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MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Evaluation of the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy

2024

IPS Management Consultants

This document has been prepared for public release.

Acknowledgement

This report was created on Wadjuk Noongar Country.

IPS Management Consultants acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, water, and community. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present, and we extend that respect to all First Nations people.

We are grateful to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities we have the privilege of working with, for sharing stories, values, beliefs, and culture.

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Glossary of terms

Acronym	Expansion
ACCO	Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation
ALSWA	Aboriginal Legal Service Western Australia
BYFH	Broome Youth and Families Hub
ENAC	Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation
FASD	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
IPS	IPS Management Consultants
KALACC	Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre
KJJS	Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy
KWAC	Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation
MWWAC	Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation
WA	Western Australia
WACSAR	The Western Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research
WYAC	Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation
YEP	Youth Engagement Program

In Western Australia (WA), the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the Traditional Owners of WA. From here on, we respectfully use the term 'Aboriginal' to refer to the people and cultures across the Kimberley as the Traditional Owners.



Section 1

Executive summary

Introduction

In mid-2023, the Department of Justice WA (the Department) enlisted IPS Management Consultants (IPS) to undertake an evaluation of the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (KJJS). Initiated in 2019-20, the KJJS aims to deliver a diverse array of community programs and support services tailored for Aboriginal young people throughout the Kimberley region. Conceived to counter the rising presence of street-present young individuals and a related increase in antisocial behaviour and offending, the KJJS seeks to deliver a proactive response to the unique challenges faced by the Kimberley community.

The evaluation is a requirement of the funding agreement with the WA Department of Treasury. This report seeks to comprehensively assess the impact and effectiveness of the KJJS in fulfilling its objectives, shedding light on the outcomes and challenges encountered during its implementation, shedding light on the outcomes, challenges encountered, and explore opportunities for further development during its implementation.

The Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy

The KJJS is funded to provide a range of community supports and place-based programs for Aboriginal young people across six locations in the Kimberley region. The initiative was developed to address the growing number of street-present young people and associated increases in antisocial behaviour and offending. In acknowledging that there are no quick fixes to the complexities that lead to offending behaviour by young people in the Kimberley region, the KJJS was developed to include a mixture of short-, medium-, and long-term community-led solutions.

Within the framework of the KJJS, the Department collaborates in the first instance with ACCOs and Aboriginal Corporations as well as various government agencies to enhance outcomes for young individuals and bolster community safety. Ongoing place-specific initiatives implemented across the Kimberley region consist of night patrols, organised activities, on-country camps, a program designed to assist young people in fulfilling their court orders, and alternative education programs. The KJJS seeks to align with Priority Reform One: 'Formal Partnership and Shared Decision Making', and Priority Reform Two 'Building the Community-Controlled Sector' of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Closing the Gap, 2020).

Key aims of the KJJS include:

- Reducing youth offending in the Kimberley
- Reducing the number of Aboriginal adults in custody
- Investing in long-term community solutions to address previously convicted young people reoffending
- Addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people within the justice system
- Improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal youth in the Kimberley
- Improving community safety in the Kimberley
- Directly influencing the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Target 11 (2020) (Productivity Commission, 2023)

Evaluation approach

To inform the KJJS evaluation, IPS carried out a thorough examination of documents, conducted a literature review, and performed a jurisdictional scan encompassing content and programs associated with place-based

initiatives. This analysis helped shape the evaluation approach and process, ensuring a methodical and evidence-based assessment of program designs, implementations, and outcomes.

IPS initiated remote consultations with KJJS program providers, community stakeholders and government entities. Virtual interactions were complemented by in-person meetings conducted in the six main Kimberley towns, namely Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra, and Wyndham. Stakeholder interviews encompassed representatives from the Department of Justice, individuals involved in the delivery of all funded programs, community members, and personnel from Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) across the six towns.

The evaluation scope commenced with the development of a comprehensive evaluation plan. The plan included key evaluation questions, the selected evaluation methodology, methods for data collection, and identification and analysis of potential risks. Notably, it also entailed the creation and testing of Program Logic Maps for each KJJS program, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of program structures.

The evaluation process included both qualitative and quantitative analysis to address the key evaluation questions. Quantitative data analysis was supported by the Western Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research (WACSAR). The combination of qualitative insights and quantitative findings allowed for a comprehensive evaluation and robust understanding of KJJS programs.

The engagement approach used in the evaluation is shown below.

Engagement summary


Engagement type	Details	Participants
One-on-one interviews	Up to 60 x 30-minute in-depth interviews Interviews were conducted either face-to-face or by phone or videoconference. Interviews were conducted at each site - Broome, Derby, Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing (conditions permitting). Data was voice recorded and transcribed Participants were asked open-ended questions to gather qualitative data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program providers• Government staff• Community representatives• Other relevant organisations
Group discussions / yarning sessions	Up to 12 x 2-hour sessions (two at each location).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program providers• Government staff• Community representatives• Other relevant organisations
Online survey	Survey took around seven minutes to complete. Participants were asked mainly closed-option questions to gather quantitative data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program providers• Government staff• Community representatives• Other relevant organisations

Within the scope of the evaluation, a comprehensive analysis was conducted to assess the value for money of each funded KJJS program. The assessment allows for a nuanced understanding of the unique blend of participation rates, costs and benefits provided by each program.

Program 11 stands out in terms of both costs and benefits which results in a surplus benefit for both participants and the community.

Summary of Key Evaluation Questions

This evaluation used three evaluation questions to assess the KJJS. The questions looked at how well the strategy was designed, how well the strategy was implemented, and what outcomes were achieved throughout the strategy.



From 2021 to 2023 Q3, the KJJS allocated funding to 10 place-based providers, enabling the operation of diverse youth wellbeing and support initiatives, including night patrols, alternative education, and court assistance programs. Specifically designed to reduce late-night street presence and the likelihood of youth offending, these programs collectively accumulated 19,573 program hours and recorded 30,141 engagements across the six Kimberley towns.

It should be noted that engagement numbers are not directly equivalent to population numbers, as a single individual may participate in a program multiple times without this nuance being reflected in recorded data. Additionally, some programs included adults due to holding large-scale programs and events. However, the population of young people aged between 0 and 19 years in the Kimberley is approximately 11,400 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021d), and so a recorded 30,141 engagements nonetheless constitute a significant level of engagement and a positive outcome for the KJJS.

Key Evaluation Question 1: How well has the Strategy been designed?

The KJJS exhibits commendable aspirations towards justice reinvestment and cultural integration, and recognises the importance of cultural connecting in reducing youth offending rates among Aboriginal young people. Nonetheless, stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding transparency, community representation in program design, and a perceived emphasis on short-term solutions instead of addressing the root causes of criminal behaviour and late-night street presence. It was argued that some funded programs, like night patrols and leisure activities, are short-term, 'band-aid' solutions that are unlikely to impact crime statistics. Stakeholders advocate for more intensive support programs targeting issues like poverty, trauma, overcrowding, and peer influence, emphasising the need for a focused approach to achieve sustainable, long-term change in juvenile justice.

To address these concerns, the design of future strategy initiatives supported by government should prioritise transparent decision-making, promote active community involvement, and adopt a more comprehensive approach to tackle the underlying causes of juvenile offending.

Key Evaluation Question 2: How well has the Strategy been implemented?

The evaluation identified various opportunities to enhance the implementation of the KJJS. These include improving transparency in KJJS processes and procedures, enhancing communication, and expanding the target demographic to encompass more high-needs young people.

Greater transparency

To improve the implementation of the KJJS, stakeholders advocated for greater transparency in funding processes, clarity in program approval procedures, and the development of a logical strategy document that can be shared with individuals, service providers and other relevant entities.

Communication challenges

Stakeholders expressed concerns about communication and collaboration gaps between the government and service providers, citing confusion about the KJJS due to a lack of clear documentation. This confusion then impacted how effective KJJS-funded programs were in addressing common issues, highlighting the desire for a more cohesive and coordinated approach. Furthermore, both internal and external communication challenges contributed to limited engagement in community consultations, impeding effective strategy development.

To address these concerns, stakeholders stressed the importance of a community of practice involving government officials, service providers and community representatives. Recommendations also included formalising clear and ongoing communication about the KJJS, improving communication frequency and cross-collaboration with providers, and instituting a formal communication framework among government agencies.

Reaching the intended audience

While the KJJS recorded substantial engagement, stakeholders had concerns that high-risk young people, including those with neurodevelopmental impairments, may be overlooked. To improve the KJJS so that these young people would be appropriately supported, stakeholders suggested enhancing the capability of providers and government officials through training and workforce development and expanding the scope of the strategy to include targeted support services.

Stakeholders highlighted the need to address the root cause of young people not being at home to better impact their street presence. They emphasised that by addressing this underlying issue, the strategy could achieve more positive long-term outcomes and better cater to the needs of the target audience. Stakeholders recommended the establishment and investment in safe spaces for young people to go to, especially if their home environments were not suitable for their physical or emotional wellbeing. In this context, stakeholders outlined that safe spaces are an environment where can feel secure, supported, and free from harm through the provision of safe physical, emotional, and psychological environments.

Key Evaluation Question 3: What outcomes were achieved throughout the Strategy?

This evaluation examined the outcomes of KJJS programs, assessing their impacts at short-term (one year), medium-term (two years), and long-term (three years) intervals. Between 2021 and 2023, the programs demonstrated substantial operational hours and engagements, resulting in various short-term outcomes. However, opinions on the significance of these outcomes varied among providers. Some reported positive changes in young people's behaviours, while others deemed the impact insufficient in reducing overall crime rates, characterising the effort as a "band-aid" approach. The need for improved and increased data sovereignty was also identified as an opportunity for more efficient and effective program delivery.

In contrast, medium-term outcomes that were achieved were received positively. Half of the intended medium-term outcomes that were assessed in this evaluation were achieved. These were young people feeling safer and more supported, an increased connection to culture, and increased strength of families. Outcomes that were not attained included decreased community concern, reduced crime, and reduced recidivism (the likelihood of an individual reoffending).

Overall, interviewed stakeholders generally felt that KJJS-funded programs were not designed to yield long-term impacts on either crime rates or the nightly street presence of young people. However, it should be noted that some long-term outcomes were unable to be assessed because of a lack of available data (for example, the sustainability of short- and medium-term outcomes could not be assessed due to the recency of the strategy).

Other opportunities to improve outcomes included addressing food insecurity, creating safe spaces, working to evidence-based program logics, increasing employment opportunities for young people, and fostering engagement with parents and families.

Conclusion

Due to their recognised status as prominent service providers in the six towns, and their commitment to the employment of Aboriginal staff across all initiatives, the KJJS programs have significantly contributed to the provision of essential Aboriginal role models for young people.

Throughout IPS' engagement with provider stakeholders, it became evident that a robust network comprising of dedicated ACCO, educational, and local government representatives exists in the region. The collective aim of this network is to bring about lasting and meaningful change for young people, families, and communities, fostering improvements in social and emotional wellbeing while concurrently reducing youth crime.

To unlock the full potential of this proficient network and leverage its capabilities in achieving KJJS objectives, it is imperative for the government to play a more active and collegial role in shaping the strategy. Additionally, material resources are required to implement sustainable programs and facilities capable of addressing the complex and underlying dynamics driving youth crime and antisocial behaviour. The responsibility rests with the government to ensure the KJJS is co-designed and community-led, tapping into the unique expertise and skills of this talented network. Such collaboration has the potential to significantly enhance positive outcomes in the Kimberley region.

Findings

The findings of the report have been informed by engagement with provider and community stakeholders. Each of these findings relate to at least one of the key evaluation questions while others are interrelated or relate specifically to the KJJS programs and their capacity to meet the needs of young people and communities throughout the Kimberley.

Any findings and recommendations that relate specifically to the operation of another government agency are provided to that agency directly and may not be included in the evaluation report.

There are 17 specific findings as outlined below:

Finding 1: Stakeholders had varying degrees of awareness on whether the KJJS was designed through community consultation and understanding. This indicates that there may be issues with transparency and limited on-the-ground community representation.

Finding 2: Stakeholders advocate for transparent decision-making, active community involvement, and a comprehensive approach addressing root causes, such as poverty and trauma, for sustainable impact.

Finding 3: The KJJS demonstrates positive intentions and a commitment to justice reinvestment and cultural connection.

Finding 4: Barriers to effective implementation included internal communication, staff turn-over, and low transparency about design and vision of the KJJS.

Finding 5: Inter-agency collaboration and communication, between both government entities and service providers, is critical for improving program efficacy.

Finding 6: Limited community engagement in consultations and inadequate coordination among funded programs were highlighted challenges.

Finding 7: Young people with neurodevelopmental impairments may have both the highest risk of offending and the highest risk of disengagement from juvenile justice programs.

Finding 8: Concerns were raised about high-risk and high-needs young people being overlooked or excluded from KJJS programs.

Finding 9: Short-term outcomes included community buy-in, increased capacity of ACCOs, and access to culturally safe initiatives.

Finding 10: Stakeholders held differing views on the benefits of short-term program outcomes and believed these outcomes to be limited due to communication challenges between government and providers, competitiveness related to grant procedures, the associated administrative burden on service providers, and difficulty addressing the root causes of youth offending.

Finding 11: Limited transparency and sharing of data, such as crime statistics, pointed to a decrease in both program efficacy and data sovereignty for KJJS stakeholders, which misaligns with Closing the Gap Priority Reform 4.

Finding 12: Stakeholders felt that KJJS-funded programs are more likely to impact short-term change rather than long-term, sustainable change.

Finding 13: Current KJJS programs have limited long-term impacts on crime rates and nightly street presence.

Finding 14: Food insecurity is a continuous factor impacting the lives of young people in the Kimberley and the provision of food at KJJS programs is an effective way to engage young people and provide adequate sustenance to meet their needs.

Finding 15: Providing a safe space for children is a major priority for providers and a significant service gap across the Kimberley.

Finding 16: Programs that had implemented employment and professional development opportunities were noted by some as having significantly positive long-term impacts.

Finding 17: Increasing parent and family member engagement is a major priority for service providers and a service gap to address the needs of young people and the broader community.

Recommendations

The recommendations highlight the need to enhance engagement and communication outcomes, improve data sharing and sovereignty, and adopt a fully collaborative approach. They also include expanding program accessibility, increasing transparency, fostering stronger cultural connection and empowerment, and refining program assessment processes. There are 14 recommendations which are outlined below:

Recommendation 1: Enhance the involvement of older Aboriginal community members within the facilitation of KJJS programs, to facilitate knowledge transfer and improve relationships with young people.

Recommendation 2: Foster cultural connection by maximising local Aboriginal participation in program design across all KJJS programs.

Recommendation 3: Facilitate collaboration between service providers by establishing a service map outlining where all providers are located and detailing the programs they are currently delivering.

Recommendation 4: Increase the transparency and regularity of communication about the KJJS scope and programs to ensure that providers, community, and individuals are aligned with the goals of the KJJS and aware of relevant information and findings.

Recommendation 5: Centralise efforts to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing via a KJJS Community of Practice, incorporating valuable input from Aboriginal communities.

Recommendation 6: To help program participants receive more consistent support, enhance communication channels to ensure that providers can monitor, collaborate, and share relevant information about individuals who attend multiple programs across different locations.

Recommendation 7: Provide additional training to service providers so that they can effectively approach and support a wider spectrum of young people, including those with neurodevelopmental and social and emotional wellbeing needs.

Recommendation 8: Establish clearer data sovereignty guidelines and commitments between government representatives and participating ACCOs, in accordance with Closing the Gap Priority Reform 4.

Recommendation 9: Strengthen service providers' ability to foster lasting positive changes in young individuals by focusing on their personal development, cultural identity, and social and emotional wellbeing.

Recommendation 10: Consider additional funding for service providers to distribute food across all programs, thereby making programs more attractive and increasing engagement with young participants.

Recommendation 11: Prioritise the establishment of a safe space facility for street-presenting young people in each town.

Recommendation 12: Ensure there are evidence-based program logics for all KJJS programs.

Recommendation 13: Boost economic empowerment initiatives for young people, facilitating access to local employment, job training and related opportunities.

Recommendation 14: Expand the scope of the KJJS to incorporate programs that provide comprehensive support to a young person by addressing the needs and influence of their family and community.



Section 2

Broad findings

Introduction

The KJJS is an inter-agency government initiative that was designed to address increasing rates of juvenile offences and nightly street presence of young people living across six towns in the Kimberley region of WA. The six locations were:

- Broome
- Derby
- Fitzroy Crossing
- Halls Creek
- Kununurra
- Wyndham

The KJJS allocated funding to 10 place-based providers in these towns between 2021 and 2023. These providers then enabled diverse youth wellbeing and support initiatives for young people up to 18 years old, including night patrols, alternative education, and court assistance programs. Collectively, these providers recorded 19,573 program hours across 30,141 engagements.

This section will identify the needs that the KJJS set out to address, its design, and the three evaluation questions and their associated findings. The evaluation questions were as follows:

1. How well has the Strategy been designed?
2. How well has the Strategy been implemented?
3. What outcomes were achieved throughout the Strategy?

Stakeholders that participated in the research included representatives from the Department of Justice (the Department), providers associated with all funded programs, community members, and staff from ACCOs in the six Kimberley towns. Participation in the research either involved remote interviews or in-person meetings at the six locations.

The need for the KJJS

The KJJS aims to address an increase in reported youth offences between 2017 and 2022, through preventative measures and diverting individuals from the justice system. In doing so, the KJJS represents the principle of 'justice reinvestment', which is the redirection of funding away from sentencing and detention and towards prevention and diversion initiatives.

The need for justice reinvestment becomes clearer when considering the risks posed to child wellbeing associated with sentencing and detention. The sole youth detention facility in WA, Banksia Hill Detention Centre, has been the subject of multiple investigations in recent years due to recurrent reports highlighting substandard conditions, instances of child maltreatment and human rights concerns. These issues have seemingly intensified with the most recent investigation finding "...young people, staff, and a physical environment in acute crisis" (Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services, 2023, p. 1). Part of reducing the risks associated with detention is to fund prevention and diversion initiatives to reduce the likelihood of at-risk youth entering detention in the first place.



“We've seen these kids coming back from Banksia, some of them are better criminals than when they went. Aside from that, it's not good for them either, we know that.” Provider

The second key need for justice reinvestment is demonstrated by the associated risks of sentencing and detention for community safety. Approximately 53% of WA youth in detention return to detention within two years (Department of Justice WA, 2023, p. 208). In 2022-23, approximately 32% of community-based orders placed on young people in WA were not completed due to reoffending. The completion rate of community-based orders was 62% (Department of Justice WA, 2023, p. 209). These statistics suggest that detention is not a highly effective measure for reducing youth reoffending.

Figure 1: The need for justice reinvestment



The design of the KJJS

The KJJS was informed by Ministerial conversations with community, and community consultations conducted by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC). The catalyst for the KJJS was the coronial Inquest into the 13 Deaths of Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region (Fogliani, 2017). It is important to emphasise that community members led by the advocacy of KALACC were able to lobby the government to implement a targeted strategy. KALACC was contracted between 4 July 2019 and 28 February 2020 to facilitate consultations, with the aim of exploring the needs of communities across the Kimberley and developing a paper that could be used to inform the KJJS. The KALACC paper identified the following needs:

Figure 2: Recommendations from KALACC consultations



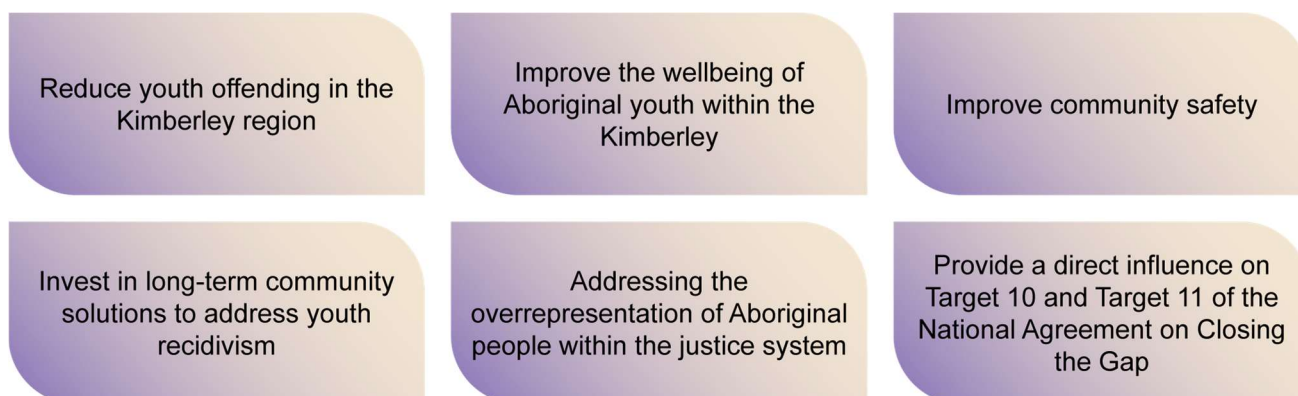
Source: (KALACC, 2021)

With these needs in mind, the KJJS was designed with six overarching intended outcomes. These are as follows:

- Reduce youth offending in the Kimberley region
- Improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal youth within the Kimberley
- Improve community safety

- Invest in long-term community solutions to address youth reoffending (that is, the likelihood of youth reoffences)
- Address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people within the justice system
- Provide a direct influence on Target 10 and Target 11 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Figure 3: Intended KJJS outcomes



How well was the KJJS designed?

The following programs were funded under the KJJS:

Program	Region	Town(s)	Provider
Diversionary Program: New Way-Right Way	East Kimberley	Wyndham	WYAC
KJJS-Collab Project and Immediate Response Safe Space Pilot	West Kimberley	Broome	In-progress
Monday Night Music Program and Sharp n Ready Hair Cuts, Friday Night Chill Space and school holiday programs	West Kimberley	Broome	BYFH
Night Patrol	West Kimberley	Derby	Emama Nguda AC
On Track Program	East Kimberley	Halls Creek	Shire of HC, Olabud Doogethu
The Yiriman Project	West Kimberley	Fitzroy Crossing	KALACC
Young and Deadly Program	Kimberley	Broome and Kununurra	North Regional TAFE
Youth Connexion Fitzroy Crossing	West Kimberley	Fitzroy Crossing	Marra Worra Worra
Youth Diversion Program/Strong Men's Program	East Kimberley	Kununurra	Kununurra Waringarri AC
Youth Engagement Night Officers	East Kimberley	Halls Creek	Shire of HC, Olabud Doogethu
Youth Engagement Program	West Kimberley	Broome and Derby	ALSWA

Design transparency

Government stakeholders and service providers held different views about the transparency of the KJJS. Government representatives were aware that the programs were funded in accordance with the findings from the consultations and tended to view this positively. However, multiple service providers did not know that this consultation had taken place and felt that the strategy was not informed by community consultation and needs.



“KALACC developed a significant consultation report where the department was able to gauge an understanding as to what community was seeking in various places. And so, through that process, a series of case-based initiatives was initially funded.” Government stakeholder



“It’s been shaped by community. It’s a brilliant way of doing things. It’s turning how Government does everything on its head. It’s saying, as we work through this, we’ll meander along, and we’ll come to work out what it is, so we’re being agile and flexible.” Government stakeholder



Finding 1: Stakeholders had varying degrees of awareness on whether the KJJS was designed through community consultation and understanding. This indicates that there may be issues with transparency and limited on-the-ground community representation.



Finding 2: Stakeholders advocate for transparent decision-making, active community involvement, and a comprehensive approach addressing root causes, such as poverty and trauma, for sustainable impact.

Impacts for Aboriginal people

Following the consultation period, the KJJS funded a range of community supports for Aboriginal young people across the Kimberley region. This aligned with the aims of the project, identified above, especially those that seek to change the way that governments work with First Nations communities. This is of particular note in the Kimberley, where of the approximately 35,000 people, 41% are Aboriginal compared to approximately 3% in WA and 3% nationally (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021d).

KJJS funding included establishing formal partnerships with First Nations people and building the capacity of the community-controlled sector. Additionally, KJJS-funded programs helped to reinforce cultural connection for children in the Kimberley, for example through cultural Country trips, camps and alternative education programs. Through these actions, the KJJS aims to address Closing the Gap Target 11 which seeks to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by at least 30%. However, some service providers expressed apathetic views towards this, noting that other government initiatives have held similar aims, and struggled to see a distinction between those initiatives and the KJJS.



“The proposition that government would fund an Aboriginal project is entirely unremarkable.” Provider



“Does the KJJS make investments into Aboriginal community-controlled organisations? Well, absolutely, yes. But government has been funding Aboriginal organisations for decades.” Provider

Despite some stakeholders holding these views, others felt positively about Aboriginal-focused programs and their impacts on young people. Some stakeholders felt that contact with Aboriginal staff helped to improve engagement with Aboriginal young people, while also encouraging the transfer of cultural knowledge and providing positive role models. Additionally, stakeholders in all locations felt that cultural connection was core to youth identity and a key factor in wellbeing and behaviour, which aligns with research that shows that cultural engagement is related to a reduced likelihood of reoffending for Aboriginal people (Shepherd et al., 2018).



“The kids respond well to having local mob run those cultural activities because first, they are local and older so they can get that cultural knowledge transferred down to the next generation. It also gives these kids a role model and someone to look up to who they may not have elsewhere.” ACCO staff member



“Getting these kids connected to country and culture is everything. Any program we’ve run that has been successful has had some sort of cultural focus. The kids love it and you can see noticeable improvements in their behaviour and wellbeing when they go on these camps.” ACCO staff member



Finding 3: The KJJS demonstrates positive intentions and a commitment to justice reinvestment and cultural connection.



