custody, and the administration of youth justice conferences, JJNSW endeavours to *'empower young people to fulfil their potential without offending'*.

The purpose of the *Juvenile Justice NSW Research Agenda 2017-2020* is to outline the priority areas guiding JJNSW research activities. It is intended to be a guide to assist researchers to identify areas of research that will contribute to the existing body of knowledge that can be used to inform and shape policies and practice, and enhance evidence-based decision-making within the juvenile justice system.

In terms of research and evaluation, JJNSW seeks to build the evidence-based knowledge and skills of our workforce, to evaluate our progress, and to learn what we can do better to achieve more effective outcomes for the young people we supervise and the community as a whole. To this end, JJNSW is looking to researchers to assist in identifying potential strategies and solutions to existing and future challenges, and to help us trial new and innovative practices.

The priority areas outlined in this document aim to align the focus of all research conducted both within, and in collaboration with: JJNSW, the NSW State Priorities, the Department of Justice Corporate Plan 2017-2020, and the Juvenile Justice Plan 2017-2020.

To work towards this future, whilst supporting the Department's strategic priorities, JJNSW is organising its work around the following four priority areas:

- ▶ *Safety, culture and practice,*
- ▶ *Aboriginal engagement,*
- ▶ *Accountability, and*
- ▶ *Continuing improvement.*

The research priority areas presented in this document should not be regarded as an exhaustive list. Rather, they reflect JJNSW's current priorities and should be used as a guide or prompt for researchers. Proposed research topics aim to be rich in scope and to not inadvertently exclude emerging areas of correctional or related criminal justice research interest.

While it is envisaged that some research will be undertaken internally or commissioned more formally by JJNSW, other research may be conducted by external researchers, either in partnership with the agency, or independently (e.g. Masters/PhD students), where approved by JJNSW.

Those interested in conducting research in an identified priority area should contact the Research and Information Unit to seek support for their proposal.

Contact details and information on how to conduct research within JJNSW can be found at the end of this document.

JJNSW Priorities 2017-2020

The *Juvenile Justice Plan 2017-2020* outlines four priority areas around which the Agency is organising its work. These priorities, and associated measures of success, are outlined below.

Safety, culture and practice



What we will achieve

- ▶ Our people feel safe and have what they need to succeed.
- ▶ We support, encourage, and develop our people.
- ▶ Our programs make life better for young people, their families, and community members.
- ▶ We include families in our decision making.
- ▶ We are leaders in delivering evidence based programs and services to young people involved in the criminal justice system.

Aboriginal engagement



What we will achieve

- ▶ Fewer Aboriginal young people are in custody or on community orders.
- ▶ More Aboriginal young people are participating in early intervention and diversion programs.
- ▶ We have more Aboriginal staff, particularly in senior and leadership roles.
- ▶ Aboriginal issues and needs are addressed and embedded across Juvenile Justice.
- ▶ We are culturally competent.

Accountability



What we will achieve

- ▶ We have rights-based systems that support and respect young people.
- ▶ The young people with whom we work understand the responsibilities they have as members or the community.
- ▶ We reduce recidivism.
- ▶ Our clients receive quality, coordinated services.
- ▶ We intervene early to connect young people with family, education, accommodation, and health services.
- ▶ We respect and support victims of crime.
- ▶ Our programs are sensitive to individual and cultural needs.

Continuous improvement



What we will achieve

- ▶ Our operations are sustainable and respond to fluctuating demand.
- ▶ Our technology and resources enable us to get the job done.
- ▶ Our structure, systems, and culture encourage people to speak out and share ideas for improvement.

JJNSW Research Priority Areas

The *JJNSW Research Agenda* is built on six priority areas that align with the strategic direction of both the Department of Justice and JJNSW in achieving the targets set for 2017-2020.

The following priority areas assist JJNSW in establishing a research base for evidence-based decision-making:

Research Priority Area 1: Building an evidence base about what works (how, when, where, and why) with young offenders in NSW.

Research Priority Area 2: Evidence based post-release support with specific focus on reintegration and the continuity of service delivery to young people in the community.

Research Priority Area 3: Early intervention and diversionary programs with specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in early contact with the criminal justice system.

Research Priority Area 4: Effective engagement and practice for working with young people with specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and young people with mental health issues and/or cognitive impairment.

Research Priority Area 5: Provision of appropriate training, resources, and supervision to staff to ensure continuous improvement.

Research Priority Area 6: Innovative practice to improve outcomes for staff and young people.

The JJNSW Research Agenda will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated following endorsement by the Juvenile Justice Executive. The Agenda will be managed by the Juvenile Justice Research and Information Unit (RIU).

The RIU will be responsible for the coordination and oversight of all research, evaluation and statistical projects involving JJNSW and will be the central point of contact for all internal and external researchers.

All research proposals submitted to JJNSW for consideration will be screened by the RIU to determine whether the area of interest for the proposed research meets at least one of the JJNSW Research Priority Areas. If the proposed research is assessed as not being within the JJNSW priorities, the application will not proceed past this point.

JJNSW RESEARCH AGENDA

Department of Justice Corporate Plan 2017-2020

Results Delivering on what we have promised to do	Service Improving Justice services and operations	Partnerships Investing in critical relationships	Sustainability Supporting the longevity of our business	People Making Justice a great place to work	Leadership Enabling our leaders to inspire, innovate and work as one
---	---	--	---	---	--

Juvenile Justice Plan 2017-2020

Safety, culture and practice	Aboriginal engagement	Accountability	Continuous improvement
-------------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------

JJNSW Research Priority Areas

JJNSW Research Priority Area 1: Building an evidence base about what works (how, when, where and why) with young offenders in NSW	JJNSW Research Priority Area 2: Evidence based post-release support with specific focus on reintegration and the continuity of service delivery to young people in the community	JJNSW Research Priority Area 3: Early intervention and diversionary programs with specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in early contact with the criminal justice system	JJNSW Research Priority Area 4: Effective engagement and practice for working with young people with specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and young people with mental health issues and/or cognitive impairment	JJNSW Research Priority Area 5: Provision of appropriate training, resources, and supervision to staff to ensure continuous improvement	JJNSW Research Priority Area 6: Innovative practice to improve outcomes for staff and young people
---	--	--	--	---	--

Examples

Program evaluation – process evaluations and outcome evaluations CHART Comparative cost-benefit analysis of interventions	Discharge planning Educational transition plans South Coast ATSI Reintegration and Transition Program	Bail and remand intervention strategies Bail Assistance Line Youth on Track Mentoring	Act Now Together Strong – ANTS Mentoring Trauma informed practice Core Effective Practice Skills	Staff Morale Organisational Culture Workforce Development Forecasting	Victims Counselling Core Effective Practice Skills Mentoring
---	---	---	---	--	--

Policy and Procedures for Applying to Conduct Research within JJNSW

The *Policy and Procedures for Applying to Conduct Research within JJNSW* can be obtained from the RIU or the Justice NSW website.

<http://www.juvenile.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Juvenile%20Justice/research/research.aspx>

Research & Information Unit Contact Details

JJNSW Research and Information Unit can be contacted via the following details:



Research and Information Unit
Juvenile Justice NSW
GPO Box 31 SYDNEY NSW 2001
Research.JJ@justice.nsw.gov.au