Recommendation 1: Enhance the involvement of older Aboriginal community members within the facilitation of KJJS programs, to facilitate knowledge transfer and improve relationships with young people.



Recommendation 2: Foster cultural connection by maximising local Aboriginal participation in program design across all KJJS programs.

Tendency for short-term outcomes

Several KJJS-funded programs, for both Aboriginal and non-First Nations young people, were established before the initiation of the KJJS. Service provider stakeholders felt that this led to the KJJS being seen as a continuation of existing practices that characterised it as “business-as-usual”, and as a result, viewing it in a more simplistic way where it was just another grant that required submission. Similar views were held by government representative stakeholders, who felt that the KJJS was designed for short-term funding as opposed to the systemic changes that underpinned the need for its development.



“The primary purpose of the funding is more of a crisis response-type funding, and a prevention and diversion type of funding, rather than a long-term, intergenerational change.” Government stakeholder



“We do the interim, I’ll say band-aid solutions, but the funding has only ever been allocated for the most boots on the ground night patrol sort of program without the long-term structural stuff sitting behind it.” Government stakeholder

Views on the KJJS being designed for short-term funding were largely in reference to night patrols and leisure or recreational activities. Interviewees expressed that most funded programs do not address the root causes of criminal behaviour, and as a result have not had a significant direct impact on crime rates. Because funded programs were unable to instil long-term reductions in crime rates, many stakeholders did not feel that the design of the KJJS was successful. However, these stakeholders acknowledged that there are a variety of short-term benefits to the funded programs.

Stakeholders suggested that more intensive community support programs would be required to reduce after-hours street-presence, youth offending and tendencies to reoffend. Government stakeholders suggested that while this was acknowledged and promoted in the initial business case, it was not funded. Stakeholders also stated that short-term solutions were acknowledged in the business case to be unlikely to contribute to significant success.



“There’s other programs or other options that could be looked at because short-term fixes just don’t work with these kids. You’re talking years and years, generations of trauma and dysfunction. These

things can't be turned around overnight. They've got to be long-term programs for as long as the kids need. I'm seeing a fair bit of stuff that just keeps on churning through the same cycle.” Provider



“We made it clear in the funding submissions that if we don't fix the reasons young people are out on the street at night, we'll be funding night patrols forever, essentially.” Government stakeholder

Stakeholders indicated that the design of the KJJS could be improved if more funded programs addressed root causes of antisocial behaviour, which would have a significant effect on after-hours street-presence and youth offending. Stakeholders suggested root causes to include poverty, overcrowding, trauma, cognitive impairments, and especially the peer influence of high-risk offenders who were considered ringleaders.

How well has the Strategy been implemented?

The implementation of the KJJS can be analysed through three key metrics. These are roll-out, communication, and target audience.

Roll-out

Both service providers and government stakeholders identified similar current shortcomings to the implementation of the KJJs and outlined several opportunities for future success. These included a discrepancy between the design of the program and its intended goals of diminishing youth street-presence and offending, a misalignment between the program's design and target audience, and low communication and collaboration between government and service providers.



“It has been implemented terribly. They had some good ideas at the beginning, but the lack of coordination and collaboration has meant that everyone went back into their silos.” Service provider

Government stakeholders attributed implementation barriers to a lack of clarity about design and direction, staff turn-over, and internal transfers of responsibility over time. Stakeholders commented that the transfer of responsibility to the strategic reform area constituted a positive step and helped improve program implementation from a government perspective.



“Initially it was terrible. It was a huge secret. Nobody knew where the funding was going, nobody knew how those funding streams were approved, what the approval process was, what the application process was, there was no information whatsoever. Huge lack of transparency.” Government stakeholder

This sentiment about implementation transparency was also reflected by service providers. Providers either felt that the funding approach from government did not meet their community's needs, or felt that even where it did meet needs, implementation was impacted by a lack of communication and clarity about the KJJS. Many stakeholders also expressed desire for greater involvement with crime prevention initiatives.



“I've never even heard of the strategy and we're delivering a program under it. Something has gone seriously wrong if that's the case.” Provider

Government stakeholders were aligned with the perspectives of service providers and acknowledged the potential for better communication both within their internal structures and externally. This acknowledgment stemmed partly from the misrepresentation of the KJJS as a 'strategy' and, in part, from deficiencies in communicating the initiative's design, implementation, and intended outcomes.



"People don't actually understand what KJJS is. For one, it's a terrible name. Like what is a 'strategy'? There is no strategy. There isn't a document that tells people what the KJJS is, what we're trying to achieve, what are our targets and to be more accountable to community." Government stakeholder

For the majority of service providers, the introduction email sent as part of the evaluation was the first time that they had gained any information regarding the other funded programs. Providers suggested that program participants would benefit from referral within and between these programs. Some programs already did refer between each other but were unaware that they both fell under the KJJS.

Various programs funded by a single agency have the potential to establish both formal and informal partnerships to bolster efforts in crime prevention and youth wellbeing. For instance, facilitating participant referrals between programs could effectively reduce provider workload and enable specialisation in addressing specific needs.



"We haven't heard too much. We're a player in it. We're funded as part of it, but I don't think we fully understand what our program does to contribute to the greater KJJS strategy. And that's a problem because we should be its biggest advocates. So, not understanding the strategies the Department has completely is a bit of a problem." Provider

Stakeholders also suggested they would have valued more clarity about how programs were selected and funded. Much of this was attributed back to the gap between formally naming the KJJS a 'strategy' and a lack of clear 'strategy'.



"I don't know how they approved the programs and who came up with them. Whatever it was, I just have no idea about the process." Government stakeholder



Finding 4: Barriers to effective implementation included internal communication, staff turn-over, and low transparency about design and vision of the KJJS.

Communication

Stakeholders held differing views on the state of communication between people working within the scope of the KJJS. For some, they felt that positive communication chains helped to strengthen the benefits that the KJJS was providing. However, others felt as though positive communication could be inconsistent, or at worst non-existent. Consequences of poor communication included a feeling that the KJJS was failing to meet community needs, and the belief that the KJJS was not formed through community consultation.



"I think the enablers are probably the positive working relationships that the department has with the key stakeholders. I think they're pretty good. And certainly, the willingness of community to take on a lead role in delivering some of these things, and doing what they can to, I guess, in whatever way possible, support their local community." Provider



"The coordination between the government agencies and ACCOs is almost non-existent. You see and engage with really passionate people in government who understand the work we are trying to do, but sometimes you get the sense with others that they don't understand or care about what we do up here." Provider

In some cases, poor communication resulted in some stakeholders working with other KJJS-funded service providers without knowing that those services were being funded by the KJJS, and only finding out through the initial evaluation email. At worst, this resulted in some interviewees raising that they weren't aware that the service that they were delivering was itself funded by the KJJS.

Competition between ACCOs for grant funding was suggested as a contributing factor to communication breakdowns. Where this is an issue and identified, stakeholders felt that the Department could act as a bridge and share general good practice findings.



"It would be great if we could have a bi-annual meeting where [each provider] could each learn about the existing services and see what's working well and how we could engage in shared learning to help these kids." Provider

Some of the programs funded by the KJJS are also funded by other government departments. For example, Broome Youth and Families Hub also receive funding from Department of Communities, and ALSWA also receive funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency. Stakeholders discussed that better inter-agency communication is needed regarding matters including funding plans, implementation, referrals and outcome reporting.



"It's not just the services in town that are siloed, but it's also the funding that comes from the government. It's pretty clear that they are not working together or communicating on their funding allocations." Provider

Stakeholders who discussed inter-agency collaboration and communication raised that funding from various sources, such as the Department of Communities and Department of Justice, can overlap. Stakeholders felt that this could result in a barrier when different agencies were debating who held what responsibilities for funding and partnership, which further resulted in decreased efficiency as there was some duplication of efforts towards similar goals. Some interview respondents felt that the lack of inter-agency collaboration and communication was negatively impacting efforts to address deeper issues that affect youth offences and nightly street presence.



"We've just had Aboriginal expenditure review done by Treasury, and it's clear that a lot of funding is going towards targeting the same issues, and maybe could be used a bit more efficiently and effectively if those conversations were happening more for that." Government stakeholder



"Because we're funding in silos, some of these deeper issues don't really have a natural home and seem to fall through the gaps." Government stakeholder

Stakeholders raised that inter-agency collaboration and communication could improve program efficacy despite needing potentially more buy-in from government agencies, such as if youth diversion was co-supported by service providers and WA police and courts. Inter-agency collaboration could also be in the form of data sharing to improve outcome tracking. The Social Investment Data Resource is an example of an initiative that can be further used to support these efforts. Some service providers already implement forms of collaboration and communication with other providers and government agencies but expressed a desire for a more formal and official system to improve their ability to collaborate.



"Through our own work we know what's out there, but often times we come across a service or a program by accident. There needs to be a proper service map so we can see what's out there and where we can collaborate." Provider



“We're all working in the same geographical area, trying to help the same cohort of kids.” Provider



Finding 5: Inter-agency collaboration and communication, between both government entities and service providers, is critical for improving program efficacy.



Finding 6: Limited community engagement in consultations and inadequate coordination among funded programs were highlighted challenges.



Recommendation 3: Facilitate collaboration between service providers by establishing a service map outlining where all providers are located and detailing the programs they are currently delivering.

Some stakeholders felt that a lack of communication around who and what organisations were involved in the KJJS was a significant contributor to overall communication breakdown.



“There's a massive breakdown in communication and there's no information sharing between any of these services” ACCO staff member



“We can support and would love to support how other programs can work better, or with us. And likewise, I expect there are some other programs that could help us.” Provider



Recommendation 4: Increase the transparency and regularity of communication about the KJJS scope and programs to ensure that providers, community, and individuals are aligned with the goals of the KJJS and aware of relevant information and findings.

As a remedy to this, some stakeholders raised establishing a community of practice as a potential solution. A community of practice refers to an organised collective comprising of agencies, government officials, service providers and community representatives who share a common interest or profession (Cox, 2005). They comprise an important tool for establishing relationships, sharing information and knowledge, encouraging best practice, and collaboration towards shared goals.

Stakeholders suggested that the benefits to establishing a community of practice within the KJJS could include resolving and preventing the duplication of services, while also sharing the strengths and successes of individual programs. Stakeholders raised the particular importance of sharing good news stories and finding out what programs are working for other services, so that they may be implemented and undergo place-base design to meet the needs of specific communities. Government stakeholders also recognised that a community of practice could add significant value to these programs and was in the planning stage.



“We just want a youth service and for the program to have a success story. You need to involve all the ACCOs in each town. There's no information sharing or any collaboration going on. It's abysmal.” Provider



“So, we have lots of night patrols and they're different in every town and I think there's a lot to be gained with them talking through things that have worked or not worked for them for example. So, I think that we can, as a department, facilitate that through something like a community practice.” Government stakeholder



Recommendation 5: Centralise efforts to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing via a KJJS Community of Practice, incorporating valuable input from Aboriginal communities.



Recommendation 6: To help program participants receive more consistent support, enhance communication channels to ensure that providers can monitor, collaborate, and share relevant information about individuals who attend multiple programs across different locations.

Target audience

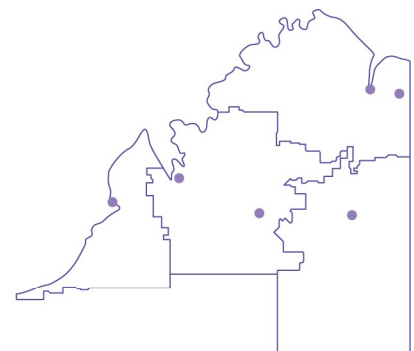
Between 2021-2023 Q3, the KJJS funded **19,573 program hours** and had **30,141 engagements** across the Kimberley. These engagements are broken down across the six locations in subsequent sections of this report.

Between 2021-2023 Q3

Across the Kimberly KJJS funded:



19,573 hours of operation



30,141 total engagements



The reported engagement figures encompass both young people and adults, as certain events were on a large scale. Additionally, some of the engagement numbers reflect repeated interactions with the same participants. This variance is attributed to a diverse set of reporting methods and metrics employed by each program. For instance, certain providers reported statistics in terms of participants while others reported statistics in the form of engagements per participant. Numbers of engagements and participants appear substantial relative to the population of each participating town. It indicates that a large proportion of youth in each town were either engaged or engaged repeatedly.

Additionally, providers funded by the KJJS built strong relationships with many young people in the community. For some, this relationship building extended to families of participants. The majority of providers employed mostly Aboriginal staff who live locally. This meant that provider staff were more likely to have established relationships and be connected with the community, which often empowers them to engage more meaningfully with participants.

Addressing the needs of high-risk and high-need youth

Young people with neurodevelopmental impairments may have both the highest risk of offending and the highest risk of disengagement from juvenile justice programs, thereby making them both high-risk and high need. Both government and provider stakeholders suggested that an opportunity exists to improve how the KJJS addresses high-risk/high-need youth. Stakeholders felt this was highly important for implementation, as high-risk/high-need youth were considered a significant factor to overall nightly street presence themselves and could often be “ringleaders” who negatively influence other children.

Additionally, stakeholders discussed that crime rates tended to spike when repeat offenders returned to the Kimberley from Banksia Hill Detention Centre. This is consistent with data provided by WACSAR, which found that in the six KJJS sites in 2022, 5% of offenders (30 persons) were responsible for one quarter (666 offences) of all youth offences, while 16% of offenders (95 persons) were responsible for half (1330 offences) of all youth offences.

Stakeholders felt that to have significant long-term reduction of street-present youth and youth offending, repeat offenders would need to be the target audience. Speaking about high-risk children with developmental disorders and/or trauma, some stakeholders outlined that significantly more investment in rehabilitation of children is required.



“There’s no engagement from these kids. There’s no proper rehabilitation for these kids.” Community member

High-risk youth may be neglected or disengaged from programs because of neurodevelopmental impairments such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Some stakeholders expressed concern that these programs did not have provider capacity to meet the needs of these young people, thereby impacting the provider’s ability to affect nightly street presence or youth offending rates.

These stakeholder views reflect findings from research conducted by the Telethon Kid’s Institute, which reveal a correlation between young offenders and neurocognitive disorders. The study found that 89% of individuals at Banksia Hill Detention Centre exhibited some form of neurodevelopmental impairment, with 36% diagnosed with FASD (Bower et al., 2018).

Stakeholders felt that FASD and neurodevelopmental impairment were often undiagnosed in the justice system, which impacted how programs engaged youth. This was particularly relevant for programs engaged in court proceedings and justice referrals. Providers also referred to involvement of the NDIS, and how this process can be a barrier to effective change.



“I’m trying to work with the NDIS, but I’m getting no luck.” Provider



“I don’t see anyone having any training to deal with the complexities of some of these kids, like any training on ADHD or trauma.” Community member

Providers indicated an opportunity exists to enhance the skills of their staff and participating government officials, including the WA Police, through behavioural support training and education on FASD and other neurodevelopmental impairments. According to stakeholders, the ensuing empowerment is anticipated to result in more effective progress in behaviour change for high-risk/high-need children. Therefore, there is a call to enhance the capacity of WA Police and providers to address complex and criminogenic needs through comprehensive training and workforce development.



Finding 7: Young people with neurodevelopmental impairments may have both the highest risk of offending and the highest risk of disengagement from juvenile justice programs.



Finding 8: Concerns were raised about high-risk and high-needs young people being overlooked or excluded from KJJS programs.



Recommendation 7: Provide additional training to service providers so that they can effectively approach and support a wider spectrum of young people, including those with neurodevelopmental and social and emotional wellbeing needs.

Stakeholders felt that there is a missed opportunity to recognise the psychological context of juvenile offending. Many young people in the justice system have experienced significant trauma and/or neurodevelopmental complications. A recent study funded by the Australian Institute of Criminology found that 89% of children under youth justice supervision had experienced maltreatment and household dysfunction (Malvaso et al., 2022). This connection between childhood maltreatment and antisocial behaviour was underscored as pivotal in bringing about behavioural change for young individuals.

Stakeholders expressed additional concern that young people who were disengaged from or neglected by KJJS programs were not being referred to receive higher-needs support. It was suggested that improved government communication could support referral to programs such as the Target 120 Program, which is funded by the Department of Communities and is also designed to meet this target demographic. Stakeholders felt that more specialised case management care and expanding referral options for young people who have received cautions, but have not yet offended, would help in lowering crime rates.



“But I think when you’re looking at that really higher end, the repeat offenders, the prolific offenders that we’re trying to reduce their contact with custody and going down to Banksia Hill, you really need to be treating those brain-based disorders or disabilities to actually have meaningful impact on their offending behaviours.” Government stakeholder



“Minor problems eventually will turn into major problems of youth committing crime. So, there needs to be more intervention in the earlier years and there shouldn’t just be programs for the naughty kids.” Provider

In particular, stakeholders highlighted that the lack of a specific target audience can result in the grouping of high-risk and low-risk children across various age groups. This raised concerns about the potential socialisation of low-risk children to antisocial behaviours in their older peers. Additionally, stakeholders discussed the perception that certain programs, notably on-country camps, might inadvertently be perceived as rewarding naughty kids.

What outcomes were achieved throughout the Strategy?

Outcomes of the KJJS can be categorised into short-, medium- and long-term outcomes. Short-term outcomes are the outcomes assessed after one year, medium-term outcomes are assessed after two years, and long-term outcomes are ones assessed after three years.

Stakeholders also raised opportunities to improve the outcomes of the Strategy, and these have been included at the end of this section.

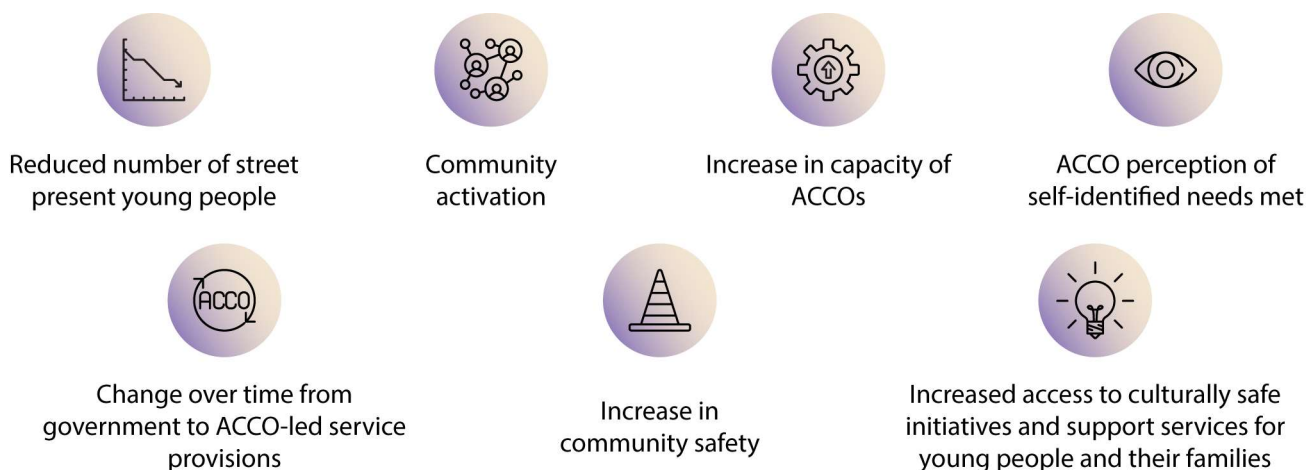
Short-term outcomes

This evaluation assessed whether the following short-term outcomes (that is, after one year) were achieved:

- Reduced number of street present young people
- Community activation
- Increase in capacity of ACCOs

- ACCO perception of self-identified needs met
- Changeover time from government to ACCO-led service provision
- Increase in community safety
- Increased access to culturally safe initiatives and support services for young people and their families.

Figure 4: Short-term outcomes of the KJJS



Government stakeholders, providers, ACCO staff members, and community members expressed that funding Aboriginal-led and developed solutions is the most effective way to achieve successful engagement numbers from the target audience while also establishing meaningful relationships and progressing towards reduced crime.

However, views on whether short-term outcomes were met varied among service providers and community members. Some service providers in Kununurra noted that individual organisations are on track and achieving positive outcomes for Aboriginal youth, but that this was attributable to the program and not the KJJS. Where service providers suggested there was little to no impact on crime, this was attributed to lack of scale or the band-aid approach as opposed to attempting to solve root causes. Additionally, some stakeholders felt that the KJJS-funded programs were achieving short-term outcomes and providing community value but were not designed to meet long-term outcomes.



“The investment decisions by government have not worked to date... statistically, the issue is worse today than it was in 2019.” Stakeholder



“We do see real changes in young people, we see young people get back into education, getting involved in sport, cultural activities. Not coming back. There are many kids that I’ve looked at when I do my reporting that have not reoffended since they’ve started with our program.” Provider

Providers and government stakeholders suggested a variety of reasons for limited or variable outcomes. These included:

- Programs not being designed or equipped to address the root causes of street presence or youth crime, resulting in behaviours inevitably being repeated
- A perceived gap between the needs identified from initial KJJS consultations and the design of the strategy
- A lack of communication between government and providers, as well as between services

- Difficulties related to grant procedures and processes



Finding 9: Short-term outcomes included community buy-in, increased capacity of ACCOs, and access to culturally safe initiatives.



Finding 10: Stakeholders held differing views on the benefits of short-term program outcomes and believed these outcomes to be limited due to communication challenges between government and providers, competitiveness related to grant procedures, the associated administrative burden on service providers, and difficulty addressing the root causes of youth offending.

Data sovereignty

Data sovereignty is the principle affirming the right of individuals or groups to govern the collection, ownership, and utilisation of their own data. It involves the capacity to determine how data pertaining to a specific group or individual is gathered and employed. Data sovereignty holds particular significance for Aboriginal people, encompassing themes of cultural sensitivity, self-determination, and the protection of Indigenous knowledge (Tahu and Taylor, 2016). Additionally, data sovereignty relates to Closing the Gap Priority Reform Four – shared access to data and information at a regional level (Closing the Gap, n.d.).

Stakeholders identified a strong need for improved data sovereignty and suggested that benefits would improve program efficiency and efficacy. Relating back to communication, stakeholders expressed a desire for more feedback about progress and impact from the Department.



“These programs need to be better tracked with some hard data, and if the data says the programs aren’t working then we need to change them.” ACCO staff member



“We’ve got engagement from the young people that we refer through, but I don’t have updates on success rates with achieving certificates or anything like that through some of the programs.” Stakeholder

Improved communication could involve sharing crime statistics from the Social Investment Data Resource that are not publicly available but that could improve ACCO needs assessment and outcome measurement. Department support of data sovereignty would empower ACCOs to control and review their data beyond progress reporting and implement evidence-based change, for example, through supporting ACCOs to collaboratively and continuously use data to evaluate how well programs are meeting outcomes.



“We’re a little perplexed as to why the statistics have gone down ... I don’t really know what interventions or programs are actually causing that because I just don’t get the required information from them to be able to assess it.” Government stakeholder



“The data is all about our mob and we never see any of it. There’s no data sovereignty.” Community member



“Sharing of data is still an issue in WA and, indeed, across Australia. Aboriginal people say, you know, we’ll give you all this information, but you give us nothing in return.” Government stakeholder



Finding 11: Limited transparency and sharing of data, such as crime statistics, pointed to a decrease in both program efficacy and data sovereignty for KJJS stakeholders, which misaligns with Closing the Gap Target 4.



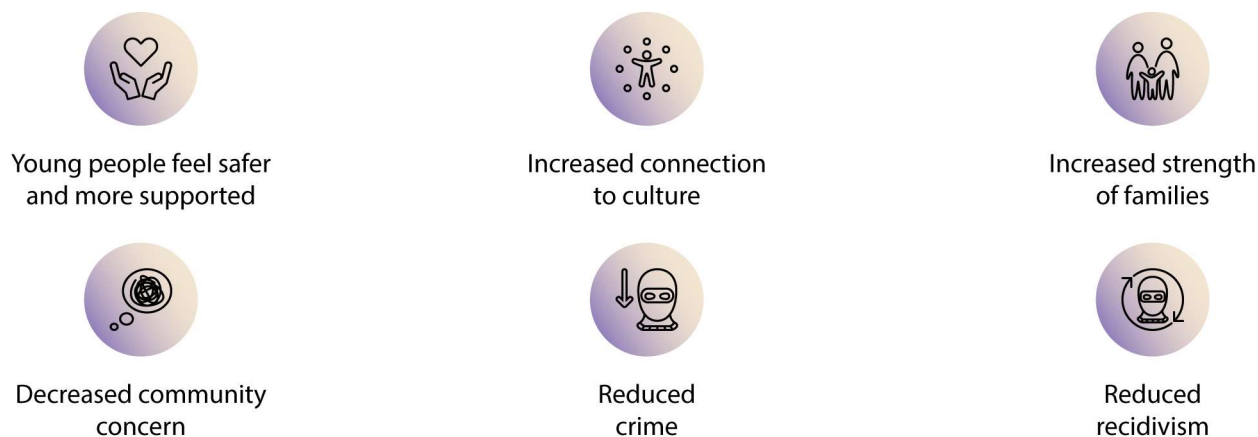
Recommendation 8: Establish clearer data sovereignty guidelines and commitments between government representatives and participating ACCOs, in accordance with Closing the Gap Priority Reform 4.

Medium-term outcomes

This evaluation assessed whether the following medium-term outcomes (that is, after 2 years) were achieved:

- Young people feel safer and more supported
- Increased connection to culture
- Increased strength of families
- Decreased community concern
- Reduced crime
- Reduced recidivism (likelihood of reoffending).

Figure 5: Medium-term outcomes of the KJJS



Numerous stakeholders acknowledged that the programs had successfully facilitated a connection between young people and their culture. Providers specifically noted that engagement in cultural activities had a positive impact on the disposition of youth, contributing to an overall improvement. Some providers also pointed to the return engagement of young people with programs as an indicator of them feeling safer and more supported. Many of the providers are Aboriginal and acted as a role model to younger children.

In Kununurra, one ACCO staff member noted their experiences of tracking successful outcomes resulting from the programs under the KJJS. They highlighted significant achievements, including a notable reduction in the presence of youth on the streets, an uptick in youth engagement in both sporting and cultural activities, and broader successes related to Aboriginal youth feeling a stronger connection to their culture and Country. This positive impact was attributed to their participation in cultural education camps and the guidance of an Aboriginal mentor, which, in turn, facilitated better decisions for their social and emotional wellbeing.



“Having Aboriginal mentors showing these kids that there is a better way to go about things than to spend your nights on the street. It’s hard to describe how valuable that is for these kids.” Provider

This spoke to broader cultural benefits of having Aboriginal staff deliver programs to Aboriginal youth, as one ACCO staff member felt that an intangible benefit was the personal and professional development that Aboriginal mentors and staff receive when they have a platform to deliver programs and impart wisdom on the

next generation of youth. This is significantly impactful given the cultural importance of passing down knowledge and teaching younger people to be positive contributors to the community.



“Everyone gets a benefit from what we do. The kids are happy because they’re fed and have a safe place to come and visit, and the staff have gratitude to be able to do the work we do and be mentors to these kids.” Provider

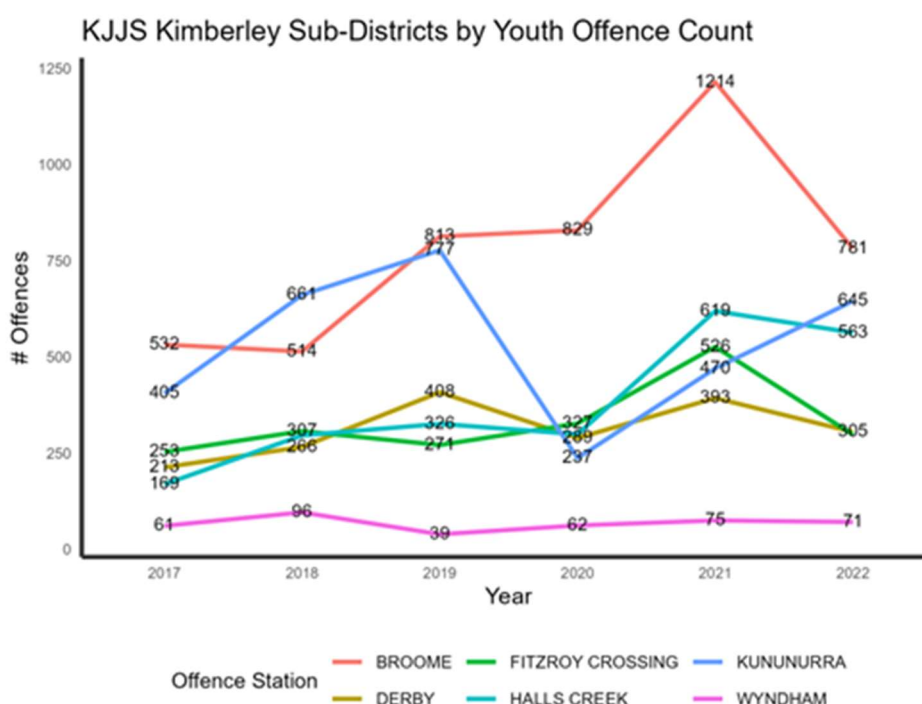
Outcomes ‘decreased community concern’, ‘reduced crime’, and ‘reduced recidivism’ have not been met yet or cannot be fully assessed yet. Crime rates have shown an increase across the six locations since before the initiation of the KJJS, and community concern in most locations remains high. Statewide, recidivism has increased over the past three years (Department of Justice, 2023). Kimberley-specific youth reoffending data is not publicly available.

Figure 6: Rate of return to detention

Period	Rate of return
2022/23	52.59%
2021/22	49.21%
2020/21	44.31%
2019/20	53.41%

Source: (Department of Justice, 2023, p.208)

Figure 7: KJJS Kimberley Sub-Districts by Youth Offence Count



Source: (KJJS Evaluation and Data Analysis 2022, 2023)

There were fewer significant outcomes attributed to crime reduction, and sentiments about short-term outcome success varied across locations and among providers. These discrepancies may be linked to

differences in crime statistics and related variables among locations. Notably, ACCO staff members who were not KJJS providers sometimes held opposing views about program success compared to the providers.



"We're all feeling the effects of it in the community. It has gotten so bad over the last ten years and I don't see it getting any better any time soon." ACCO staff member



"These programs are getting so much funding, and where are our results? If you walk around at night, it's easy to tell that government don't care and that their strategy isn't working." ACCO staff member



"The crime statistics are exploding. You ask me whether this KJJS is working? Go and have a look at our statistics. It's pretty clear that it's not." ACCO staff member

Stakeholders pointed out that crime rates fluctuate for various reasons, making it challenging to attribute changes solely to program impacts. Additionally, stakeholders suggested that even though the return of high-risk youth from Banksia Hill is often attributed to increases, recent changes are unlikely to be related to this. Where providers did see outcomes, they suggested more time, effort and funding would be required for these benefits to continue. Stakeholders noted funding was variable and staggered, which negatively impacted implementation and would be an important consideration going forward. However, this does not include data for 2023, whereas participation and hours of operation also reflect some months of 2023.



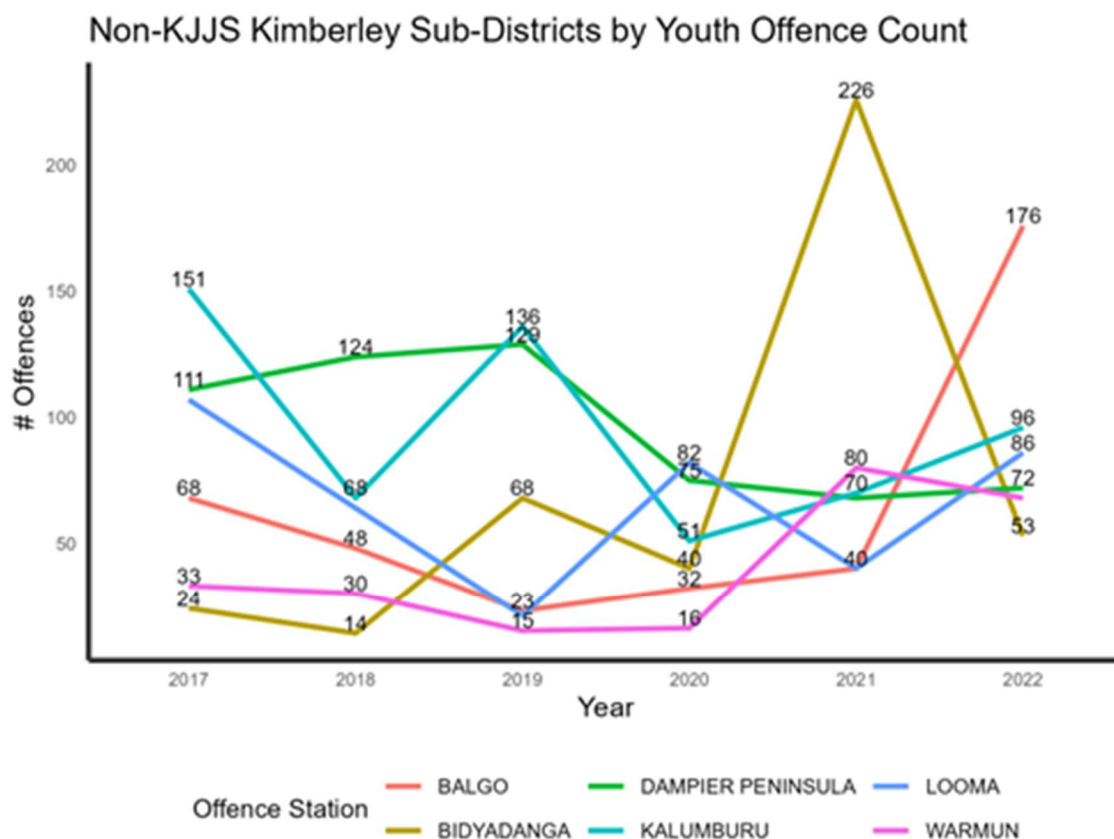
"We do have these highs and lows, ebbs and flows in the offending rates, but normally it coincides with incarceration rates, either on remand or sentence, but I've actually got quite low numbers at the moment." Government stakeholder



"The concern is that three years down the track, the level of youth crime in all Kimberley towns has not decreased at all. There's been some ups and downs, but there has been no substantial decrease." Provider

Notably, this limited decrease in young people engaging in criminal activity in the Kimberley is also supported by statistics of non-KJJS sub districts where KJJS programs are not delivered. These locations include Balgo, Bidyadanga Dampier Peninsular, Kalumburu, Looma, and Warmun, all of which, except for Bidyadanga and Warmun, showed net increases in the youth offence count from 2021 to 2022.

Figure 8: Non-KJJS Kimberley Sub-Districts by Youth Offence Count



Source: (KJJS Evaluation and Data Analysis 2022, 2023)

Leisure/recreation programs and night patrols have benefit in combination with more intensive support programs. Stakeholders felt it was unfair to only provide one without the other and expressed desire to be able to refer onwards to more intensive support programs, or to be able to upskill staff and train them to provide these services.

Long-term outcomes

This evaluation assessed whether the following long-term outcomes (that is, after 3 years) were achieved:

- More Aboriginal young people are diverted from contact with the criminal justice system
- Reduced cost associated with young people remanded in custody or sentenced to detention
- Reduced overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system
- Improved wellbeing of Aboriginal young people
- Improved community safety
- Improvement in other Closing the Gap targets 10 and 11
- Improvement in other Closing the Gap targets e.g., increased school attendance
- Sustainability of short and medium outcomes

Figure 9: Long-term outcomes of the KJJS



Stakeholders suggested there is opportunity for improvement to meet long-term outcomes by improving the design and approach through a risk-needs-responsivity model and risk/need domains.

A considerable number of the above long-term outcomes are currently not assessable. This is because the time passed has not been long enough to appropriately measure the long-term outcomes of KJJS programs. Additionally, relevant data to measure the long-term outcomes of the KJJS programs, such as overall long-term reductions in crime are not yet available for analysis. Currently, short- and medium-term outcomes form the basis of determining the KJJS programs' ability to meet individual and community needs.



Finding 12: Stakeholders felt that KJJS-funded programs are more likely to impact short-term change rather than long-term, sustainable change.



Finding 13: Current KJJS programs have limited long-term impacts on crime rates and nightly street presence.




Recommendation 9: Strengthen service providers' ability to foster lasting positive changes in young individuals by focusing on their personal development, cultural identity, and social and emotional wellbeing.

Factors limiting outcomes

Understanding the factors that can limit KJJS outcomes is crucial for the strategy to adapt, enhancing, and achieve its objectives, and ensure the social and emotional wellbeing of young people. These factors include transient populations, the return of high-risk offenders into community, and external factors such as Covid-19 and natural disasters. It is important to note that many of these limiting factors are largely beyond the control of program and community stakeholders. However, these factors were consistently highlighted as causing some limitations to the success and delivery of KJJS programs and their ability to generate lasting change for young people.

Transient populations

A transient population refers to a group of individuals who move or relocate frequently from one community to the next, often due to visiting family, employment opportunities, seasonal changes, or to attend sorry



business. The Kimberley has a high rate of transiency meaning that individuals from various stakeholder groups, including providers, community members, and other services are often continuously moving. This demographic change poses unique challenges to the continual successful delivery of KJJS programs. The nature of transient populations can lead to fluctuations in the demand for KJJS programs and resources, making it challenging for provider staff to anticipate and meet the evolving needs of the community. Additionally, maintaining consistent engagement and participation becomes a challenging when individuals are frequently entering or leaving the population. This transience can affect the long-term effectiveness of the KJJS programs as the lack of stability may hinder the establishment of strong community connections and sustained commitment between provider staff and the young people who attend the programs. Addressing the impact of a transient population requires adaptive program design, flexible delivery mechanisms, and proactive measures to accommodate the dynamic nature of the community.

While transient populations are largely beyond the control of stakeholders, various provider representatives noted that improved cross-service communication and information sharing between providers across townships may mitigate this impact and enable the provision of more holistic services for young people who go from one community to another.

Return of high-risk offenders

The return of high-risk young people from juvenile detention back into community can be a significant contributor to both the escalation of crime rates and limited impacts of KJJS programs throughout the Kimberley. Provider and community stakeholders described various instances of returning high-risk offenders generating significant agitation in the community and encouraging other young people to engage in antisocial behaviour and criminal activity. Some providers seek to provide targeted support to youth returning home to ensure their positive return back into the community, and to avoid an agitation and escalation of local young people who may look up to or encourage high-risk offenders to reoffend for the purpose of entertainment. In some cases, for KJJS programs, returning young offenders have sought to actively disrupt or undo the delivery of programs by engaging and encouraging others to participate in antisocial behaviour.

This was noted in some cases as undoing the positive work of providers where recreational activities, food, and transportation were all provided through the KJJS programs, only for high-risk young people to agitate and encourage other program participants to present on the street and engage in antisocial behaviour.

External factors

Over the course of the KJJS, there have been several external factors that have limited the outcomes of the KJJS programs or have completely disrupted their successful delivery. These factors include the impact of Covid-19 in the Kimberley and the impact of natural disasters such as floods and cyclones. As well as directly affecting the delivery of programs, the hosting of gatherings, and the transportation of people from one community to another, external factors were noted to have had broader impacts on the supply of essential goods (such as food) and other supplies needed to deliver programs. However, the continued resilience and dedication of providers and community members to collaborate and ensure the delivery of KJJS programs is an extremely positive outcome, particularly in Fitzroy Crossing in early 2023, and warrants repeated celebration.

Opportunities to improve outcomes

Through the evaluation of the KJJS programs, stakeholders identified consistent trends regarding specific opportunities to improve outcomes, and better mitigate the complex and interconnected causes of young people presenting on the street and engaging in antisocial behaviour. These opportunities for improvement include:

- addressing food insecurity for young people in KJJS programs
- creating safe spaces for young people to reside while other safe and appropriate accommodation is limited
- ensuring evidence-based program logics for all KJJS programs
- maximising employment opportunities for young people
- increasing parent and family member engagement and supports, to build the capacity of parents and family members to address the needs of young people in the Kimberley

These opportunities are discussed in greater detail below

Addressing food insecurity

Addressing food insecurity in community programs is crucial for improving outcomes for young people in various aspects of their lives. Adequate nutrition is a fundamental determinant of overall health and wellbeing, and when young individuals face food insecurity, it can have detrimental effects on their physical and mental development (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2011). Access to nutritious meals not only supports proper growth but also enhances cognitive function, concentration, and academic performance. Incorporating food security initiatives into community programs can not only alleviate immediate hunger but can also create an environment where young people can thrive. Proper nutrition plays a pivotal role in breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting a positive trajectory for the future. Additionally, addressing food insecurity fosters a sense of community and support, creating a foundation for social and emotional wellbeing, particularly in young people (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2011).

Several providers have implemented the provision of food for young people within their programs to address food insecurity in the Kimberley. This has allowed providers to build rapport with young people, address their needs, and maximise engagement in KJJS programs, thereby enabling both greater and more holistic support.



“We always find that if we put on some food for our youth then we will get more people coming. It’s not unusual for kids to rock up without having eaten anything.” Provider

Numerous providers noted that the provision of food was not always accounted for in the allocation of funding to deliver the KJJS programs. These providers believed that the increased engagement, and the broader flow-on effects of providers building relationships with young people by providing food, should justify the allocation of funding specifically for providing food across all KJJS programs. Currently, some providers are having to draw on external funding to provide food, further highlighting the need for additional funding.



Finding 14: Food insecurity is a continuous factor impacting the lives of young people in the Kimberley and the provision of food at KJJS programs is an effective way to engage young people and provide adequate sustenance to meet their needs.



Recommendation 10: Consider additional funding for service providers to distribute food across all programs, thereby making programs more attractive and increasing engagement with young participants.

Creating safe spaces

Stakeholders felt that high rates of street-presence are often linked to a need for safe spaces where children can stay. Stakeholders from all locations emphasised the necessity to recognise the underlying reasons why

youth are on the streets rather than at home, in order to properly establish long-term solutions to nightly street presence. While the current method of night patrols has achieved some successes, stakeholders did not see them as enduring or even medium-term solutions for mitigating street presence or reducing crime.



“Every town needs a place for the kids. If there’s nowhere for them to go, what are they going to do?”
Provider

Multiple service providers discussed instances where they had no viable alternative but to return kids to home environments that potentially compromised the wellbeing of the child. Overcrowded living conditions, substance abuse, and instances of domestic violence were cited as examples of unsafe housing circumstances that contributed to the late-night street presence of young people. Stakeholders indicated that without service providers having alternatives to sending young people back to their home environments, programs may only have short-term benefits.



“There’s lots of family violence and alcohol issues in the home, so the kids will run into the streets, and that’s where they feel safer.” Provider



“A big problem we have is at the end of the day when you’ve invested so much effort into these kids and they’re so appreciative, but we have to go and drop them at home where all this stuff originates from. It’s heartbreaking.” Provider

Presently, some providers end up attending to higher-needs children outside of program hours based on demand. These providers also suggested that there is high demand for a safe space or shelter where youth can go after using programs, and felt that these could contribute to longer-term outcomes.



“It’s a big exercise, and we do it. We drive people eight-hour, ten-hour trips to get them somewhere safe. But there’s nowhere, and I find it surprising that in somewhere like Broome, there isn’t somewhere that you can take a kid to stay overnight and know that they’re safe.” Government stakeholder

In response to these issues, the Department have begun a Safe Place Collab Project. The recent initiative for the Collab/Safe Place in Broome received early praise, and stakeholders felt that the consultation and design for the project was an effective process and procedure. The Broome Collab/Safe Place provides an opportunity to measure the impact of safe spaces on crime, though providers have underscored the usefulness of night patrol data in demonstrating the necessity for such safe spaces.



“When we’re talking about the safe space, I think it’s been talked about for probably the last 12 months, and it’s being done in the correct way.” Provider



Finding 15: Providing a safe space for children is a major priority for providers and a significant service gap across the Kimberley.



Recommendation 11: Prioritise the establishment of a safe space facility for street-presenting young people in each town.

Ensuring evidence-base program logics

A program logic model outlines the resources and activities constituting a program, along with the anticipated outcomes and impacts for participants because of the programs (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2016). Program logics visually illustrate the connections between the program inputs, objectives, and activities, encompassing operational and organisational resources, methodologies, and practices (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2016). This systematic representation provides a comprehensive overview that can help with understanding a program's structure and the expected outcomes derived from its various components.

Implementing evidence-based program logics for all KJJS programs is crucial in enhancing outcomes for young people as it provides a systematic and data-driven approach to intervention strategies. By relying on empirical evidence and the lived experience of providers actively facilitating KJJS programs, who have a highly informed understanding of what works in the local context, program providers can design initiatives that are more likely to be effective and tailored to the specific needs of young people. Evidence-based program logics help identify the most impactful interventions, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and that efforts are focused on approaches with a proven track record of success. Evidence-based program logics contribute to the development of more informed and targeted interventions, leading to improved outcomes for young people by addressing their unique challenges and promoting positive development. Ensuring effective and evidence-based program logics will also improve the efficiency of future evaluations for all programs under the KJJS.

Various stakeholders outlined that program logics were not adequately formulated in the implementation of the KJJS, resulting in some providers in the initial stages of delivery being unaware of the intended outcomes of their respective programs. This was largely mitigated by the extensive experience of providers delivering programs for young people. However, providers did reiterate the need for more definitive program logics to track outcomes more appropriately.



“At the start, there wasn't a great deal of awareness with what we were trying to achieve and there wasn't a lot of direction from government. We kind of had to do our own thing and go our own way when delivering the program.” Provider

Program logics were developed based on existing information in grant agreements, progress reports, and interviews and can be found in Appendix 5.



Recommendation 12: Ensure there are evidence-based program logics for all KJJS programs.

Increasing employment opportunities for young people

According to numerous stakeholders across the Kimberley, providing employment and professional development opportunities in the KJJS programs is a major opportunity to improve outcomes for young people. Employment and professional development opportunities were highlighted as being a catalyst for positive outcomes among young people, particularly in their ability to seek and maintain employment. While not within the remit of all KJJS programs, nor relevant to addressing the specific needs of some young people, multiple providers who increased employment and professional development opportunities within their respective programs identified this as a highly positive and an opportunity to maximise positive outcomes.

Providers expressed that employment and professional development activities, such as resume writing and interview skills, enables the successful employment of participants in local jobs. This then contributes to increased local employment and economic development, while also fostering personal and career growth. Exposure to diverse job opportunities such as job fairs and workshops were also noted as having positive impacts of broadening the horizons of individuals and helping them make informed decisions about their future pathways away from antisocial behaviour.



“It’s so good to see when we’ve had kids come through our program who then go on to work locally. There needs to be a lot more of it so we can keep showing the kids that there are better pathways for them.” Provider



Finding 16: Programs that had implemented employment and professional development opportunities were noted by some as having significantly positive long-term impacts.



Recommendation 13: Boost economic empowerment initiatives for young people, facilitating access to local employment, job training and related opportunities.

Parent and family engagement

Increasing engagement and providing support to parents and family members was consistently raised as an opportunity to improve outcomes for, and better meet the needs of, young people in KJJS programs and the broader community. Providers and community stakeholders raised that engaging with parents and family members can help foster holistic development of young people by building strong partnerships between programs and families. They also mentioned that this approach can ensure that the needs and aspirations of young people can be comprehensively addressed. Engaging with parents and family members could be achieved through new and additional programs that are specifically designed to provide support with various factors, such as the use of alcohol and other drugs, that are impeding on the social and emotional wellbeing of young people.

The need for parent and family engagement is informed by the lived experience of program and community stakeholders. These stakeholders highlighted that at the conclusion of programs, many young people do not have a safe space to go to, often due to their parents, family members, or the general household being unsafe for young people. Stakeholders believed that the long-term impact of KJJS programs is and will continue to be limited if the needs of parents and family members, and their ability to meet the needs of the young people in their care, cannot be addressed.



“So many of these issues with young people stem from what is going on at home. I can’t stress enough how much we need to be getting in and supporting these parents so that they can support their kids.” Provider

Providers and community stakeholders further noted that support for parents and family members is largely unaccounted for within the scope of the KJJS programs, and that the service gap will continue to have a limiting impact on the success of the KJJS. To mitigate the impact of this service gap, stakeholders highlighted that additional programs and supports must be more readily available for parents and family members, and that this should be directly addressed within the scope of the KJJS.



Finding 17: Increasing parent and family member engagement is a major priority for service providers and a service gap to address the needs of young people and the broader community.



Recommendation 14: Expand the scope of the KJJS to incorporate programs that provide comprehensive support to a young person by addressing the needs and influence of their family and community.



Section 3

Broome

Introduction

This section discusses programs that were funded by the KJJS in Broome. The following providers received funding under the KJJS to run a range of programs:

- North Regional TAFE – Young and Deadly Program (also run in Kununurra)
- Broome Youth and Families Hub (BYFH) – Multiple programs
- Aboriginal Legal Service Western Australia (ALSWA) – Youth Engagement Program

Broome Population context:

- According to the 2021 census, the total population of Broome is 14,660.
- Approximately 28% (4,105) of the population is aged 0-19.
- Approximately 23% (3,372) of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Source: (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021a).

Between 2021-2023 Q3 In Broome the KJJS funded:



Also, the Youth Engagement Program run by ALSWA in Broome and Derby had



Young and Deadly Program – North Regional TAFE (Broome and Kununurra)

Design

The Young and Deadly program, facilitated by North Regional TAFE in both Broome and Kununurra, is strategically tailored to provide support to young individuals who have encountered the justice system and

have received referrals to North Regional TAFE. Originally established with the primary objective of averting placement in the Banksia Hill detention centre, the program has evolved to encompass those young people who have specifically referred from Banksia Hill to assist them in their reintegration back into the community.



“It’s really about how do we support these kids to get back into the community and make sure they’re getting the best chance possible to work towards self-improvements where they can better themselves and the community”

The Young and Deadly Program is for children aged between 14 years and 9 months and 18 years of age. The program supports a number of academic and social skills such as literacy and numeracy, teamwork, and leadership, as well as more practical skills, including food shopping, cooking, and obtaining a driver’s licence. The Young and Deadly Program also involves mindfulness activities, sex education and lessons about maintaining healthy relationships with those around the young participants including conflict resolution and how to effectively and safely express emotions without escalation. These skills culminate in supporting young people to live more independently and to build their capacity to become more actively engaged in school, future employment, and the broader community.

According to provide representatives, the effectiveness of the Young and Deadly Program depends on the facilitators’ capacity to cultivate positive relationships with each participant, thereby optimising their commitment and active involvement in the lessons.



“It’s really about ensuring that our staff are best placed to support these youth and to teach them those skills. We place so much importance on ensuring that our staff can build those strong relationships with the youth.”

Designed to influence behavioural change

The aim of the program is to reduce the risk of reoffending by providing alternative education and helping children overcome barriers to education and employment by building their general capabilities. Numerous participants have experienced disengagement from conventional educational content and, consequently, require alternative and innovative educational methods to effectively capture their interest and engagement in learning. This approach represents an opportunity to demonstrate alternative pathways to antisocial behaviour and offending while directly addressing factors that contribute antisocial behaviours including increased street presence and engagement in criminal activity.

Consequently, the program has been intentionally designed to be flexible, customising opportunities to align with the individual participant’s knowledge, skills, and interests, such as their interest in pursuing local employment opportunities or working to achieve a qualification. Specifically, the skills or lessons undertaken by a participant are determined by their personal interests, encompassing a spectrum of options such as outdoor activities, sports, cultural pursuits, or practical capacity-building activities such as job application skills and resume writing.



“We have to cater to their interests as best as we can and show them the value in alternative education and upskilling themselves to shift away from some of those self-destructive behaviours and habits.”

The Kununurra branch of the program was initiated to fill an identified gap for female offenders in the area. Providers said that there were established programs in Kununurra for males but few or none for female offenders resulting in female offenders being reintegrated back into the community with limited or no support to upskill and change their behaviour. The increases in female offending in Kununurra was a key motivator to

fill this service gap and ensure that female offenders had equal opportunity to receive reintegration support services in Kununurra.

Cultural safety

The program is considered culturally safe as most provider staff are Aboriginal people who live locally, remain actively connected with culture and Country, and are attuned to the needs of the community and local youth. This includes being aware of the risks and dynamics within the community that could impact on the social and emotional wellbeing of youth and their attendance and participation in the Young and Deadly Program. Providers outlined that while engagement with staff of various backgrounds can lead to positive program outcomes, the presence of local Aboriginal people in the facilitation of the Young and Deadly Program means that Aboriginal youth who attend program sessions are enabled to have teachers and mentors with a shared cultural affinity and identity, often leading to increased engagement and participation in lessons.

Implementation

The Young and Deadly Program is currently overseen by three male staff members and one female staff member in Broome, while two female staff members manage the program in Kununurra. Given the program's regional location and the relatively small size of student groups, pre-existing community relationships with other services and with program participants themselves play a pivotal role in the successful implementation and delivery of the Young and Deadly Program. These relationships facilitate the establishment of strong bonds with the students and provide valuable insights into the most effective ways to support them during the program.



"Especially when it comes to the cultural perspective. We've been able to engage the young men with Aboriginal Elders and leaders in the community, to go out on their hunting days together and learning those skills."

Notably, the program's success is underscored by its proficiency in building trust with participants. Youth referred into the program often have pre-existing conditions and form prior negative perceptions and interactions with authority, leading to a natural distrust of adults and institutions. Overcoming this barrier is recognised as a pivotal initial step in the program's efficacy and building relationships with youth. Active participation in community events by the Young and Deadly Program staff has not only enhanced the trust between participants and staff but has also served as an introduction to supportive networks within the community, including employment opportunities at jobs fairs.

The TAFE has access to a range of job and skills resources, including training, showcasing, demonstrations, referrals and job advertisements in various local sectors. The necessary tools for education and training are not required to be outsourced, and providers have quick and easy access to these tools, such as the jobs and skills resources outlined above. An illustrative example is the program's capacity to provide work experience opportunities with a construction company and facilitate informative talks delivered by local Aboriginal entrepreneurs.



"We've got an established relationships with industries... that's the added-on value of TAFE having the program for this particular group and it's made the implementation of the program very effective."

Providers have actively engaged Aboriginal entrepreneurs, inviting them to showcase their business ventures, operations, and share insights into the challenges and opportunities inherent in starting a business. These sessions serve as valuable opportunities for participants to identify role models and gain a firsthand understanding of the employment and training options within the community. Referred to as "trade tasters" or

job showcases, these initiatives offer participants comprehensive insights into diverse employment pathways, skills and job opportunities.



“So, that they aren’t just limited to what industries there currently is in Broome. But exposing them to actual people.”

These pre-existing community relationships and the prior experiences of TAFE staff in facilitating culturally safe training opportunities for youth in both Broome and Kununurra had resulted in a smooth implementation of the Young and Deadly Program as it had been intended.

Opportunities for improved training of staff

Recognising the sensitive nature of their work and the unique settings in which they operate, providers have identified an opportunity for the professional development of staff to effectively support program participants, specifically by advocating for increased trauma, mental health, and first aid training. Provider representatives noted that while staff are equipped with the training to successfully deliver the Young and Deadly Program, they noted various instances of youth participants presenting with complex behaviours where program facilitators felt ill-equipped to be able to provide the holistic support required to address the specific needs of youth. This is a key opportunity in the implementation of the program to ensure that staff are fully equipped with the appropriate training to navigate complex behaviours, particularly related to trauma and mental health, to keep youth supported and engaged in the Young and Deadly Program.



“A lot of them have had negative experiences through the school system and learning at home and the various conditions and experiences can be really difficult for our staff to navigate.”

Information sharing

Providers have also observed indicators of undiagnosed learning difficulties and other complex behaviours among participants in the Young and Deadly Program. Prior to implementation, the Department is tasked with providing information to the provider relevant to the behavioural risks of individuals, including records of schooling, literacy, numeracy, and individuals known to be living with a disability. Provider representatives noted that the observed indicators of undiagnosed learning difficulties and complex behaviours is an opportunity to improve the implementation of the program through more effective and detailed information transfers from the Department to the providers. This would ensure that providers are enabled as much relevant information as possible in order to best prepare to meet the needs of program participants.

However, despite these opportunities for improvement, provider representatives highlighted their appreciation for the role of the Department in coordinating monthly meetings to ensure ongoing communication and ensuring the implementation and delivery of the Young and Deadly Program was successful.

Outcomes

The Young and Deadly Program has realised several positive outcomes, as highlighted by providers, including outcomes directly aligned with the KJJS such as decreased youth reoffending and participants successfully transitioning to employment. Other notable for outcomes for participants in the Young and Deadly Program include participants accessing additional training programs to further upskill, participants acquisition of food preparation skills, enhanced knowledge about healthy eating, and improved behavioural outcomes in individual participants. These broad achievements underscore the multifaceted impact and comprehensive support the program provides to its participants, particularly through the development of new skills and opportunities for participants to develop healthy and respectful relationships with provider staff and their peers.



“We’ve had quite a few that have turned 18 and not reoffended. That’s probably the biggest outcome for us. Our highest achievement is non-reoffending.”



“There have been some notable improvements in their behaviour, and you can see in most of them that they want to change and make positive improvements.”

Ensuring longer-term positive outcomes

These benefits have the potential to amplify and endure over the long term when youth who have completed the Young and Deadly Program return to TAFE for further vocational training and upskilling. Providers emphasise that the program serves as an introduction to youth demonstrating that education and training can offer a secure and viable pathway for their future prosperity and employment. As well as the facilitation of lessons, this realisation on the value of education is also facilitated through a combination of job showcases, the provision of role models for support and guidance, and culturally safe program delivery through the presence of Aboriginal staff, collaboration with Elders, individualised assistance targeting the social and emotional wellbeing of participants.

Stakeholders highlighted that a substantial number of TAFE students later re-engage in education and training after their completion of the Young and Deadly Program. This decision is often driven by their aspiration to upskill and create a more promising future, influenced by their positive experiences in the program.



“When they leave there is that opportunity for that second chance education that may help continue on with TAFE giving credit to training straight away.”



“We’ve actually had quite a few transitions into apprenticeships from the program, especially from the ones that were just about to turn 18.”

Cultural engagement

Providers have noted additional outcomes, including heightened cultural engagement and participation in traditional protocols among program participants. The availability of cultural activities has led to increased active involvement and a stronger sense of connection to their culture. Notably, several male participants have engaged with Aboriginal lore systems and embraced coming-of-age rituals to transition into adulthood.

This stands out as a significant achievement, as the provision of role models has played a pivotal role in guiding children to develop aspirations for education and training. Furthermore, it has empowered them to distance themselves from unhealthy social role models, fostering a deeper cultural connection and engagement with prominent community figures and Elders.



“Having Aboriginal mentors showing these kids that there is a better way to go about things than to spend your nights on the street. It’s hard to describe how valuable that is for these kids.”

Unintended outcomes

The Young and Deadly Program has generated multiple unintended positive outcomes in both Broome and Kununurra, including the erosion of stigma surrounding reintegration programs, the provision of a safe space for youth, and an increased awareness among young people regarding the availability of local support services through their engagement with the program and provider staff.

Erosion of stigma

Providers outlined that an unintended, yet significant, outcome of the program had been the breaking down of stigmas within the community regarding offender rehabilitation and prevention programs, which were viewed by providers as having previously been ineffective and not having a lasting impact. The program played a crucial role in dispelling these preconceived notions, not only within the community but also among some of the participants themselves who began the Young and Deadly Program with a pessimistic attitude towards the program and the provider staff. However, through ongoing engagement and continuous effort from provider staff, the participants and broader community began to realise the positive impact the program has on individuals and the broader community. The demonstrated positive outcomes within the community are fostering increasingly favourable perspectives of both the program and its participants. This is especially true for those individuals who have successfully completed the program and secured stable employment.



“It’s broadened our organisational footprint. And how our own staff and students view people. Once you offend, it doesn’t mean that’s the end. Because of that refocus on rehabilitation.”

Safe space for youth

Another unintended outcome of the program is the establishment of a safe space for the young participants. For some, this environment stands in stark contrast to their home life or serves as an alternative to detention. Within this secure setting, children receive support in cultivating healthy relationships, both with their peers and with adults. The positive influence of this experience extends beyond the immediate participants and providers, reaching community members who actively participate in community events and serve as invited speakers.



“We have created spaces that these children feel well and truly welcomed and it’s safe for them to be open and actively participate.”

Increased awareness of local supports

Participants also had gained awareness of local support services through their participation in the program and were able to self-refer to other services depending on their specific needs and interests. This was not an intended outcome, but the TAFE’s established connections with campus services and external services meant the students had learned about what resources existed and were able to comfortably engage.

This stands as a highly positive outcome of the program and demonstrating positive cross service collaboration and increased accessibility of services for young people. By fostering a network of support and making information readily available, the program has empowered participants to take proactive steps towards addressing their individual needs, promoting a holistic approach to wellbeing and support.

Broome Youth and Families Hub (BYFH) multiple programs

Design

BYFH is a subsidiary of Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Corporation. BYFH was funded to operate a space for youth to visit, socialise and participate in positive and youth-friendly activities such as sports and

recreation. Operating exclusively in Broome, BYFH provides a range of services including after school sporting activities, night patrols after hours, and a school holiday program.

All activities are provided for young people aged 5 -17 and are designed to divert behaviour and energy toward more prosocial activities on weeknights in Broome amid an increase in antisocial behaviour in the area, particularly among youth. The sum of these programs, as outlined by provider representatives, is to provide a safe space for young people to reside in, instead of in public places where they could potentially engage in antisocial behaviour.



“We run a range of diversionary activities to connect with young people, and that is on one afternoon a week as well as school holidays.”

The programs included the Monday night sports program, drop-in program Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, chilling space on Friday and Saturday nights, and the HYPE night patrol Friday and Saturday. Weeknight programs are currently staffed by 5 part-time employees and weekend programs by 8 casual employees.



“We have these diversionary things for kids so they've got something to do, so they're not ganging up down at Town Beach or out of doors street fighting or over at the park at the back of Cable Beach way where they're always burning out the cars. So, it's giving them something else to do.”

Implementation

BYFH were funded under a grant agreement 21 Dec 2020 to 20 Dec 2021 with activities running all week. BYFH was subsequently funded 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for alternating Friday HYPE patrol and chill space, five school holiday programs, Monday night music program and 'Sharp N Ready Haircuts'. A grant variation was executed 14 March 2023 for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 for supplementary activation events and foot patrols over the summer peak period.



“Our program goes over six days a week, but Justice support us for one of those nights and our school holiday program.”

Provider representatives praised the Department for their ongoing support of BYFH and the delivered programs, stating that the Department's ongoing communication with provider representatives has been a significant help to the programs' successful implementation.



“The implementation has been good. The relationship with our key stakeholders within the Department of Justice, they're great. Very supportive and very understanding.”



“I've had great conversations with the person that's overseeing our funding, how can we work better together, how can we be clear on what it is that we want the funding to be delivered on, how can we support you guys so that you're reporting is not onerous.”

Community consultation

The design and implementation of these programs is heavily informed by community consultation and collaboration with other local services to ensure that no duplication of efforts exists across services and that cross-service consultation occurs to discuss certain high-risk young people. This community consultation occurs fortnightly and will be focused on increased engagement with Elders and families to further inform the design, implementation, and delivery of programs to meet the needs of local youth.



“We meet fortnightly with schools, police, other community service providers. We’re constantly all having a look at who’s doing what, and how we’re doing it. We’re in a position where we can consult in relation to certain young people that might be of highest risk.”

Improving engagement with local Aboriginal people and community, including Elders and families, is a major priority for BYFH going forward, who acknowledged that the increased engagement would improve and further inform the supports provided to young people under the current programs. Increasing this engagement and outreach was also noted as a potential pathway to enhance the cultural safety of current programs.



“That is definitely part of our strategy for this current year coming in, which is welcoming families, and bringing in expertise, Elders, and what have you, to help us understand what it is that we can be doing better to support kids and families.”



We need more on-country stuff, more weekends away. There is so much unintended outcomes that you get from taking kids out on-country, sitting around a campfire, and working on those skills and talking things out.”

Collaboration and general meetings with other services has been a positive outcome of the programs delivered by BYFH, however, provider representatives identified that further cross-service collaboration could be enhanced by improving and increasing collaboration with other services specifically under the KJJS to enable more holistic supports and potentially case management for youth who engage multiple services.



“I’d like to see over the next 12 months how do we flip a siloed approach to a holistic approach, and what does it really mean for all these services to work intentionally with these kids that absolutely need it.”

Opportunities for improvement

To better address the complex needs of local youth, provider staff highlighted several opportunities for improvement within their program. One of these opportunities centres on ensuring earlier interventions and supports for younger cohorts between 10-15 years of age, which provider staff have identified are increasingly engaging in antisocial behaviour. Provider staff described an instance where one 11-year-old was having difficulty in engaging with local services due to complex personal circumstances, instead often lashing out with violent behaviour, and thus required far more targeted and trauma-informed intervention. According to provider representatives, this individual is part of a larger trend of younger children engaging in antisocial behaviour, requiring broader and more targeted supports for younger children across all organisations and programs. Dynamics and trends such as this have motivated BYFH to currently reassess how the programs are working and how to modify the programs to ensure they are more impactful in meeting the of youth.



“What we’re finding now is that we’re needing to focus a little bit differently on how we engage these young people. If they’re not going to school, where are they, what are they doing, and how can we modify our programs so that we’re in a position to be able to support them in making those different choices.”

Part of this assessment has been to ensure a consistent service provision throughout the week, but particularly on weekends, while also seeking new and innovative ways to get to the root causes of much of the antisocial behaviour presented among local youth, particularly a rapid increase in violent crime and concealed carry of knives and other weaponry for protection.



"We're an organisation that does operate six days a week. We work after hours. We're one of the few that operate on a Friday and a Saturday night, and that is, certainly, based on that feedback of this is the time of the night where the kids need the greatest amount of engagement."



"It's not uncommon, recently, that kids will turn up with a knife, for instance. It's a massive risk for staff and for young people. Fighting is not uncommon, it's definitely more than what it used to be. Our job is to determine why are kids coming in like that, or with that feeling that they need to?"

Cultural safety

The providers, operating as a place-based model and employing Aboriginal staff, enjoy a distinct advantage in terms of cultural competence within the service. The inclusion of Aboriginal staff brings a wealth of knowledge about the intricate relationships between language groups and families, as well as a general knowledge of what is occurring within the community which may impact on youth and their families. This cultural insight not only aids in building rapport and fostering relationships but has also proven invaluable in preventing potential conflicts or defusing challenging situations, such as escalations of antisocial behaviour or increased engagement in criminal activity. This had helped implementation since the providers knew many of the families of the children and were able to identify places where the children could be taken home.



"The delivery of services is based on community and historical feedback, what's worked, what hasn't worked, who was the cohort of young people that we're supporting, and what's the best way of engaging them."



"Having the right staff on the ground that understand the families, that understand the culture, that understand the community, that understand the complexities, because there are complexities within the town. The biggest success is having the right staff."

To engage Aboriginal youth and encourage their connection to culture and Country, provider staff outlined that employing local Aboriginal people with strong communal and cultural connection is integral to ensuring that programs are equipped with a cultural lens. Provider staff outlined that on-country and cultural camps are often outsourced to a third party due to the provider's limited resources to deliver such experience to youth. However, provider staff who deliver the programs are often engaging with youth to facilitate increased communal and cultural connection informally through yarning and encouraging participation in local cultural events and activities. Provider staff acknowledged that more could be done in the current programs to further facilitate these connections and supports for youth.



"We can definitely do more stuff from a cultural perspective because I think that's a missed opportunity if we're not. I'd like to start to bring our families in because I think that's another missed opportunity, I think we can be doing a whole lot more there."

Outcomes

Reported activities cover the period June to December 2021. During that period, a total of 1,694 attendances were recorded for the sporting activity, Friday night social activity, and scheduled activities during the school holidays. The Friday night social activity was the most popular, accommodating 54 young people on average each night. Friday and Sunday night patrols resulted in an additional 1,768 interactions with young people, many of whom were transported to a safe space or their place of residence.



"Our Aboriginal kids are not going to be riding the camels or surfing out at Cable Beach when there's a swell, and our activities let them be just normal kids, do normal stuff, even if it's just a jumping castle. Our kids would never experience that normally."

The provision of a safe space for young people enables provider staff to simply engage and develop positive relations with them, creating positive local role models for young people to look up to and seek support from. Providing a safe space and being able to engage with a role model across the programs enables young people to develop further transferrable skills such as teamwork and leadership when the sports games and other fun activities are provided. The presence of positive role models and the facilitation of safe and fun activities seeks to demonstrate to youth of the alternative pathways available for young people to learn and develop instead of engaging in antisocial behaviour.



“Our goals is primarily to create a safe space for the young people, so that we can continue to educate and to work towards positive outcomes for the young people.”

Improvements in individual behaviour

Provider staff further noted that with consistent staff and delivery of programs, significant observable improvements in behaviour are evident in youth who actively engage in the programs. This is based on repeated exposure and engagement with program staff who have productive conversations with young people about their behaviour and the need to make more positive choices in their lives. Provider staff outlined that these outcomes are major success stories and motivators for the continued facilitation of the programs.



“We have a lot of kids who when we first engage with them were really difficult but more and more we are seeing some really positive behavioural changes in individual through continued engagement with staff.”



“Where is see it’s worked really, really well, is we’ve got a solid team of local workers that know the kids. They understand the families, they understand the kids, and we’ve got some great activities that they’re engaging for the kids and they’re just having fun.”

Consistently high attendance in programs

A further positive program outcome is the recurrence of engagement. Providers noted that many participants find the programs enjoyable and safe, prompting their return to BYFH. A total of 3,795 participants were reported, signifying significant involvement from the target audience. This is noteworthy, especially considering the local demographic data, where approximately 4,105 individuals in Broome fall within the 0-19 age group, and around 3,372 people in Broome identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021).



“The kids are turning up. We have a place, whether it’s a sense of belonging or a safe space and even though at times they might cause some property damage and be aggressive towards staff, they keep turning up.”



“Kids talk with their feet, and they keep on turning up, so we can have anywhere between 40 and 60 kids come through our gate on a weekend. We must be doing something right.”

The school holiday programs had a dual benefit in providing boredom-busting activities to engage kids who would normally be in school as well as providing a location that encouraged prosocial behaviour. The providers discussed that repeat engagement demonstrated that children felt safe but also that they extracted some benefit from the program. Some children who had been temporarily excluded from the program due to poor behaviour were upset. Providers suggested that their reaction to exclusion demonstrates their interest in the program and can help teach them about consequence.



"I think they know that that's a place that they're cared about and that they can convene with and for their friends."

Youth Engagement Program - Aboriginal Legal Service WA (West Kimberley)

The Youth Engagement Program (YEP) delivered by the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (ALSWA) supports young individuals appearing in the Children's Court (at different locations) by offering assistance and referrals. The aim of the program is to help young people comply with court orders and enhance their overall wellbeing. The program includes assistance with education and training, substance abuse support, health, family issues, Centrelink and ID, transport, and support for youth justice-related matters. The program operated initially in metropolitan Perth (YEP Metro) before expanding to Broome and Derby (YEP West Kimberley) in 2021. In 2023, YEP commenced in Kununurra (YEP East Kimberley) and Halls Creek (YEP Halls Creek). YEP West Kimberley is funded from the Department through the KJJS. YEP Metro is funded from the Department through Youth Justice Services and YEP East Kimberley and YEP Halls Creek are funded from the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

Design

The YEP provides case management and individualised support for young Aboriginal children through various stages and areas of the court system. This includes providing accessible guidance through the legal process, meeting the immediate needs of young people (such as food, clothing, transport, and shelter arrangements), court and bail reminders, and mentoring and cultural engagement activities for youth. First ensuring the needs of youth and their family members are identified is a crucial design feature of the YEP, as it allows ALSWA to ensure that young people and their families receive tailored support to meet their needs and priorities through what is a naturally distressing time.



"We start with the kid and their family and work out where that young person is and what their needs are. Always in the background of that is where they're at in terms of the justice system, because we are obviously a legal service and we're funded by Justice."



"It all depends on what that young person's support needs are. Every single one of our clients is going to be different."

ALSWA receives referrals from ALSWA lawyers and Youth Justice Services to assist Aboriginal children who are facing charges and/or sentencing for alleged crimes. The YEP supports youth to address barriers that they, or their families, may face in the legal process, such as a limited understanding of legal proceedings and requirements as well as practical support through reminders of and transport assistance for court dates and appointments with Youth Justice Services. Additionally, the YEP provides more general supports including social and emotional wellbeing guides and support to decrease the chances of youth reoffending. Other supports provided to youth include guidance on reengaging with school, arranging the prerequisites to apply for Centrelink payments, and cultural activities to establish, build, and maintain the cultural connection of Aboriginal youth. These supports are informed by a care plan that ALSWA establishes in their first initial contact with youth and their families.



“Those initial engagements are really critical and important in identifying what the kids need, what their family needs, and how we can best support them through this time.”

A major part of the YEP West Kimberley's design includes cultural engagement through ongoing cultural mentoring as well as day trips that involve cultural activities and transfer of knowledge to youth who have been referred into the program. The provision of these activities has helped build trust and establish relationships between ALSWA, youth, and their families, due to the YEP's focus on ensuring that the cultural connections and identity of youth are enhanced during their time in the program. During these cultural activities, ALSWA staff ensure to engage youth through yarning and social and emotional wellbeing check-ins, to provide young people with the opportunity to express themselves and for ALSWA staff to reciprocate and talk them through the challenging process of acknowledging their behaviour and committing to making improvements. According to ALSWA representatives, that these cultural activities have significant benefits for the social and emotional wellbeing of youth and their families during the naturally distressing time of going through the court system.



“The staff will take them out fishing and trapping, as well as hang out and talk about everything that they are going through those confronting but rewarding conversations.”

Implementation

The implementation of the YEP was considered successful due to ALSWA's extensive experience in providing flexible and culturally appropriate legal services to Aboriginal people and communities. Combined with their extensive community relationships and in some cases, previous interactions with youth and their families, the YEP was implemented and welcomed within the community successfully.

Cultural engagement

ALSWA representatives highlighted cultural engagement as a key aspect of program implementation. While not initially as central to the primary goals of the YEP as court and bail supports, facilitating day trips and other activities for participants has evolved into a pivotal component of the implementation and delivery process, contributing significantly to improving the wellbeing of youth and their family members. The cultural safety of the program in the Kimberley is reinforced by ALSWA's 100% Aboriginal staffing within the YEP. This workforce has positively contributed to the YEP's emphasis on cultural activities and supports due to the cultural and community connections maintained by ALSWA staff, which has in turn made implementing cultural activities more streamlined in the YEP.



“We have 100% Aboriginal staff, including 100% with the manager as well. They're invariably staff that are local people that have local community connections, and families know the families of these kids and they're able to link in. And obviously that's a pretty important aspect of it.”

Outcomes

ALSWA commenced YEP West Kimberley in February 2021. Between February 2021 and April 2022, a total of 43 young people (7 female, 36 male) participated in YEP West Kimberley during the 15-month period. Support to these clients included guidance and transport assistance to ensure court appointments were complied with, as well as other supports previously outlined. The length of engagement varied for each attendee, ranging from 2 to 445 days, with the median duration being 55 days for program participants due to the varying nature of the young person's court matters and circumstances. In some cases, young people are

exited because they are no longer eligible for the program because their court matters are transferred to a different regional court location or they are no longer represented by ALSWA.

Positive behavioural changes

The YEP has had a transformative positive impact in influencing behavioural change among its participants. Observed by ALSWA representatives, some participants have undergone a remarkable shift in their attitudes and actions, embracing a more positive and constructive approach to life through the accessibility of support and activities. As a result of continuous engagement, some young people are making better choices for themselves while also actively contributing to their communities through reengagement with education and accessing local employment opportunities. The ripple effect of the YEP is evident in the observable outcomes of ALSWA representatives who highlighted instances of individuals embracing positive behavioural change and avoiding reoffending.



“We do see real changes in young people, we see young people get back into education, getting involved in sport, cultural activities. There are many kids that I’ve looked at when I do my reporting that have not reoffended since they’ve started with our program.”

Improving outcome measurement can help demonstrate the impact of this individualised approach to crime prevention. As discussed in the Pareto chart provided by WACSAR, 16% of offenders are responsible for a high 50% of offences. According to the Department of Justice Annual Report 2022-23, recidivism for young people who have offended ranges between 40-50% (Department of Justice, 2023). This program may have potential to address the risks and needs of this population and help reduce likelihood of youth reoffending.

Addressing individual barriers

A significant aspect of the support offered involves addressing the barriers faced by Aboriginal young people within the justice system and court processes. A common challenge is a lack of identification and other documentation, often serving as an initial focus in guiding the children through the court process. This can also be a barrier to engagement in education, employment, and obtaining a driver’s license. Additionally, practical supports encompass assisting children in accessing medical services, mental health counselling, educational or training support, as well as providing encouragement, food and addressing accommodation needs.




“Most young people don’t have birth certificates and then you’ve got the young people who aren’t even registered.”

Supporting wellbeing and reducing likelihood of youth reoffending

Some of the support provided is based partly on the premise that promoting wellbeing will reduce the likelihood of youth reoffending. Participants may be referred with various immediate needs related to physical and mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, and learning.

To address these needs, ALSWA collaborates with Youth Justice Services, WA Police, Shire of Broome, Shire of Derby, Department of Communities, Headspace, NDIS, Broome Senior High School, BYFH, Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, Child Adolescent Mental Health Service, Nirumbuk, Mens Outreach Alive and Kicking Goals, Waalitj, Hope Community Services, Derby Aboriginal Health Service and North Regional TAFE.

Providers emphasised that addressing individual risks and needs is crucial for helping participants meet their court or bail conditions. This encompasses immediate needs for food, clothing, and shelter, as well as the



need for cultural engagement. Participants from the YEP have also engaged with the North Regional TAFE program and BYFH. Of some concern, neither organisation was aware that the other was also receiving funding through the KJJS. Stakeholders indicated that having this information would have been beneficial to support coordination and collaboration.

Opportunities for improved recording to track outcomes

Allocating resources for tracking long-term outcomes could enhance the understanding of program efficacy. Gaining insights into the progress of program participants post-program can offer valuable information for funders and program providers. Specific outcomes to measure could include reoffending or future employment outcomes.

Providers indicated that outcome measurement has improved since the YEP expanded to Broome. This improvement is attributed to the Department's acknowledgment of the significance of qualitative measurement of outcomes and the inclusion of case studies in the assessment of the YEP.



Section 4

Derby

Introduction

This section discusses programs that were funded by the KJJS in Derby. The following providers received funding under the KJJS to run a range of programs:

- Shire of Derby West Kimberley – multiple programs
- Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation (ENAC) – night patrol

Population context:

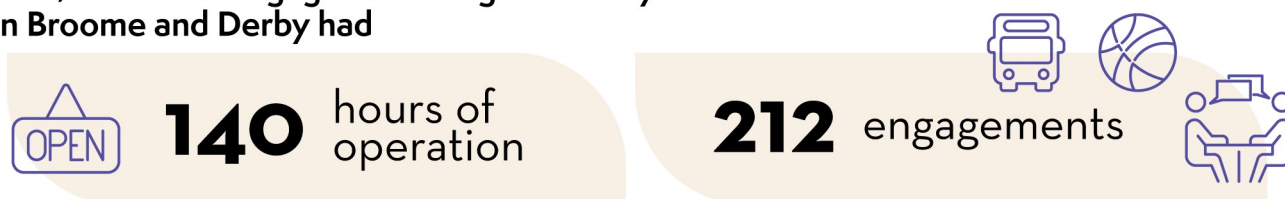
- The Derby population is approximately 3,222 people.
- Approximately 25% (805) are aged 0-19.
- Approximately 42% of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Source: (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021b).

Between 2021-2023 Q3 In Derby the KJJS funded:



Also, the Youth Engagement Program run by ALSWA in Broome and Derby had



Shire of Derby West Kimberley (Derby and Fitzroy Crossing)

Design

The Shire of Derby West Kimberley organises a diverse range of structured and unstructured activities for young people in both Derby and Fitzroy Crossing. These activities encompass programs like basketball, football, skating, swimming, barbecues, arts and crafts, school holiday programs, on-country excursions, and

various recreational activities on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. These are run through the Shire's youth centre and recreation centres.

The design of these programs has been informed by the Shire's extensive experience in facilitating youth and family services, particularly those seeking to engage youth. The Shire implemented its diverse range of programs informed by the needs and interests of local youth, particularly through sporting and other recreational activities to keep youth engaged and active while also receiving social and emotional wellbeing supports and check-ins from youth workers and mentors.



"Youth crime is a significant issue in our shire, as it is in other Kimberley shires, and we see our Youth Centre youth workers and the programs we're running as vital key tools in addressing a lot of those youth crimes issues."

The activities typically commence in the early evening, extending until at least 9:30pm and, on occasions, as late as 11pm if the youth are engaging safely in the activities and participants are equally enjoying themselves. Youth workers are also dedicated to staying beyond the set program hours if needed in order to support youth through difficult periods within the community such as a death in the community or recent instances of high crime, which may force youth to resist finishing up their activities. Shire representatives outlined that local youth would vote with their feet, so the design of the programs have to cater to youth but also ensure that broad interests are catered to, including the provision of arts and crafts or cultural activities.



"We have to cater for those broader interests and keep our kids engaged and invested in our programs. Only then can we expect our workers to get through to the kids and get them to make positive improvements."

Implementation

Programs were implemented in both Derby and Fitzroy Crossing, with approximately 257 kilometres between the two towns. Stakeholders underscored that funding periods posed a barrier to effective implementation, advocating for longer-term contracts to enhance job security and create more stability in staff employment, as well as improving the ability of providers and other services to provide competitive and longer-term remuneration for staff. Providers emphasised that extended funding durations would promote program continuity and offer staff greater job security, enabling more efficient and successful program delivery if staff are provided with greater peace of mind or more qualified staff are attracted with more competitive pay. The current funding structure was also flagged as having opportunities for improvement for requiring service providers in the area to cover ongoing program costs by actively seeking additional funding from various sources, including shire rate payers, Lotterywest or other non-government organisations. While it was noted that the funding under the KJJS was still extremely valuable in funding programs, more secure and long-term funding would be welcomed.



"It's a yearly funding program arrangement, which makes it extremely difficult to employ staff on a more permanent basis and to put further effort into further expansion of its capability."

Service providers and community members stated that under the program's implementation, the need for more consistent and secure KJJS funding is paramount for continuing to ensure positive outcomes. Funding impacts job security and staff turnover, which can be detrimental to program implementation. Additionally, staff are required to spend a significant amount of time applying for other grants to keep the programs continuing, requiring resources and effort in addition to delivering the programs.



“It takes you six months to work things out first then you can deliver programs. This 12-month funding has got to be scrapped because it’s getting us nowhere.”

Stakeholders felt that funding for youth programs should be provided on longer terms, potentially 3-5 years, so that ACCOs and service providers can appropriately measure the outcomes of programs, provide consistent employment for people, and to allow service providers and ACCOs time to properly implement and establish programs. Stakeholders suggested that significant time and effort was required to set up programs which can take 25 to 50% of the contract length.



“The longevity of the programs, the funding for the programs, is a key element for us. I honestly believe that it could run an awful lot smoother given longer timeframes for the funding, rather than having to review and do this annually and stuff like that.”

Beyond the length of contracts, providers noted that the implementation of the programs was also hindered by events beyond the control of stakeholders including COVID-19 lockdowns and the Fitzroy River floods, both of which resulted in various and unique impacts for the local area and the ability for services providers to deliver programs with available resourcing. Despite these occurrences, provider representatives did outline that the implementation of the programs was eventually successful across Deby and Fitzroy Crossing, but that opportunities for improved implementation support and effective consultation to ensure local community needs are met are required.

Partnership and collaboration in staffing

Collaboration between the Shire and ENAC in delivering these programs was highlighted as a notable strength, leading to the establishment of additional wraparound support services in Derby and enhancing the partnership between the Shire and ENAC. Outcomes of this collaboration include addressing service gaps, facilitating referrals between organisations, and, at times, engaging in shared staffing and secondment arrangements. The flexibility for the provider to enlist other services, such as the provision of food and meals, as needed, was also identified as a strength in program delivery.



“We work together on a lot of stuff and that’s important to continue that relationship so it’s not competitive but that there is a shared understanding that we are collectively working for the betterment of these kids and the broader community.”

A means to further enhance this partnership and collaboration, as well as the provision of more wraparound support services for youth was to ensure that staff across local services, particularly youth workers, are upskilled to address local challenges affecting the social and emotional wellbeing of young people and their family members. This includes family and domestic violence, which according to local stakeholders, is prevalent throughout the community and severely contribute to youth engaging in antisocial behaviour and presenting on the street. Stakeholders noted that 12-15 staff are employed as youth workers to implement the programs across Derby and Fitzroy Crossing. The most popular program is basketball, gathering between 120-150 children each session.

Service gaps to meet local needs

Stakeholders highlighted a notable scarcity of programs aimed at developing or supporting parents and family members to enhance their own lives, and social and emotional wellbeing as a holistic means to improve outcomes for youth. This deficiency, particularly prevalent in Derby and echoed throughout the Kimberley, points to a significant service gap that will continue to contribute to the worsening situation of youth crime and street-presenting youth in the Kimberley. Addressing this gap is crucial to ensuring that interventions and

support for parents and family members are more effective, leading to lasting changes in the complex factors contributing to youth crime, such as unsafe alcohol and other drug use, and family domestic violence.



“We’ve got to do better at getting to these parents. That’s where all of these issues start from.”

In Derby, a primary priority to address gaps in existing services is the establishment of a safe house for youth who are unable to find an appropriate and secure place to stay. Government stakeholders and providers drew attention to the point that the outcomes of many of these programs are and will remain limited if ACCOs and other service providers are having to place kids back in their home environments which are neither appropriate nor safe, leading to more street-presenting youth and potential increases in youth crime. The shire seeks to provide services and programs to help alleviate the impacts of these scenarios beyond the hours of 11pm when they are likely to occur. However, stakeholders noted that services at this time, apart from those provided by the Shire and local WA Police, are limited.

Provider representatives also highlighted that there is growing demand for programs given the observable increases in engagement across all activities and events. Specifically, there is a notable demand for services and programs designed for children under the age of 8, highlighting an existing service gap within the local area for this demographic, particularly through the provision of a safety shelter for youth and young children.



“I think for Derby, we make no secret about the fact that we believe there’s two things required. The first is to have somewhere safe, a safe place to take young people. I think the second is to start doing the work with those families and those households in more detail.”

Timing of services

Stakeholders have indicated that the target age range for the program is 10 to 18, although younger children often seek to engage and are not turned away from participating in programs. Interview data suggests that approximately 90% of the program audience consists of Aboriginal children. Stakeholders have highlighted ongoing discussions among providers in Derby to explore solutions for hosting activities after 11 pm, as this period coincides with the peak of antisocial behaviour. Delivering programs and supports to youth beyond 11pm was noted as being an effective solution to decreasing antisocial behaviour by providing a fun alternative and distraction for youth, diverging them away from antisocial behaviour.



“Unfortunately for better or for worse, and it's often for worse, we're the only agencies working after those hours along with the police.”

Outcomes

Complementing the night patrol initiative, the Shire provided additional support to young people in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing through their various programs, including through sporting events, school holiday programs, a youth centre and community social events, which were facilitated between January and December 2021. Over 148 days, these activities engaged 4,472 attendees aged between 6 and 19 years of age. On average the service occupied 30 young people per day for each activity. Notably, these activities also included a community Christmas function, accommodating 300 attendees of all ages and a return to country bush tucker hunting activity for 27 young people. These positive attendance and engagement outcomes were noted as contributing to broader trends of high attendance across all programs and activities aimed at engaging youth in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.



“They’re attracting huge numbers of children, aside from the fact that it’s providing alternative entertainment for those children, it’s giving them a chance to get out of the house and to do something they like doing.”

Discussing the outcomes of the youth drop-in service, one provider emphasised its positive impact by keeping local young people engaged and occupied in enjoyable recreational activities. By providing suitable diversions for participants who may be bored and disengaged, the service effectively prevents them from engaging in antisocial behaviour or presenting on the street. This, in turn, has broader positive implications for initiatives aimed at reducing youth crime and curbing overall antisocial behaviour, contributing to incremental yet increased individual and community safety.



“That is the one thing at the moment that’s actually working extremely well. As I said, you can go to the basketball courts on a Thursday or Friday night or a Saturday night, and we have youth workers putting on a whole range of programs.”

Broader positive outcomes

Beyond the engagement of young people in Derby, the programs and activities delivered by the shire have accrued broader positive impacts, primarily the servicing of locals that are not specifically youth but still in need of support, and the employment of local Aboriginal people who deliver programs and services.

Servicing beyond youth

Service provider stakeholders noted that the significant demand for support services and engaging programs within the local community has meant that broader community members have sought to engage in some of the recreational activities, where appropriate and consented to by the service provider staff. This most commonly occurs with younger demographics, with children ranging from 5 to 9 years old engaging with youth programs or being encouraged by their parents and family members to attend, participate, and keep occupied. As previously mentioned, where this occurs, service provider staff do not turn participants away out of their duty of care and willingness to support local community members. Instead, these community members are embraced and encouraged to participate if they wish to keep occupied and potentially away from engaging in antisocial behaviour or youth crime.



“The other thing we find is, although the program technically is for youth between 10 and 18, we often have youth much, much younger than that, either being dropped off by parents to the programs, or just walking in themselves off the street. We’re not turning them away, because the positives of that far outweigh the negatives.”

Employing local Aboriginal people

An additional overarching positive outcome of the programs’ implementation and delivery in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing has been the sustained employment of local Aboriginal people. The opportunities for employment generated by these programs have allowed local Aboriginal people to remain actively involved and employed for the betterment of their community. This engagement has not only fulfilled individuals but has also provided them with a means to give back to their community through program delivery while earning income, thereby contributing to broader community and economic development.



“This work and that’s been very, very beneficial in assisting the shire in employing our local Indigenous youth workers and non-Indigenous youth workers, locals in both Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.”

Night patrol - Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation (Derby)

Design

Following several community forums, Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation (ENAC) designed a Derby youth night patrol service and the Hoops after Dark Basketball Program. Combined, the programs would be able to engage and keep youth active, provide food, and then utilise patrols to provide safe and accessible transport to youth to ensure their return home or to a safe space. The collaboration and alignment between these initiatives were specifically designed to ensure that local youth could engage in fun activities that would use up their energy, making them less likely to engage in antisocial behaviour or present on the street at night. The provider also offered referrals, welfare checks, and home visits for youth who were particularly at risk or who were presenting severe signs of limited social and emotional wellbeing.



“Bringing in activities like Hoops After Dark, those recreational activities, those sporting activities, tying in a meal with it as well, these kids go home tired and with a full stomach.”

Informed by community consultation and meetings

The specific design between ENAC's programs, along with broader collaboration with other services and programs in Derby, was informed by community consultation and meetings that occurred within Derby to discuss the increasing crime rates and street presence of youth. From these meetings, the opportunities to engage and tire youth out through fun activities, as well as provide food to keep youth fed, were key drivers for the design and implementation of collaboration between ENAC's services.



“Derby's night patrol came about after a raft of community meetings and uproar about the youth's crime issues.”

Providing food has become an integral part of ENAC's design and implementation practice. It was noticed that some children would specifically seek out the night patrol or attend Hoops After Dark with the hope of obtaining food. This strategy has evolved into an effective engagement tool, enticing children to actively participate in the service. Importantly, this approach is a recurrent theme in numerous programs across the region, with hunger widely identified as a foundational motivation for engaging in criminal behaviour, such as burglary.



“We still find to a large degree that kids are not getting enough food, that they are hungry. And we use that snack as an engaging tool.”

Implementation

ENAC identified that the implementation of these programs was as intended due to their experience facilitating community programs focused on individual and community development. Some ENAC representatives highlighted the positive and continued role of the Department in continuing to support ENAC and consistently check in with program facilitators and managers to ensure that the available resources are provided to ensure successful program implementation outcomes.

The programs are recognised as culturally safe because all employees in both the night patrol and Hoops after Dark are local Aboriginal people with strong connections to community, culture, and Country. Resources

such as the Shire recreation centre have acted as a program enabler. Providers outlined that the biggest investment with positive outcomes is hiring and training local Aboriginal staff, due to their extensive and often lived experience. This enables positive rapport to be established quickly between youth and provider staff, which in turn enables better social and emotional wellbeing support and the provision of positive mentors and role models for young people. This mentoring approach to engaging young people was implemented to ensure that youth were engaged empathetically without resorting instantly to disciplinary actions to enforce good behaviour, instead seeking to engage in positive and constructive conversations.



“They’ll often just sit down and have a conversation with them, and just see how they’re going, where they’re heading and what’s going on, and if they’re safe and if they’re okay.”

Administrative burden

Administrative responsibilities related to rollover administration duties and grant agreements were identified as a significant burden for the implementation and continued delivery of programs, diverting attention from program-focused activities for providers. The potential for more flexibility in the procurement and rollover processes of services was suggested as a future enabler for the program, allowing providers to focus more on program delivery. Providers also emphasised that enhanced collaboration and support from the WA Police could empower them to better address youth crime. This would involve sharing information about crime statistics and identifying hotspots to facilitate more effective intervention strategies.

Outcomes

In Derby, ENAC facilitated night patrols between June and September 2021, and January 2022 through to June 2022. Between October and December 2021, the service was not funded, and no patrols were recorded. Each week, patrols ran from Wednesday through to Sunday night from 9pm and 3am in order to fully accommodate the transportation of youth and address the large street presence of youth within these times. Four to eight staff members were utilised on each shift, with six of the staff being Aboriginal to provide continuous check-ins and social and emotional wellbeing support. Across its programs, ENAC adopts a ‘no wrong door’ approach by ensuring that it can extend assistance to all young people who reach out to them and ask for support without exclusion. This policy facilitates an inclusive, supportive environment and establishes positive rapport between ENAC staff and youth, who can have confidence that ENAC staff can and will support them at any time. The continuous delivery of the night patrols and other programs has had an observable positive impact in reducing youth crime and decreasing the prominence of street-presenting youth.

A total of 2,314 interactions with young people were recorded over the 206 day period, averaging 11 per patrol. Follow-up services included referrals to the Department of Health and Human Services for 114 children as part of the Remote School Attendance Strategy. A small number of young people were also referred to the Department of Child Protection and WA Police for welfare checks, highlighting the cross-service collaboration to provide holistic support to ensure the wellbeing of youth in Derby.



“We have removed kids from antisocial behaviour, we are linking up with recreational services. Our service, without a doubt, is contributing to the reduction in the crime rate in Derby.”



“We are reducing the crime rates in Derby, without a doubt. We are taking street present kids off the street and taking them to places of safety that either they identify.”



Section 5

Fitzroy Crossing

Introduction

This section discusses programs that were funded by the KJJS in Fitzroy Crossing. The following providers received funding under the KJJS to run a range of programs:

- Shire of Derby West Kimberley – range of programs
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre – The Yiriman Project
- Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation – Youth Connexion night patrol

Population context:

- The population in the town of Fitzroy Crossing is approximately 1,022 people.
- Approximately 25% (256) are aged 0-19.
- Approximately 60% of people identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Source: (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021c).

Between 2021-2023 Q3

In Fitzroy Crossing the KJJS funded:



Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC)

Design

Founded and administered through KALACC, the Yiriman Project was established in 2000 with the primary objective of offering assistance and opportunities to at-risk Aboriginal youth to undergo personal development and to become positive contributors to their families and communities. This is achieved through the implementation of cultural and on-country initiatives, with a specific emphasis on fostering the intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge and practices to the oncoming generations.

The Yiriman Project's inception can be attributed to the wisdom and initiative of Elders representing four Kimberley language groups: Nyikina, Mangala, Karajarri, and Walmajarri. Driven by their deep concern for the wellbeing of the younger generation, and the prevalent challenges of self-harm and substance abuse among youth, the Elders recognised the need for a space where young people could distance themselves from

adverse influences and drivers of antisocial behaviour to instead engage with alternative activities that could enhance their cultural connection and identity.

Key aspects of the Yiriman Project include:

- **Cultural Education:** The program provides opportunities for young people to learn about their heritage, including language, art, music, dance and storytelling.
- **Land and Community Connection:** This can include activities such as bush trips, community projects and learning from Elders.
- **Mentorship:** Elders and community leaders play a significant role in guiding and supporting young participants, sharing their wisdom and nurturing a sense of belonging.
- **Leadership Development:** Yiriman aims to foster leadership skills among participants, empowering them to take on positive roles within their communities.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Yiriman acknowledges the importance of holistic wellbeing, addressing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

As indicated above, the program's priorities are strongly influenced by community consultation and needs, given that program was founded and guided by Elders to address the complex causes of youth street presence and antisocial behaviour. Led by Aboriginal Elders and community members, the program ensures cultural safety and effectively engages its target audience through ensuring that the cultural activities and other programs are Aboriginal-led and facilitated. Specific cultural activities include visits to local spiritual sites, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and stories, fishing and camping.

One of the distinctive features of the Yiriman Project is the use of cultural mentors or "skin bosses" who guide the participants on their journey. These mentors, often respected elders within the community, play a crucial role in passing down traditional knowledge, storytelling, and cultural practices to the younger generation. This intergenerational exchange fosters a sense of pride and identity, reinforcing the importance of cultural continuity. Notably, the Yiriman Project is inclusive, welcoming children from all skin or language groups to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to better enhance their cultural identity without fear of exclusion.



"Let's say there are ten young people who are identified to go on this back to country trip... they will go with a group, back to a significant cultural site... they will be told the story, language, myth, and the song lines that pertain to that place, and cultural processes in terms of artifact making."

Implementation

At the early implementation of the program, KALACC facilitated some dance camps and on-country trips with a number of young people, some of whom had been referred by the WA Police and other services. The camps are led by Aboriginal Elders and community members who help facilitate, provide transport and operate the trips to ensure the safe and successful facilitation of activities for youth.

Feedback from stakeholders highlighted that the Yiriman Project's success is gauged by community buy-in and the strong appreciation that community members have for its various cultural programs. Given the active involvement of Aboriginal community members, Elders, and referrals, it is seen as meeting these success criteria. Dance performances associated with the program also have the capacity to draw in several hundred attendees, indicating a strong community interest in the Project. The Yiriman Project recognises the importance of community involvement and collaboration. It actively engages with local communities, schools, and organisations to ensure a broader impact and to create a network of support for the participants. This community-centred approach enhances the sustainability and effectiveness of the project, as it becomes an

integral part of the social fabric. This high level of community engagement signifies the positive reception and relevance of the Yiriman Project within the community.

One of the key aspects of the Yiriman Project is its focus on addressing social issues faced by Aboriginal youth, such as substance abuse, mental health challenges, and disconnection from their cultural roots. Through a combination of traditional cultural practices and contemporary approaches, the project aims to empower young people to overcome these challenges and build a stronger sense of identity and belonging.

Opportunities for improved implementation

Providers suggested the majority of the program historically has operated with minimal Department of Justice involvement. Opportunities for improvement included improved referral input and greater provision of wrap-around support. According to providers, such improvements would empower participating young people to make lasting improvements in their behaviour and wellbeing. Stakeholders felt that while the camps and programs can be impactful, they are not designed to solely reduce likelihood of antisocial or criminal offending. For example, case management was suggested as a potential complementary element, thus creating an avenue for establishing a referral relationship with the Yiriman Project.

The program benefits significantly from funding flexibility, serving as a facilitator for its successful implementation. Given the variable environmental conditions, especially during the fluctuating wet season in the region, the program necessitates adaptability in its trips. This adaptability extends to adjusting timing, locations, and plan details as needed. Flexibility in funding allocation is crucial, for example, enabling redirection between dance camps and on-country trips based on community demand and availability. Moreover, considering the variability in factors such as access to food, transport, and equipment, funding flexibility is instrumental in addressing the challenges associated with Country trips during certain periods.



“There’s potential to make change so long as the funding is longer. We struggle to make a continuous impact when we’re constantly scrambling as to whether we’ll still be here in 6 months.”

Outcomes

The Yiriman Project aims enhance the sharing of cultural knowledge to youth, the establishment of intergenerational connections, and the fostering of an enhanced sense of self and community among participants. Stakeholders have observed that, following back-to-Country trips, the young participants exhibited an improved sense of self and overall cultural identity through their participation in these activities, indicating a positive impact on the individuals involved, aligning with the program’s intended outcomes.

Cultural outcomes

Adding to these positive outcomes were enhanced cultural connections and relationships between Elders, prominent community members and young people. Stakeholders outlined that these outcomes had been continuously observed and celebrated by Elders. Stakeholders placed emphasis on the important value of Aboriginal Elders’ support for the program. The transmission of cultural stories, language, and historical narratives has proven instrumental in aiding young individuals in the development of their sense of identity and community belonging. The Yiriman Project have played a pivotal role in breaking the participants’ routine patterns of activities, replacing them with meaningful cultural engagement. This shift empowers young people to reflect on their role within the community and enhances their awareness of social and emotional wellbeing.



“The Elders themselves see these good outcomes and love discussing them and it’s hard to overstate the importance of that.”

Improved behavioural outcomes

An additional outcome observed was behavioural improvement, particularly noted by the WA Police. Given that some young individuals are referred by law enforcement, the WA Police maintained ongoing engagement and reported notable positive changes in participants. Specifically, it was noted that they had observed improved mood and cooperation among individuals who had been involved in the program. As was maintained, participants appeared to be happier and demonstrated less reactivity in their engagements with WA Police compared to their prior behaviour. Other stakeholders noted that participants often report increased self-esteem, improved mental wellbeing, and a renewed sense of purpose.



“We were able to do some good things. To provide some short-term outcomes which were of benefit to the Elders and to the young people.”



“The greatest testament actually came from the police who reported a greater sense of engagement between the police service themselves and the young people and their families for some weeks after the camp.”

The success stories emerging from the Yiriman Project are a testament to its transformative impact for young people in the area.

Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation (MWWAC)

Design

MWWAC manages the Youth Connexion Night Patrol, a service that operates seven nights a week. On weekdays, the service runs from 6:30pm to 10pm, while on weekends, it extends its operating hours, typically continuing from 6:30pm until late.

These hours are flexible depending on the busyness of the patrol or the specific circumstances or events occurring within the community such as an increased youth street presence, sorry business, or natural disasters such as the unprecedented floods which impacted the Fitzroy area in early 2023.

The Night Patrol service encompasses the provision of food for youth and, when staffing and general workload permit, may involve some degree of case management. The overarching objective of the Night Patrol is to ensure that young people have a means to get off the street and be safely transported home safely before they become engaged in any antisocial behaviour and criminal activity.



“We provide food for our young people. We do some case management as part of the service, as well. And then, the end goal is to drop those young people home safely.”

Due to the prominence of inter-community travel in the area, the Night Patrol operates within the immediate Fitzroy Crossing township and in the surrounding communities, the furthest of which is approximately 30km from the town centre. This acknowledges the significance of addressing safety and wellbeing concerns in the broader geographic context.

The Night Patrol is typically staffed with three individuals each night, fulfilling different roles such as driving or providing pastoral care and additional support to local young people. This staffing arrangement commonly includes one driver and two support staff who actively engage with youth, fostering relationships and addressing any potential incidents, particularly those involving antisocial behaviour, such as alcohol and other

drug-related issues. Staff ensure that food and a first aid kit is always stocked and prepared before going out on patrol.

While providing a safer transport option for youth, individuals who may engage in antisocial activity are not discouraged or banned from using the service. However, information and insights regarding these individuals would be relayed onto another service or person involved in the young person's life as a matter of duty of care. By sharing pertinent information, the service aims to contribute to a more comprehensive and collaborative effort in addressing the challenges faced by young people in the community.



"It's complex, but the reality is young people in Fitzroy Crossing don't have enough to do and if young people in Fitzroy Crossing don't have enough to do, imagine when you go out to those [remote] communities. There's nothing happening for those kids."

Implementation

Commencing in July 2022, the Night Patrol was implemented as a joint venture with the Department of Justice where funding was provided through the KJJS. Stakeholders maintained that the KJJS funding was instrumental in establishing the services and was effectively implemented through the timely recruitment of the necessary staff and the ability to use existing vehicles within the MWWAC fleet.



"The implementation went well with the service and we've appreciated all the support and funding we have received from the Department in that endeavour."

No other funding is received from other sources by MWWAC to suitably fund the service. Stakeholders were supportive and praising of the collaborative work between the Department and MWWAC on the implementation of funding and the service more broadly.



"We're really grateful as an organisation, for the support that we get through the strategy, with our Night Patrol and this Connexion program. That will be a springboard for us in terms of our work on safe spaces for young people as well."

The emphasis on partnership and collaboration, as well as the provider's positive praise towards the implementation of the service and the Department's role within the establishment, warrants continual acknowledgment and recognition.

Outcomes

According to MWWAC representatives, the Night Patrol continues to accrue positive outcomes for the local area, primarily through the reduction of street-presenting young people in Fitzroy Crossing and active young person engagement with MWWAC and the Night Patrol team. This has occurred not only been through the delivery of the Night Patrol, but also through the efforts of staff in developing relationships with the young people that engage the service, as well as their parents and family members who frequently display their gratitude towards the positive role the service is playing in the lives of young people, particularly through the provision of safe transportation and the engagement by youth support workers.



"We are seeing less and less of that antisocial behaviour on our streets."



"We've seen less and less youth on the street over time. I think that's because the staff on Night Patrol have built a relationship, not only with the young people, but also, with their families, as well."

Certain staff members bring experience in support work or education, including roles at the local school. Stakeholders have noted an unexpected positive outcome where young people engage with school staff on the night patrol in a different and constructive manner. Notably, the staff consists of local Aboriginal individuals, contributing to cultural safety and effective rapport-building with the youth.

Looking ahead, the provider has expressed that future benefits could be derived from training or upskilling. The suggested areas for upskilling include a deeper understanding of complex trauma and proficiency in de-escalation techniques.

Partnership with other services

Another favourable outcome of the Night Patrol is the sustained partnership and collaboration between MWWAC and other local services. This collaboration is evident in the facilitation of referrals and the provision of wraparound support for street present young people. The achievement is attributed to the deliberate efforts of MWWAC, other local services and the WA Police to work together and actively share information relevant to the provision of pastoral care and wraparound support services in efforts to decrease antisocial behaviour and youth crime.



"There are less young people out on the street, which is great, and I think that can be directly attributed to our service and the collaboration we have with other services."

Part of the collaboration with other services includes referrals for supports for specific individuals or groups exhibiting antisocial behaviour, as well as continued communication when establishing events and identifying the transportation needs of young people who attend these events. For example, the Shire may host recreation events in which the safe transportation of young community members both to and from the event will require collaboration with MWWAC and the Night Patrol staff.



"The Shire run a series of programs and we support them by going up there and helping out, but also taking those younger kids home at the end of the program."

Partnership and collaboration with local WA Police services is particularly important in identifying any incidents in the community that could impact on the delivery of the Night Patrol or the safety of MWWAC staff. Such incidents may include sorry business, the incarceration of certain young people, or physical or verbal disputes which may escalate communal tensions or antisocial behaviour. For MWWAC staff, obtaining this information is crucial as it can potentially guide decisions on Night Patrol routes, identify areas that may need to be approached with caution, and prioritise individuals who should be engaged and provided transportation to prevent further escalation.



"At the beginning of each shift, we check in with the police, we're out on the road, because it's, really, often only the police and the Night Patrol staff, is there anything happening that we need to be aware of."

Provider representatives noted that the general provision of the Night Patrol and the active collaboration and partnership between services are directly contributing to an overall reduction in street-presenting youth and antisocial behaviour in the Fitzroy Crossing area.

Opportunities for improvement

Despite the effective design, successful implementation and positive outcomes of the Night Patrol, MWWAC representatives have highlighted several opportunities to improve the provision of wraparound support services, particularly through the establishment of a safe space and the extra provision of services throughout the Fitzroy Valley, particularly in more remote communities.

Additional support services

There are also ongoing opportunities to provide other additional support services in the Fitzroy Valley, according to provider representatives, particularly the provision of a Night Patrol services to individuals beyond the youth demographic, and additional engagement activities and programs for more remote communities, which are currently limited.



“We are regularly getting requests from the broader community about establishing a general service. We have explored this option so we can service the broader community through a Night Patrol and this process is ongoing.”

According to a provider representative, there is a growing need and communal interest to establish a Night Patrol that services the broader community outside of the youth demographic. This is informed by community feedback and regular requests of individuals over 18 years old requesting safe transportation throughout the area. MWWAC staff navigate these requests through continual communication and negotiation that the service is only for young people, which can generate negative responses from other community members seeking to use the service. Despite potential challenges, these requests are seen as positive opportunities and as openings for the establishment of new services and the potential provision of additional funding to address community needs.

A provider representative offered insights into the broader service landscape for both young people and other community members in Fitzroy Crossing. They highlighted that each program and service presents unique opportunities and support structures for community members. However, to enhance their effectiveness and expand their reach, these programs require adequate funding and resources. There is a specific need to increase the regularity of services and extend their reach to more areas, particularly in more remote communities within the Fitzroy Valley. This is particularly crucial in places where recreational programs and support services may be limited, emphasising the importance of resource allocation to address the unique needs of these communities.



“I think they’re all fantastic programs, but there’s just not enough of them. So, we need a program that, and maybe a couple of programs that run every night. We need things that, programs that go out into communities as well, because most of the services is here in town, so there’s even less for kids to do out in communities.”

The provision of additional supports and services throughout the Fitzroy Valley was highlighted as increasing and complementing the positive impacts accrued through existing services such as the Night Patrol and those delivered by the Shire. Recognising the multifaceted challenges faced by the community, the expansion of services is seen as crucial to better address the diverse and evolving needs of the young people across the region.

Safe space

Similar to other Kimberley locations, there is an ongoing need for the provision of a safe space, such as a safety shelter, to support young people in Fitzroy Crossing. This need has been recognised both in the routine operation of the Night Patrol and through direct feedback from young people who have used the service. These young individuals have expressed the necessity of a safe space in both formal and informal contexts. In instances where they prefer not to return home, they seek alternative and secure accommodation. This underscores the importance of having a safe space where young people can continue engaging with youth support workers to enhance their social and emotional wellbeing.



“A real priority in the Fitzroy Valley is a safe place, so those young people, if they're not ready to go home, or if when we take them home, it's not safe, or there's nobody there, that we can actually bring them to a location in Fitzroy Crossing that is staffed, that is safe.”



“So often, we're picking up those kids, we're feeding them, we're mentoring and supporting them, and then at the end of the night, they don't want to go home... there's nowhere here, there's nowhere at Fitzroy Crossing that you can leave a young person.”

Provider representatives elaborated that the safe space did not have to specifically provide accommodation but could be a short-term safe space for youth to reside in temporarily where they could also have a shower, wash clothes, or have a rest. It was further noted that the establishment of a short-term safe space would significantly complement the services already provided through the Night Patrol and contribute to a more effective wraparound support network for young people in the Fitzroy Valley.



Section 6

Halls Creek

Introduction

This section discusses programs that were funded by the KJJS in Halls Creek. The following providers received funding under the KJJS to run a range of programs including:

- Olabud Doogethu – Youth Engagement Night Officers and On Track program
- Aboriginal Legal Service Western Australia (ALSWA) - Youth Engagement Program

Population context:

- The population in the town of Halls Creek is approximately 3,603 people.
- Around 35% (1,261) are aged 0-19.
- Approximately 78% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Source: (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021d).

Between 2021-2023 Q3

In Halls Creek the KJJS funded:



Shire of Halls Creek - Youth Engagement Night Officer and On Track Program

Design

The Shire of Halls Creek, in collaboration with surrounding Aboriginal remote and town communities, is leading WA's inaugural Justice Reinvestment Site, "Olabud Doogethu: Smart Justice in the Heart of the Kimberley." This initiative, translating to "all of us together" in Kriol, is led by the Shire of Halls Creek and focuses on reducing the involvement of local youth in the criminal justice system.

In response to escalating criminal activities in 2019, particularly in commercial areas, the community launched early intervention programs. Key components of the project for young people are stated to include:

- Youth Engagement Night Officers (YENO): YENO engages young individuals on the streets at night on weekdays, redirecting them in collaboration with WA Police.

- On Track Program, an alternative learning program lead by Aboriginal community members to teach disengaged and at-risk young people about culture and Country.
- Cultural Connection and Empowerment: Promoting cultural connection and empowerment through involvement in program design, economic empowerment initiatives, and integration of older Aboriginal community members as role models.

The aims of Olabud Doogethu are to address the root causes of young people offending as a means of steering the community away from the justice system. This stems from widely held beliefs that previous systems had failed and that a more culturally appropriate, safe, and supportive approach was needed. Similarly, the On Track Program comprises culturally appropriate alcohol and drug services and diversionary options integrated into pre-sentence orders. Referrals for the On Track Program are received from the Department's Youth Justice Services.

The nationally accredited Certificate II in Mibala Learning Country was designed as an alternative education pathway specifically for Gija and Jaru young people in the Halls Creek area, with potential benefits for other language groups. Developed by Olabud Doogethu, the course aims to nurture children's sense of identity, fostering a stronger connection to their culture and facilitating their re-engagement in the educational system.

Implementation

Olabud Doogethu received initial funding for one year from the local government and Lotterywest before the funding from KJJS became available. In addition to KJJS funding, the program has secured financial support from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development through Royalties for Regions.

When engaged, local stakeholders indicated a communication gap had occurred which related to the (then) McGowan Government election commitment. Providers expressed the opinion that the election commitment for a drug and alcohol diversionary program did not align with the community's identified priority need, which was education.



“We have Engagement Night Officers, Case Intervention Officers, behavioural specialists, alternative education workers and diversionary workers.”

As suggested by several ACCO staff members, success for the KJJS entails achieving effective coordination and implementation of activity among service providers and ACCOs in the community. This coordination would result in enhanced information sharing and a more integrated structure. However, observations indicate that various services presently function independently, with limited willingness to collaborate for the collective benefit of the community and Aboriginal young people.

Success also involves ensuring appropriate early interventions for all young people and engaging family members to enhance their confidence and capacity to become active and supportive community members, parents, and family members. This is particularly crucial considering the in-home factors leading Aboriginal young people to appear on the streets, such as issues with alcohol and other drugs, food insecurity, and domestic and family violence. ACCO staff members highlighted the importance of maintaining service continuity under the KJJS, providing young people consistent access to platforms and programs for ongoing engagement. Stakeholders also stressed the necessity for continuous evaluation and data acquisition to assess the effectiveness of these programs in serving young people and the community.

Moreover, demonstration of real progress was seen to entail securing funding not just for programs but also for appropriate facilities, guaranteeing the safe and continuing engagement and occupation of Aboriginal young people in the community. These desired facilities were stated to include a water park, a youth centre, and a work shed where young community members could acquire transferable trade and craft skills.

Outcomes

The project outlines six outcomes to foster stronger communities and resilient families, with the overarching aim of reducing youth involvement in the criminal justice system. These include implementing local solutions, strengthening communities, supporting families and young people, enhancing the justice system, building community capacity, and facilitating collaborative actions among local and regional groups and agencies.

Between July 2021 and June 2022, Olabud Doogethu conducted YENO night patrols in Halls Creek. Each patrol covered a 10 hour period between 8pm and 6am, with eight staff engaged each night. A total of 2,334 interactions with young people were recorded on 361 patrol nights, with 501 young people transported home. On average, 6.5 interactions were recorded per night. For the first two quarters, the number of home visits were not recorded, so the 12-month total is underestimated.

Between 2017 and 2022, juvenile offending in Halls Creek increased more than threefold, although a slight reduction was evident between 2021 and 2022.

Community sentiment

Community sentiment regarding the effectiveness of the YENO program differed from the opinions of providers. Individuals interviewed expressed the view that the programs in Halls Creek were not effectively addressing juvenile offending and antisocial behaviour. Multiple ACCO staff members noted that the KJJS has had minimal impact on the rates of crime committed by Aboriginal young people. They further stated that despite multiple years of the strategy, substantial funding, and broader community efforts, challenges in the community, in many respects, had worsened with minimal positive outcomes.



“The crime statistics are exploding. You ask me whether this KJJS is working? Go and have a look at our statistics. It’s pretty clear that it’s not.”

Stakeholders also conveyed that crime has more recently transitioned from commercial areas to residential areas. They shared the perspective that due to Halls Creek's small size, young people are not easily dissuaded from returning to areas from which the YENO Program may have intervened. Community members expressed the belief that the response should focus on addressing the root causes of criminal offending and antisocial behaviour, rather than merely shifting young people between different areas.



“The offending pattern has changed three years on, whereas it’s [now] a lot more cars and residential probably as a byproduct of that [YENO] service.”

The community expressed concern for developing the capacity of Aboriginal people and families to address the multifaceted issues contributing to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system. They emphasised that current programs appear to fall short in developing the capacity of individuals to make better choices, especially concerning issues like alcohol and other drugs, and to take care of themselves. The sentiment is that existing programs offer temporary measures for young people presenting on the streets but may not be effectively equipping them with the skills and support needed for sustained positive change.



“It’s been running for a number of years, but have we got any change? I can’t say we have.”

These sentiments underscores the widely held view that a more comprehensive and systemic approach is essential to tackle the root causes contributing to crime in the community.

Increased employment for Aboriginal people

Providers further highlighted a positive outcome to be the increased employment of local Aboriginal people. This was considered a valuable alternative to hiring non-local or outsourced employees, which necessitated training and upskilling, and fostered positive relationships with the Halls Creek community.

In sum, while the purpose and anticipated reach of YENO and On Track appears commendable, community members in Halls Creek highlighted the necessity for comprehensive, location-specific community programs that effectively engage and connect Aboriginal youth to their culture. The stated current lack of relevant services and programs results in a scenario where young people experience boredom and disengagement, ultimately leading to the expression of undesirable behaviours like vandalism and stealing as a "source of entertainment" amidst ongoing boredom.



"We're just continually taking away the space where offending is happening. We're pushing them back to residential. So that when they get to the residential families, they're going to look after the issues and not services."

Community members also advocated for programs aimed at building the capacity of youth, fostering the development of transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership, respect for Elders and common courtesy. These members observed a distinct lack of these qualities locally and stressed the importance of initiatives that not only engage young people but also contribute to their personal and social development.



"The principles around Justice reinvestment are place-based, locally-led and designed programs and services."

Unintended outcomes

Some ACCO staff members viewed the ongoing issues of crime committed by Aboriginal youth as having an unintended positive outcome in the community. They cited this as creating greater awareness about the importance of appropriate youth services, particularly emphasising the need for a properly funded youth centre. The vision is to establish a space where young people can go, spend time in a safe environment, and get off the streets.

ACCO staff members cited several opportunities to improve community outcomes and to raise the profile of the juvenile justice strategy. These mainly centred around improving inter-agency collaboration, sharing positive outcomes from programs, and ensuring transparency about whether the programs under the KJJS are adequately staffed, funded, and delivered by the ACCOs receiving funding.

They also expressed the need for earlier interventions for Aboriginal young people and stressed the importance of providing direct services for all young people, not solely for those committing offenses or considered high risk. Community members were concerned by a perceived lack of early interventions in one community. There was a belief that the available outcomes for young people are limited to community service or incarceration if they continue to offend. This again underscores a call for more comprehensive and proactive measures to support youth, addressing their needs and challenges before they escalate into criminal behaviours.



"These kids are screaming out for help. How many times do these kids have to offend before they get some appropriate help."



Section 7

Kununurra

Introduction

This section discusses programs that have been funded by the KJJS for delivery in Kununurra in the East Kimberley. The following providers received funding to deliver their respective programs. These organisations include:

- North Regional TAFE - Young and Deadly program
- Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation – multiple programs

Population context:

- The population in Kununurra is approximately 4,515 people.
- Approximately 28% (1,264) of the population are aged 0-19.
- Approximately 29% of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Source: (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021f).

Between 2021-2023 Q3 In Kununurra the KJJS funded:



Young and Deadly program – North Regional TAFE (Broome and Kununurra)

Design

As previously mentioned in the preceding section detailing the Young and Deadly program in Broome, the initiative in Kununurra is administered by North Regional TAFE and is uniquely tailored to assist young individuals involved with the justice system in Kununurra. Initially created to prevent the placement of youth in the Banksia Hill Detention Centre, the program has expanded to include young people referred from Banksia Hill back into the community and includes a focus on comprehensive community reintegration through skill development and peer support for program participants. The program targets individuals between 14 years and 9 months and 18 years of age. It offers a range of skills including literacy, numeracy, leadership, and teamwork, as well as cultural activities, to develop and support program participants' transition back into the community.

The program leverages TAFE's resources for employment and skill development, showcasing opportunities, and engaging local entrepreneurs to provide insights into business ventures and local employment opportunities for youth to reside locally and contribute to the growth of the local economy.

Implementation

Managed by two female staff members in Kununurra, the Young and Deadly program places a strong emphasis on cultivating robust community relationships to address trauma and foster trust among program participants to allow them to further develop and flourish during and beyond the program. This focus is particularly crucial for participants who may have trauma associated with past engagement with educational institutions and a broader distrust of authority. To further develop these professional connections within the community, provider staff attend numerous community events and business development workshops to further strengthen connections, contributing to an environment of trust and reinforcing ties within the community which can be drawn on to support program participants during and after the program.

The Kununurra branch of the program plays a pivotal role in addressing a specific gap identified for female offenders in the area without the available supports to reintegrate back into the community, where supports for male youth offenders are expansive. This program provides similar but more tailored support for young female offenders to reintegrate back into the community, which ensures that the program is comprehensive and can meet the unique risks, needs, and various cultural considerations of young female offenders.

The program's success is underscored by its effectiveness in building trust between participants and provider staff through open and honest communication and relationship-building activities like meet and greets and ice breakers. Establishing this trusting foundation becomes a critical initial step in the program's efficacy. It allows participants to engage in the provided support and educational opportunities in a more meaningful way through an underlying trust and optimism that the program can and will support participants to make improvements.

Acknowledging the complex and sensitive nature of their work, program providers have advocated for increased professional development for staff to better cater to the needs of program participants, including providing essential trauma-informed, mental health support, and first aid training.

Outcomes

The program is noted for achieving positive outcomes, including reduced youth reoffending, successful transitions to jobs, attainment of driving learner's permits, improved social and emotional wellbeing of program participants and improved access to essential living resources including clothing and shelter. The program has been a catalyst for young people to return to TAFE for further vocational training, indicating a long-term impact for the personal and professional development of individuals beyond the conclusion of the program. The program has also fostered cultural engagement, with male participants engaging in Aboriginal lore systems and cultural activities through collaborations with external providers specialising in cultural engagement and activities.

Breaking down stigma

A notable unintended outcome of the program has been the continuous erosion of stigma among local youth and the broader community regarding offender rehabilitation programs and a pre-conceived notion that offenders will only continue to offend and are incapable of making improvements in their lives. The notable instance of program participants reintegrating and contributing back into the community have greatly contributed to this outcome.

Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation

Founded in 1979, Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation (KWAC) is a key resource centre that caters to three Aboriginal town communities and 23 outstation communities in the North East Kimberley region. The organisation is actively involved in various wellbeing and empowerment initiatives, with a notable focus on programs that integrate 'on-country' healing. KWAC recognises the significance of these initiatives in fostering cultural reconnection and overall wellbeing.

KWAC holds a crucial position in the community through the provision of two essential services for the KJJS. Firstly, it operates the Kununurra Youth Hub, providing a dedicated space tailored to the needs of young individuals. Furthermore, KWAC serves as the facilitator for a network of organisations delivering youth-focused programs and activities.

Design

Through the KJJS, KWAC provided the following programs for youth in Kununurra:

- Back to Country Camps
- Back on Track BMX Program
- Bush Tucker nursery

The design of these programs stemmed from a program delivered by KWAC known as the Strong Men's Program focused on providing support and reintegration services to adult males. However, with increases in youth crime, KWAC identified that more programs to engage youth and to positively influence behaviours were required in the Kununurra area with a specific focus on cultural connection and returning to Country.

The initial design and implementation of these programs were at the directive of Elders and other community consultations undertaken which further highlighted a need to implement programs targeted at youth to provide social and emotional wellbeing support. With KWAC's expansive connections to community, KWAC also sought to implement these programs in conjunction with a range of other programs aimed at providing holistic support to parents and family members of youth who are engaged in antisocial behaviour.



"The issues of youth crime are so complex that we are actually not solely targeting the youth, but also their parents and family members so they can develop and improve together as a family and provide positive role models for the youth."

The initial design of these programs had a distinctive cultural emphasis which has and continues to be popular among youth, particularly on-country camp experiences. KWAC implemented conditional attendance to these activities with specific at-risk youth to incentivise positive behaviour. This was a clear expectation set by KWAC with youth at the programs' implementation, outlining that if poor behaviour or criminal activity was evident among youth, those individuals would be unable to attend activities.

Implementation

The implementation of the programs in Kununurra occurred as intended according to KWAC representatives. The planning and collaboration with Elders and Community members, as well as representatives from the Department ensured that each phase of the implementation process was executed effectively. This success is paramount as it hints at the programs' ability to address specific needs and deliver the desired outcomes for youth in Kununurra. Despite the positive implementation of programs, KWAC staff highlighted the difficulties in servicing and maintaining vehicles required to transport youth out on-country and to successfully facilitate cultural activities, citing extensive difficulties in servicing and maintaining vehicles in Kununurra. This caused

some delays and activities to be postponed creating some frustration and anger among young people who on occasions lash out if camps are unable to be facilitated as promised by the provider. In future implementations, KWAC staff emphasised the importance of ensuring that vehicle purchase and maintenance are accounted for within the budgets of programs to ensure the smooth implementation and successful deliver of specific programs.



“Vehicles seriously need to be funded and assessed in future, because if we can’t drive these kids and equipment around, we don’t have a program to run.”

Positive role of the Department

KWAC representatives outlined that the programs have been implemented as intended attributing this positive outcome to the collaboration with the Department and their representatives and their continuous support and communication. Multiple providers noted their support for individual Department representatives who are continuously checking in on the progression of programs, attributing this continued investment to the successful implementation of programs as they were originally intended.



“Everyone from the Department has been great and continuously checking in to see how things are going. It really supported the implementation of everything.”

However, KWAC staff also noted that greater collaboration between KJJS providers and the department could result in greater future success and a more streamlined program implementation, as strengths and opportunities for improvement could be collectively identified. KWAC noted that they were unaware of who was receiving funding under the KJJS and how programs and services could collaborate in the future to provide more holistic supports to youth. They also highlighted the urgent need to improve the socialisation of findings and recommendations from previous reports and work done on the KJJS.



“If we’re trying to get all these kids engaged, we’ll be much better off working together and mapping to see who’s doing what to determine how we can better implement and coordinate these programs.”

Opportunities for improvement

KWAC representatives noted several opportunities for improvement within their existing programs that could both better meet local needs and facilitate long-lasting change. These opportunities stem from limited cross-service collaboration with current KJJS programs, that in turn decreases the depth and length of impact that programs have on youth behaviour and crime. These opportunities were noted by KWAC representatives as either requiring future alterations to existing programs and funding or improved collaboration with other services to fill the gaps.

Parent and family engagement

KWAC representatives highlighted that targeted support for parents and family members is a significant gap with their current service provision, either through their own programs or across other services. While services do exist to support parents, KWAC staff noted that programs targeting youth and parents could work more collaboratively to provide additional holistic support and address some of the underlying issues causing antisocial behaviour in, and street presence of, young people. Extensive effort is made by KWAC to keep track of what is occurring in community and among certain families and how this information could be used to inform support for specific at-risk youth.



“We always keep an eye on things going on in community and seek to support any individuals or group of youth severely affected by it.”



“There's always an underlying problem with these kids. Usually, it's not the child, really, their crime is a biproduct of what's happening at home.”

Outcomes

KWAC operated Back to Country trips between January and December 2021. During each of the 32 single-day visits, on average five young people returned to Country on trips, supported by three staff members. KWAC also operated BMX On Track from December 2021 to September 2022. The sporting activity program ran for a 14-day period, with 11 attendees on average each day, also supported by three staff members. The number of young people engaged for each program is unable to be determined from current data. However, despite the limited quantitative outcomes of these programs, there are still numerous positive outcomes resulting from the delivery of the programs under the KJJS.

Improvements to behaviour

KWAC staff noted that the facilitation of programs has led to positive behaviour changes in individual youth. By emphasising essential skills such as teamwork and leadership, the programs have empowered youth to make significant improvements in their behaviour and interactions with others. Through engaging activities and experiential learning opportunities, participants develop a strong sense of camaraderie and collaboration, breaking down barriers that may have hindered their social and emotional wellbeing. As they master the intricacies of teamwork, these youth not only enhance their ability to work effectively with others but also cultivate leadership qualities to make improvements in themselves that could shift away from engaging in antisocial behaviour and presenting on the street. KWAC representatives noted that small incremental improvements in the behaviour of individuals gives a glimpse into the potential long-term impact of the programs.



“We are confident that they will produce change over time. We just have to be consistent and ensure that it is a joint effort between all of us.”



“Kids engage well in our programs and we've seen overtime that their behaviour does improve if we give them something to work towards like going out on country.”

Cultural connection

A tremendously positive outcome of these programs has been the enhanced cultural connections that Aboriginal youth in Kununurra have obtained as a result of their continued engagement in these programs.

ACCO staff noted that there have been numerous successes under KJJS programs in Kununurra. These include decreased street presence of young people, increased participation in sporting and cultural activities, and Aboriginal young people feeling more connected to their culture and Country. Better cultural connection was attributed to young people participating in cultural education camps, as well as the presence of an Aboriginal mentor who can help the young person make better decisions for their social and emotional wellbeing. This was also mentioned by KWAC representatives, who emphasised the importance of providing opportunities for young people to seek peer support and mentorship from staff who maintain deep cultural and community connections. These staff members may additionally be role models for young people to aspire to.



“Having Aboriginal mentors showing these kids that there is a better way to go about things than to spend your nights on the street. It’s hard to describe how valuable that is for these kids.”

This spoke to broader cultural benefits of having Aboriginal staff deliver programs to Aboriginal youth, as one ACCO staff member felt that an intangible benefit was the personal and professional development that Aboriginal mentors and staff receive when they have a platform to deliver programs and impart wisdom on the next generation of youth. This is significantly impactful given the cultural importance of passing down knowledge and teaching younger people to be positive contributors to the community, highlighting that the programs benefits are not only confined to youth participants who attend programs, but also to mentors delivering them.



“Everyone gets a benefit from what we do. The kids are happy because they’re fed and have a safe place to come and visit, and the staff have gratitude to be able to do the work we do and be mentors to these kids.”



“Families have made improvements. We have parents and their kids, including youth, showing more positive outcomes through the range of programs that we run.”

KWAC representatives reiterated the importance of emphasising culture across all programs engaging young people. This is due to both the widespread popularity that cultural activities have among the demographic, and the improvements in behaviour generated by incentivising good behaviour with program participation. This had additional benefits when parents and family members could also attend cultural activities, as it improved cultural connections between young people and their families and better enabled the provision of holistic support. Ensuring a continued focus on cultural activities is a major priority for KWAC staff moving forward.



“We’ve got to get back to the on-country stuff. There’s nothing like being out bush and getting these kids thinking about their past and their future. It means everything to them.”



Section 8

Wyndham

Introduction

This section outlines the program that was funded by the KJJS in Wyndham. The following provider received funding under the KJJS to run one program to service youth:

- Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation – New Way Right Way Program.

Population context:

- The population in Wyndham is approximately 7,477 people.
- Approximately 28% of the population are aged 0-19.
- Approximately 34% of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

(Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021g).

Between 2021-2023 Q3
In Wyndham the KJJS funded:



New Way Right Way - Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation

Design

Established in 2018, Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation (WYAC) is a non-profit, community-driven organisation comprised of a representative from each local Aboriginal family group. WYAC is dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing of the area's Aboriginal young people through continuous engagement, support, and opportunities to develop their capacity and become positive contributors to their families and community. WYAC's vision is to see local young people thriving in health, feeling empowered, and excelling in their chosen pursuits. WYAC provides case management, a night patrol service, and a range of other activities under the New Way Right Way Program for young people to keep them engaged and diverted away from antisocial behaviour within Wyndham.

New Way Right Way

The New Way Right Way program stands as a comprehensive intervention and prevention initiative for young people referred by WA Police or youth justice services. The integration of case management within the program ensures that a WYAC staff member can provide personalised attention and guidance for each participant, to continuously monitor and check in with the young people referred into the program.

The program was initiated to address increasing crime rates in the town and was informed by other programs and service gaps in Wyndham. Despite continued instances of antisocial behaviour, WYAC representatives did note that the available programs do have a positive impact on individuals who engage.



“Things were and still are really bad and we had a really high crime rate for a while there. We came on board and kicked off with our programs which have been working pretty well.”

The program design now employs older Aboriginal community members to be role models and supports for young people in Wyndham, serving to simultaneously inspire youth and demonstrate the benefits of becoming positive contributors to their community. Additionally, having role models in the program helps engagement with young people on matters related to their social and emotional wellbeing.

Case management

This case management includes direct support and oversight for a minimum of 10 at-risk young people who have been referred to the program by Youth Justice Services, WA Police, the Department of Communities, or the Wyndham District High School. Case management and place-based activities support young people to change their attitudes and behaviours through continuous engagement and one-to-one social and emotional wellbeing check-ins. This helps to determine the dynamics within an individual's life and how these can be best mitigated by their case manager, including referrals to other support services.

Night patrol

Each night patrol covers a five-hour period between 4pm and 9pm, with three staff engaged per night to continuously monitor the streets of Wyndham and provide accessible transportation for youth to get home safely. Young people engaged with during night patrols can be referred to case management and other activities, facilitated by WYAC or other providers, to continue engagement with them and to encourage attendance in the activities provided.



“The basic premise is that we have to find something that will assist them in not committing crime.”

A key focus in the design of the night patrol is to provide street-present young people with the opportunity to access safe transportation home, or alternatively to safe spaces if home is not a safe option for them. One of the key outcomes of the Night Patrol is to ensure that young can identify a safe space for themselves to stay and for WYAC staff to give support and guidance within this process. With increased access to safe spaces and transportation, WYAC staff can continuously engage young people and offer social and emotional wellbeing support, as well as recommendations to attend other events and programs delivered by WYAC.



“If we have them taking the Night Patrol then we can speak with them and talk to them about how things are going and refer them to other programs that we have going on to provide that support.”

Implementation

WYAC runs its programs both in the morning and in the afternoon to ensure that young people can access services and supports throughout the day. The programs delivered during the day provide education and training opportunities for young people who do not attend school for various reasons, such as being suspended or disengaged from traditional classroom learning. Other support provided includes gardening and maintenance activities, like decking and tiling, to ensure that young people know they can develop positive and practical skills that can contribute to the community. The programs also include "pocket money" as remuneration for maintenance activities, which fosters a sense of responsibility and accomplishment among participants. This helps develop post-program skills that can be marketable into adulthood.

These activities were highlighted as being implemented effectively due the ongoing support from the Department as well as the availability of effective staff who could facilitate the delivery of these activities.



"We've started a place where they can come and do gardening and they can do car maintenance, and stuff like that. It's these programs that we have that these kids are now turning their lives around."

Case Management

Providers suggested that personal attention and care is crucial for effective implementation of the program and can be achieved through case management. Additionally, providers raised that the likelihood of a young person engaging with program activities can often hinge on individual personal and circumstantial contextual factors, which can be better understood through case management. Contextual factors can include the young person's home and family situation, attitudes and values, or other personal needs. By understanding these contextual factors, young people can be better engaged with program activities and proper assistance can be provided to mitigate any identified barriers to support provision.

Additionally, case managers were reported to provide follow-up home visits and/or welfare checks for young people. This allows case managers to better make referrals to other services and track any reasons for declined referrals.

Outcomes

A total of 2,951 interactions with young people were recorded on 156 patrol nights, averaging 19 interactions per night. On average 21 young people were transported home or to a safe space each night meaning that youth were less likely to be presenting on the street or at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour. Over five nights in October 2021, 150 youth participated in basketball and other sporting activities at the youth centre. With capacity for 10 - 15 youth, an average of 14 young people were case managed each quarter, assisted by two staff. In total, 55 young people received frequent case management within the 10-month period.

Improved cultural connection

ACCO staff members felt that programs are culturally safe and have a strong cultural emphasis for Aboriginal young people, especially with regards to keeping them connected to culture, identity, and Country. This is achieved through on-country camps, trips to sites of cultural importance, camping, and fishing, which are collectively facilitated by adults who respected local individuals with advanced cultural connections.

Young people being able to participate and engage with adults in cultural activities can better connect them with their cultural identity while also fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage and sites of cultural significance. The inclusion of Aboriginal staff who maintain strong connections to the community, culture, and country in case management ensures a culturally safe support for Aboriginal

youth and was a key consideration in the implementation of the Night Patrol, according to WYAC representatives.



“It has to be culturally safe and it has to get these kids engaged in their cultural identity. Without that connection and having local people giving that support, it will be a surface level impact.”

Alternative education opportunities

Multiple ACCO staff members highlighted a great benefit in alternative education programs engaging and employing young people who have participated in the program. This has developed their capacity and work ethic and have enabled young people to obtain further employment as an assistant or mentor within the community. Additionally, several participants have signed up to work as auto mechanics, boilermakers and air conditioner mechanics in Wyndham, contributing to broader local economic development and multiplier effects for the local economy.

Placing a stronger focus on the economic empowerment of young people can lead to increased opportunities to work within the community and earn a livelihood. This highlights the broader positive outcomes associated with ensuring that local young people acquire the skills and knowledge required to secure and maintain employment, thereby contributing to their long-term financial wellbeing.



“We are on track to achieve good outcomes and you can see it is giving a benefit to the community, where we can give these kids opportunities to learn and thrive.”



“It will produce change in the long-term we just have to keep moving forward and keep collaborating and work to get more role models that these kids can look up to.”

Some people in Wyndham noted that demographic changes had also influenced the reduction in crime rates in the area. Community members suggested there had been an exodus of youth from the region to move to larger towns in the Kimberley. This again calls for greater awareness and collaboration between all service providers of the Kimberley to acknowledge how the transient population can affect continuity of care.



| Appendices

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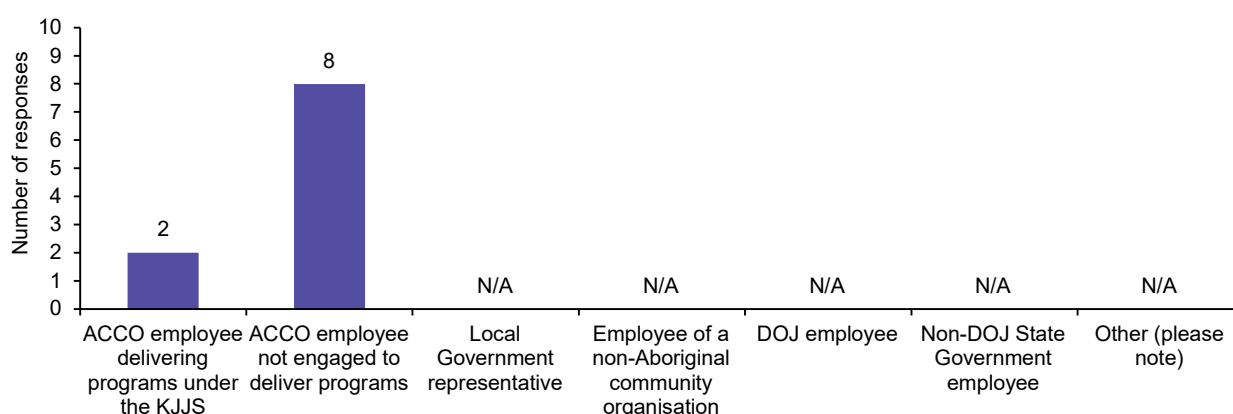
Appendix 2: Survey analysis

IPS developed and distributed a survey to various stakeholders throughout the Kimberley. The intent of the survey was to enhance the breadth and depth of IPS' understanding of what is working well and the opportunities for improvement for the KJJS and its associated programs. The survey questions related to respondent perspectives of the KJJS programs, their awareness of the KJJS, their attitudes towards the management of the KJJS by the Department and providers, as well as demographic questions. The full set of survey questions can be found in Appendix 4.

Demographics

Survey respondents were asked to provide information regarding which stakeholder group best described them and how their role and organisation related to the KJJS. Among the ten survey respondents, two self-described as being ACCO employees delivering programs under the KJJS, while the remaining eight respondents described themselves as being ACCO employees not engaged to deliver programs under the KJJS but who are invested in their progress and contribution to community.

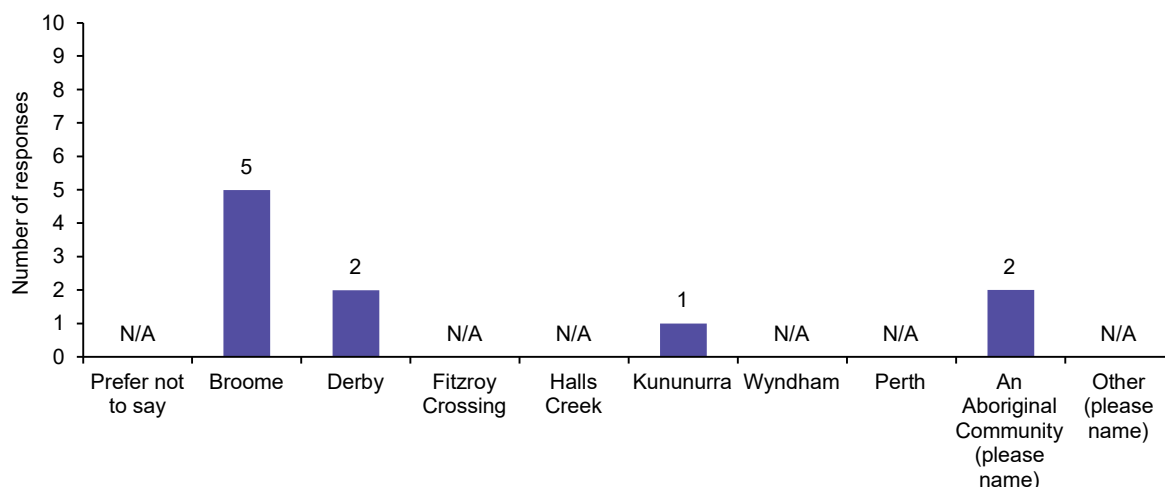
Figure 10: Survey respondents stakeholder type



Source: Q2 - Please select the best option that describes you (n=10)

Respondents were also asked about where they lived within the Kimberley in order to obtain a geographic distribution of individuals who had completed the survey. The geographic distribution of survey respondents was somewhat varied with five individuals from Broome, two being from Derby and one from Kununurra. Of the two respondents who outlined that they were from an Aboriginal community, the respondents outlined through written response that one was from Kalumburu in the East Kimberley and the one was from Djarindjin in the West Kimberley.

Figure 11: Geographic distribution of survey respondents

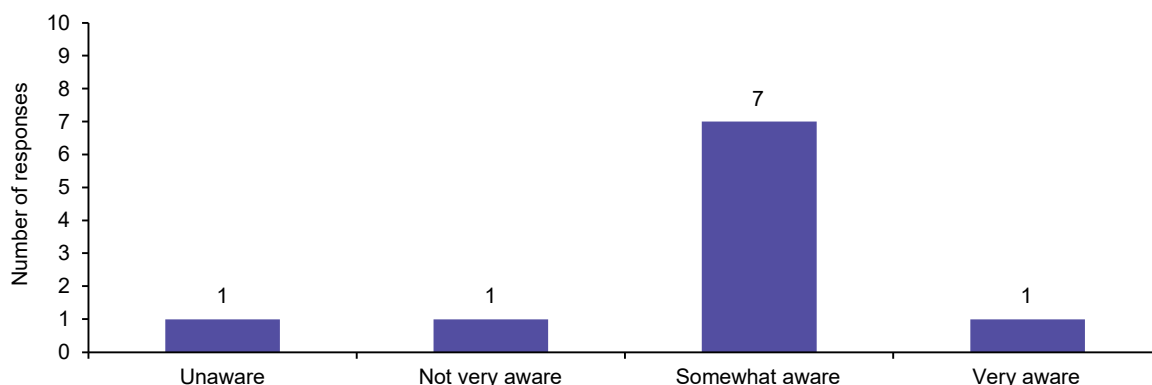


Source: Q3 - Where do you live? (n=10)

Awareness

Survey respondents were also asked to provide details regarding their level of awareness of the KJJS and the programs being delivered under it. Of the ten survey respondents, one stated that they were unaware, one outlined that they were not very aware, and one noted that they were very aware of the KJJS and the programs being delivered. The most frequently selected response among survey participants was somewhat aware which received seven total responses.

Figure 12: Survey respondent awareness of the KJJS

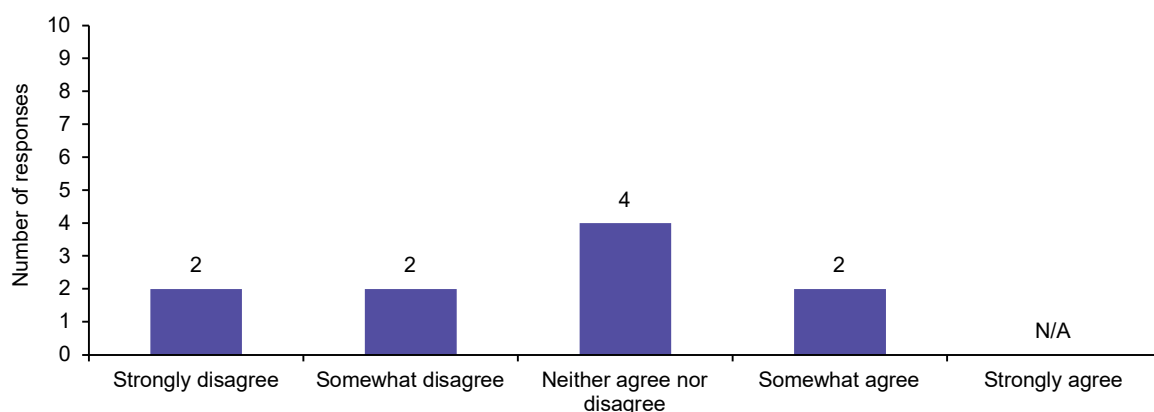


Source: Q4 - How familiar are you with the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy? (n=10)

Attitudes towards the impact and outcomes of KJJS

Survey respondents were also posed questions on how they perceived the impact and outcomes of the KJJS and its associated programs. When discussing the KJJS' impact in addressing local needs and priorities related to young people, responses and attitudes varied among survey respondents. Among survey respondents, two strongly disagreed and two somewhat disagreed with the assertion that the KJJS was addressing local community needs and priorities, while two somewhat agreed with the statement. The most common response to the question was neither agree nor disagree which received four total responses.

Figure 13: Survey respondent attitudes on the impact of the KJJS

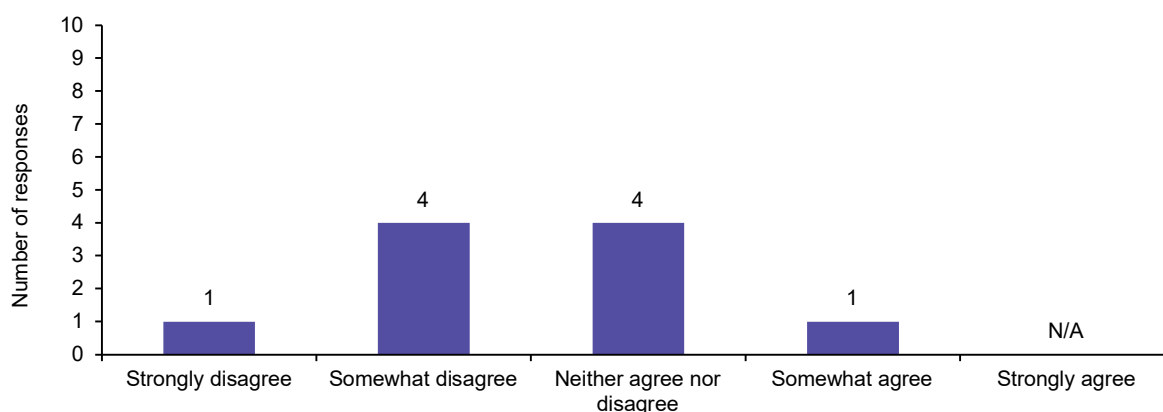


Source: Q5 - The KJJS addresses local community needs and priorities (n=10)

Survey respondents were also probed on their perspectives regarding on whether the KJJS is proving to be effective in delivering good outcomes for the community. Among survey respondents, one strongly disagreed with the statement, while four individuals somewhat disagreed with the statement. Neither agree nor disagree also received four responses while only one person somewhat agreed with the statement.

Notably for both questions relating to the impact and outcomes of the KJJS, no survey respondents strongly agreed that the KJJS was either addressing local community needs and priorities or effectively delivering good outcomes for the community.

Figure 14: Survey respondent perspectives on the outcomes of the KJJS

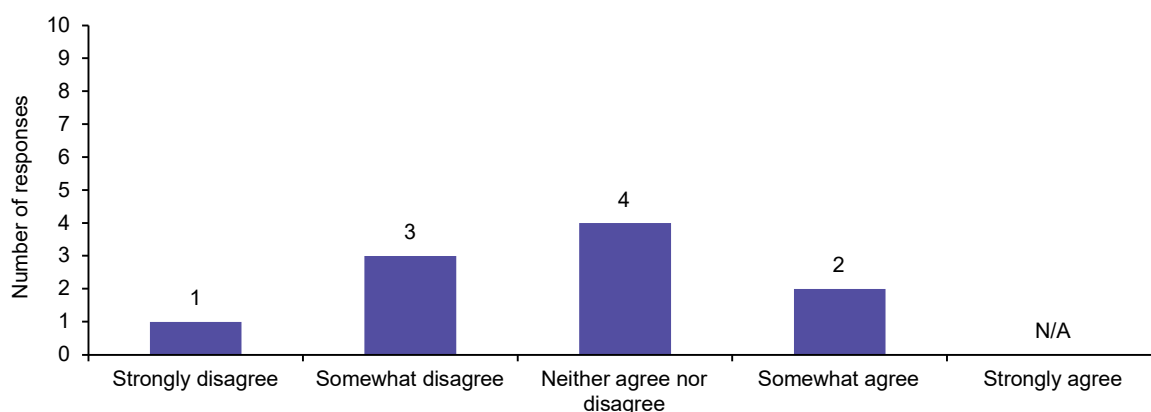


Source: Q9 - The KJJS is providing to be effective in delivering good outcomes for the community (n=10)

Cultural safety

Survey respondents were also posed questions regarding their perspectives as to whether the programs being delivered under the KJJS were culturally safe for Aboriginal people. Across survey respondents, perspectives on the cultural safety of KJJS programs varied with one individual strongly disagreeing and three individuals somewhat disagreeing that the KJJS programs are culturally safe. Responding to the cultural safety question, four individuals neither agreed nor disagreed, while an additional two people somewhat agreed with the statement. No individual strongly agree with the statement.

Figure 15: Perceptions of the level of the cultural safety of the KJJS programs

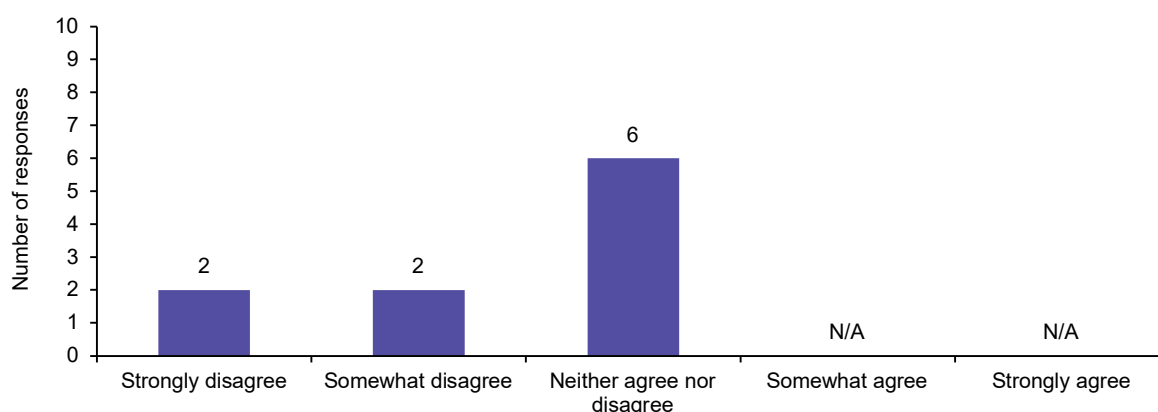


Source: Q6 - KJJS programs are culturally safe for Aboriginal people (n=10)

Management of the KJJS by the Department

Survey respondents were also asked to give their perspectives on the management of the KJJS by the Department. When provided the statement that the KJJS is well managed by the Department, two survey respondents strongly disagreed while two individuals somewhat disagreed. The most commonly selected response by survey participants was neither agree nor disagree which received six total responses. No survey respondents somewhat agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

Figure 16: Survey respondent perspectives of the Department's management of the KJJS

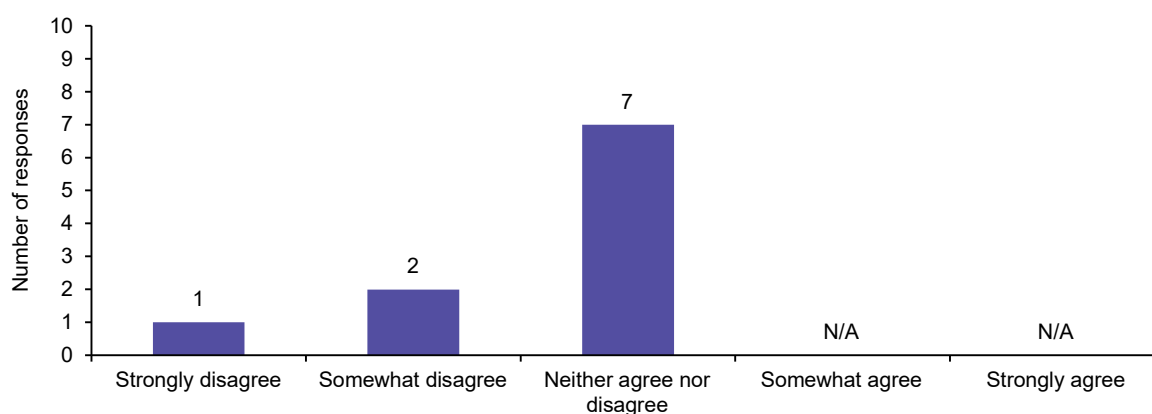


Source: Q7 - The KJJS is well managed by the Department of Justice (n=10)

Management of the KJJS programs by providers

Survey respondents were also asked to provide their perspectives on the management of the KJJS programs by participating Aboriginal organisations. When provided with a statement regarding the effective management of programs by Aboriginal organisations, one respondent strongly disagreed and two individuals somewhat disagreed, while the remaining seven respondents neither agree nor disagree. No respondents somewhat agree or strongly agree with the statement.

Figure 17: Survey respondent perspectives of ACCOs' of KJJS programs



Source: Q8 - KJJS programs are well managed by participating Aboriginal organisations (n=10)

Appendix 3: Methodology

Context of the evaluation

The KJJS began in the 2019-20 WA state budget as a response to reduce youth crime and street-presence in the Kimberley. The KJJS was designed to prevent young people reoffending, reduce street-presence, and improve community safety. Programs were funded in six locations - Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham. For the evaluation, 13 of these programs across 6 categories were in-scope, run by 12 providers in 6 locations. The 6 program categories incorporated a range of either prevention methods to reduce risk of juvenile crime, reduce risk of reoffending, or intervention methods responding to youth crime and broader community needs. The programs and their locations for delivery are seen below.

Program	Region	Town(s)		Provider
Youth Engagement Program	West Kimberley	Broome and Derby		ALSWA
Night Patrol		West Kimberley	Derby	Emama Nguda AC
Monday Night Music Program and Sharp n Ready Hair Cuts, Friday Night Chill Space and school holiday programs	West Kimberley	Broome		BYFH
Young and Deadly Program		Kimberley	Broome and Kununurra	North Regional TAFE
KJJS-Collab Project and Immediate Response Safe Space Pilot	West Kimberley	Broome		In-progress
Diversionary Program: New Way-Right Way		East Kimberley	Wyndham	WYAC
Youth Diversion Program/Strong Men's Program	East Kimberley	Kununurra		Kununurra Waringarri AC
On Track Program		East Kimberley	Halls Creek	Shire of HC, Olabud Doogethu
Youth Engagement Night Officers	East Kimberley	Halls Creek		Shire of HC, Olabud Doogethu
Youth Connexion Fitzroy Crossing		West Kimberley	Fitzroy Crossing	Marra Worra Worra
The Yiriman Project	West Kimberley	Fitzroy Crossing		KALACC

Aims of the evaluation

As per the evaluation plan, the aims of this evaluation were to:

- Examine the implementation of the KJJS and identify opportunities for improvement
- Assess progress and achievements against existing KJJS objectives
 - Reduce youth offending
 - Improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal youth
 - Improve community safety
- Invest in long-term community solutions to address youth reoffending

- Address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people within the justice system
- Consider the extent to which KJJS initiatives are likely impacting on Closing the Gap Targets 10 and 11
- Assess value for money, noting that value for the community (social value) and monetary value (economic value) are considered equally important in determining the KJJS' value for money
- Consider gaps and how the KJJS interacts with other programs and initiatives
- Place Aboriginal people, perspectives, priorities and knowledge at the centre of each stage of the evaluation planning and implementation process. Aboriginal people must be engaged fully and transparently in the evaluation

Evaluation approach

To effectively answer all evaluation questions, both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods were employed. A convergent mixed-methods design allowed data collection methods to improve breadth and depth of information available to evaluate the design, implementation and outcomes of the KJJS.

Data to inform the evaluation

A document review of material provided by the Department included grant agreements and variations. This helped inform the evaluation and provided insight into the design, implementation, and delivery of the respective KJJS programs.

Quantitative data was provided by the West Australian Criminal Statistics and Research team. This data included juvenile offending data to inform analysis on the broader crime statistics across the Kimberley highlighting the need for programs and other interventions to meet community needs. Other data provided to IPS included total program participants and total program hours to inform the total engagement in the KJJS programs by young people in the Kimberley.

Ethical considerations

To ensure informed consent among participants, IPS provided detailed information to all stakeholders about the purposes of the evaluation and what their involvement meant for evaluating the KJJS. This was done in accordance with ethical best practice which includes the provision of information sheets that rely on inclusive language to accommodate individuals who use English as an additional language.

IPS also provided a distress protocol to all participants engaged in the evaluation outlining to participants their rights to end engagements at any time if they feel uncomfortable or distressed. This information also included information for participants on where to get local support for their social and emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Stakeholder engagement

IPS engaged with a number of stakeholders, including service providers delivering the programs, community members, and ACCO representatives not engaged to deliver KJJS programs.

Recruitment

The names and contact details of provider representatives were provided to IPS by the Department. The Department sent an initial email informing stakeholders of the evaluation and their opportunity to participate, indicating that IPS would contact them directly via email.

IPS then emailed stakeholders directly and invited them to participate in the evaluation. The invitation email sent by IPS included an information letter about the evaluation, what their involvement entailed and the interview questions for their consideration.

Stakeholders were contacted up to three times to participate in the evaluation. If no reply was received after the third contact, they were noted as declining to participate.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork was conducted from 24 August 2023 to 11 January 2023, a total of 140 days. Interviews with government agency stakeholders were conducted remotely, by phone or video conference.

Face-to face yarning sessions and interviews were conducted with KJJS providers, Community and representative bodies in Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham. Fieldwork was undertaken by Hamish Sneyd (IPS Research and Evaluation Consultant) and Natasha Short (Consultant from the Kimberley Jiyigas).

Summary of engagement

A total of 89 stakeholders were invited by IPS to participate in the evaluation, representing 70 organisations. Of these 89 invitations, 36 stakeholders participated in the evaluation, representing 25 organisations and schools. The table below shows a summary of stakeholders groups which were invited and participated. The total of 36 individuals includes those who were engaged multiple times due to ongoing scope changes within the evaluation process.

Stakeholder type	Numbers of organisations invited	Number of individuals invited	Numbers of organisations participated	Number of Individuals participated
Government and peak bodies	10	22	2	10
KJJS providers	12	16	13	9
Community (ACCOs and Community members)	38	41	8	7
Community representatives and peak bodies	10	10	2	10
Total	70	89	25	36

Survey engagements

IPS developed and distributed a survey to various stakeholders throughout the Kimberley. The survey was designed to measure the community perceptions of the KKJS. The intent of the survey was to enhance the breadth and depth of IPS' understanding of what is working well and the opportunities for improvement for the KJJS and the programs being delivered underneath it. The survey was distributed by with the assistance from ACCOs and service providers delivering programs under the KJJS. The survey was active from 18 August 2023 until 14 January 2024 and received a total of 10 people completed the survey.

Value for money

Benefit	Description	Calculation Method
Benefit of Night Patrols as an alternative to policing	This is the cost of the alternative of the program; WA Police officers doing night patrols instead. This effectively values the benefit of the program in allowing WA Police officers to perform other duties.	Cost of a WA Police officer per hour (wage and indirect costs) multiplied by 2 (assuming 2 staff on) and applied to the hours of operation of the program.

Benefits

The following table provides a statement of the benefits assessed. It includes a list of the benefit, its description and method of calculation. The assumptions and calculation methods are regarded as conservative and highly defensible.

Figure 18: Benefits Statement with Methods of Calculation

Distribution of Benefits across Programs


As each of the programs has a wide range of activities with different benefits, the benefits used in the valuation are applied to the relevant activity. Therefore, each program has a different mix of benefits. The appropriate benefits for each program are shown in the table below. This table with the value of the benefits included is in Appendix 1.

Figure 19: Distribution of Benefits across Programs

	Program 1	Program 2	Program 3	Program 4	Program 5	Program 6	Program 7	Program 8	Program 10	Program 11
Value as alternative to policing										
Value of sport participation										
Value as alternative to counselling										
Value of social activity participation										
Value of Indigenous cultural activity participation										
Value of education activities										
Value as alternative to market school holiday program										

Limitations

- The scope of this evaluation underwent multiple changes due to circumstances beyond the control of IPS. These scope changes were handled effectively by IPS through ongoing communication and collaboration with the Department and the reengagement of key stakeholders. However, multiple



scoping changes did impact on the relevance of some data obtained by IPS and required additional work.

- Ethical approval was not obtained for this project, which meant young participants could not be engaged. Understanding youth opinions and experiences of programs would provide valuable information about the program's design, implementation and outcomes.
- The busyness of stakeholders sometimes limited the depth of engagements. IPS has been flexible to reschedule and accommodate the schedules of stakeholders.
- The length of the evaluation and the consistent periods of reengagement may have created evaluation fatigue among some stakeholders. Evaluation fatigue is when individuals become overwhelmed or exhausted by the constant need for assessments, reviews, surveys, or evaluations within their work. Particularly for stakeholders engaged in multiple programs, this may have impacted on stakeholders' willingness and enthusiasm to engage in the evaluation. To mitigate this, IPS remained accommodating in engaging with individuals and remained understanding of their limited time to engage.
- The evaluation did not incorporate the involvement of young people who had participated in the KJJS programs. This was due to limited overlap between the period in which the evaluation needed to commence, and the extended time required to receive letters of support and ethics approval from relevant entities before engaging with program participants.

Appendix 4: Engagement tools

1. Please tell me about your involvement with the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (KJJS) and the program you deliver.
2. In your view, how was the program or initiative developed?
 - How and to what degree did community consultation help to confirm priorities?
3. Thinking about the area of juvenile justice, what are the needs and priorities for the Kimberley community?
4. How well do you think your program is meeting these needs and priorities?
5. In your view, what does success for your program look like?
 - What are the intended outcomes?
6. When thinking about the programs you deliver for Aboriginal young people:
 - Are they culturally safe?
 - Are they appropriate for addressing needs?
 - Are they effective?
 - Does the program reach its intended end users (Aboriginal young people)
7. How well has the program been rolled out?
 - How effective has the Department been in overseeing the program?
 - In your view, has the program been implemented as intended?
 - What do you believe is working well?
 - What needs improvement?
 - What are the enablers and barriers to effective action on the ground?
8. Thinking about collaboration and engagement in relation to your program:
 - How effective is communication between government agencies?
 - How effective is engagement with and between other ACCOs involved in delivering KJJS initiatives?
9. What outcomes are being achieved by your program?
 - Do you think they will produce change in the long term?
 - Thinking back to the outcomes you identified earlier, is the program on track to achieve them?
10. Has the program produced any unintended outcomes (positive or negative)?
11. What are the biggest opportunities for improving how the program is delivered?
12. Do you have any other comments?

Government stakeholder questions

1. Please tell me about your involvement with the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (KJJS)
2. In your view, how were KJJS programs and initiatives developed (i.e., scoped or selected)?
3. Thinking about the area of juvenile justice, what are the needs and priorities for the Kimberley community?
4. How well is the KJJS meeting these needs and priorities?
5. In your view, what does success for the KJJS look like?
6. When thinking about the programs delivered under the KJJS for young Aboriginal people:
7. How well has the KJJS been rolled out?
8. Thinking about collaboration and engagement in the KJJS:
9. What outcomes are being achieved by the KJJS?
10. Has the KJJS produced any unintended outcomes (positive or negative)?
11. What are the biggest opportunities for improving the KJJS?
12. Do you have any other comments?

Community yarning questions

1. What do you see as main needs and priorities for juvenile justice in the Kimberley?
2. Is the KJJS meeting these needs and priorities?
3. What does success for the KJJS look like?
4. What outcomes are being achieved by the KJJS?
5. Has the KJJS produced any unintended outcomes (positive or negative)?
6. What are the biggest opportunities for improving how the KJJS is delivered?
7. Other comments?

Survey questions

Welcome to the KJJS Evaluation Survey IPS Management Consultants has been engaged by the WA Department of Justice to evaluate the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (KJJS). The KJJS is an inter-agency government initiative led by the Department of Justice to address the disproportionate number of Kimberley young people coming into contact with the justice system. This survey seeks your thoughts and views about the KJJS to help us understand its implementation, the outcomes produced and thinking behind the strategy. Your participation is voluntary and confidential.

Q1: To provide your consent and continue with the survey please select the 'Yes, I consent' option.

- Yes I consent
- No, I do not consent

Q2: Please select the best option that describes you

- Employee or member of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) engaged to deliver programs under the KJJS
- Employee or member of an ACCO not engaged to deliver programs under the KJJS but interested in progress
- Local Government employee or Councillor
- Employee or member of a non-Aboriginal community or for purpose organisation
- Department of Justice (DOJ) employee
- Employee of a State Government agency other than the DOJ
- Other (please note)

Q3: Where do you live?

- I prefer not to provide this information
- Broome
- Derby
- Fitzroy Crossing
- Halls Creek
- Kununurra
- Wyndham
- Perth
- An Aboriginal Community – please name
- Other – please name

Q4: How familiar are you with the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy?

- Unaware
- Not very aware
- Somewhat aware
- Very aware

Q5: The KJJS addresses local community needs and priorities.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Q6: KJJS programs are culturally safe for Aboriginal people.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Q7: The KJJS is well managed by the Department of Justice.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Q8: KJJS programs are well managed by participating Aboriginal organisations.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Q9: The KJJS is providing to be effective in delivering good outcomes for the community.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

Q10: What outcomes are being achieved by the KJJS?

- Open for short answer responses

Q11: What aspects of the KJJS are working well?

- Open for short answer responses

Q12: What aspects of the KJJS could be improved?

- Open for short answer responses

Q13: Please provide any other comments you may have about the KJJS.

- Open for short answer responses

Appendix 5: Program logics

These program logics were developed based on existing information in grant agreements, progress reports, and interviews. They have been shared with respective providers for comments and feedback which were incorporated.

North Regional TAFE Young and Deadly Program logic

Figure 20: North Regional TAFE Young and Deadly program logic

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short term outcomes	Medium term outcomes	Long term outcomes
3 male and 1 female staff Broome 2 female staff Kununurra Funding Vehicles Professional development (mental health first aid vicarious trauma) Mobile classroom Student resourcing (flexible) Food, ID, clothing	Referral Pre-interview discussion of program, paperwork Physical engagement Meal planning Relationships and partnerships – cultural perspective Engaged young men with Aboriginal Elders Established relationships with industry. Being responsive to the individuals. Transition plans into adulthood A minimum of two programs per quarter, with at least five participants per program and each program conducted for at least five hours per day and five days per week for nine weeks	Weekly attendance record (every Monday) No. of lessons No. of participants per program No. of program hours No. of program days No. of program weeks No. of participants who fully complete the program	Students referred from Justice Students enrolled in the program Students attending the program	Students graduate Students gain employment after completing the program High student satisfaction with the program Students transition through Jobs and Skills centre into apprenticeship Students who have turned 18 and not moved into adult prison Students get certification	Improved educational attainment rates in Broome and Kununurra Improved wellbeing of young people in Broome and Kununurra Reduced youth offending in Broome and Kununurra

	<p>Review referrals from Youth Justice Services and provide feedback for those not accepted into the program</p> <p>Following student referral, complete a Section 24 Exemption from the Education Department as well as a 'Consent and Health Care Information Form' for all students under the age of 18</p> <p>Induction inclusive of behavioural expectations, management of complaints and appeals and student suspensions/expulsion</p> <p>Term calendar schedule (more life skills as well as trade/employment)</p> <p>Maintain a regular system for exchange of information on student progress, attendances, and results with Justice's Project Contact.</p> <p>Attend monthly case management meetings with Justice to ensure ongoing communication between the two Parties.</p>			Lore system engagement	
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Broome Youth and Families Hub program logic

Figure 21: Broome Youth and Families Hub program logic

Program	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short to medium term outcomes	Long term outcomes
Monday night sports program	5 staff present who will also ensure that young people are transported home at the end of the evening.	Cost-free sport competitions. Workshops on a range of issues including healthy relationships, cyber safety, alcohol and other drug use and suicide prevention. Mondays 4:00pm – 9:00pm	No. of participants No. of program hours No. of transports home No. of workshops	Young people are diverted from antisocial behaviour and contact with the juvenile justice system Children and young people are actively engaged into positive activities during peak times of antisocial behaviour including after hours and school holidays Increased positive behaviours of young people	Sustained reduction in incidents of reported antisocial behaviour in night patrol localities Sustained perception of safety by community members A reduction in re-offending A decrease in crimes committed by young people Increase In school attendance by participating young people
Drop-in program	5 part-time employees.	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 2:30pm – 7:30pm	No. of kids who drop in No. of program hours	Continued availability of a safe space with responsible adult supervision for young people to hang out A reduction in drug and alcohol related crimes amongst target population	A decrease in alcohol and other drug use by participating young people An increase in young people's social and emotional wellbeing, trust, and resilience; and increase in positive intergenerational exchange between youth participants and parents/guardians
Chilling Space	6 casual employees.	Disco nights; movie nights; footy nights; art activities; fire pit and damper cooking; basketball and ping-pong competitions; and other sport and leisure activities. On Friday and Saturday nights from 6:00pm to 10:30pm	No. of participants No. of program hours No. of activities	A reduction in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour in target population A reduction in street presence of at risk young people; and increased positive behaviours of young people	
HYPE – Night Patrol	2 casual staff manning the bus.	The Sunday HYPE Patrol is an extension of the current HYPE program, an early intervention community initiative that operates on Friday and Saturday nights till late, engaging street-present young people. The current program operates out of a bus that patrols public areas of	No. of individual engagements No. of patrols No. of patrol hours		

		Broome where young people are known to congregate. Friday and Saturday nights from 5:45pm – 1:00am			
School holiday Program		Provide young people with structured and unstructured activities during the school holidays.	No. of participants No. of program hours		
Sharp n Ready Haircuts		Free haircuts for young people.	No. of participants		

Aboriginal Legal Service WA Youth Engagement Program logic

Figure 22: Aboriginal Legal Service WA Youth Engagement Program logic

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short term outcomes	Medium term outcomes	Long term outcomes
Funding 3 x FTE Aboriginal Diversion Officers Statewide Manager supports all 4 sites (funded NIAA) so 25% to support West Kimberley Statewide Admin Assistant supports all 4 sites (funded NIAA) so 25% to support West Kimberley Management and admin support from ALSWA (Manager Policy and Programs and others] Vehicle Support from and synergies with BSS staff in Broome Support from and synergies with YEP staff in Perth, Kununurra and Halls Creek	Assessments with YP and family Case management Mentoring Identification of family placements Referrals to programs Transport to court, appointments and YJS and other services Reminders Practical (Centrelink, birth certificate etc) Cultural activities Advocacy Court support Court reports Attendance interagency meetings	Number of referrals received by source Number of assessments Number of clients accepted to receive support through YEP-K Timeliness between referral and acceptance Number of clients supported to meet court orders Number of clients supported with bail Number of individualised support plans based on identified needs	Increased compliance with court orders (including SROs) Increased compliance with bail conditions Reduced avoidable remand Reduced time spent on avoidable remand Increased practical supports e.g. Registration to essential services Attendance to services such as medical and mental health counselling Attendance to education, training or employment Accommodation services Attendance to cultural programs	Aboriginal young people are supported to improve their wellbeing through attendance to practical supports Reduced offending Reduced severity of offending Increased intervals between offending	Reduced overrepresentation in detention of young people from the Kimberley region

Shire of Derby West Kimberley program logic

Figure 23: Shire of Derby West Kimberley program logic

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term outcomes	Medium and long-term outcomes
Funding Shire facilities (basketball courts, pool, skate park) Up to 12-15 staff on dedicated youth team Vehicles Sporting equipment	Structured and unstructured activities in Derby for youth on Friday and Saturday nights to at least 9:30pm Basketball, football Skate park in Derby School holiday programs Building capacity in ACCOs Increasing traineeship opportunities for recreational youth workers Engage youth between 10-18 Collaboration with Emama Nguda	No. of participants No. of program hours No. of communications between client and Department No. Of youth workers/staff employed Age ranges of youth engaged	Children and young people are actively engaged in positive activities during peak times of antisocial behaviour Increased positive behaviours of youth Availability of a safe space with responsible adult supervision for young people to hang out Increased/improved engagement between Shire of Derby West Kimberley and local ACCOs to facilitate partnerships in planning, co-design and co-delivery of services to youth	Young people are diverted from antisocial behaviour and contact with the juvenile justice system Learning pathways developed to enable local community members to be trained as youth workers via traineeships Capacity building strategies are developed to assist local Aboriginal community-controlled organisation to take the lead in the delivery of diversionary and other programs for youth

Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation program logic

Figure 24: Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation program logic

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short to medium term outcome	Long-term outcomes
Funding	Monitor locations where young people are likely to congregate and participate in antisocial activities	No. of patrols	An increase in the number of young people redirected by the night patrol	Reduce no. of street present young people
Five FTE staff		No. of participants		Increase in no. of young people redirected by night patrol
One FTE coordinator role	Conduct foot patrols	No. of patrol hours	A reduction in the number of street present young people	Increase in no. young people accessing safe place programs
Two FTE bus patrol roles	Provide young people with safe transport to identified safe locations or home	No. of transfers home/safe place	An increase in the number of young people accessing safe place programs	Reduction in antisocial behaviour incidents in night patrol localities
Two FTE foot patrol roles		No. of referrals		
Support from WA Police	Provide individualised support to young people as appropriate	No. of healthy snacks provided (new)	A reduction in antisocial behaviour incidents in the night patrol localities	Sustained reduction in incidents of reported antisocial behaviour in night patrol localities
Involvement and awareness from the Department	Provide referrals to appropriate support services			
	Follow up with appropriate day services		A reduction in antisocial behaviour on nights the 'Hoops After Dark' program runs	Sustained reductions in vandalism costs for Shire of Derby and local businesses
	Delivery of Hoops After Dark basketball program three nights per week (updated from 1)			Sustained perception of safety by community members
	Work in close partnership with relevant stakeholders			
	Regularly maintain a reporting database that can be used for quarterly reporting and to support program evaluation			

KALACC the Yiriman Project program logic

The below program logic was requested to be used by KALACC.

Figure 25: Yiriman Project program logic

Inputs	Outputs	Outputs - impact
WHAT WE WILL INVEST	ACTIVITIES: WHAT WE WILL DO	SHORT TERM RESULTS: LEARNING
<p><u>Funding</u></p> <p>Government</p> <p>Philanthropic funding</p> <p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>Yiriman staff</p> <p>Mentors</p> <p>Elders</p> <p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <p>Collaboration between Kimberley WA Police, Department of Justice and KALACC</p> <p>Materials –resource intensive.</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p><u>Referrals</u></p> <p>Community</p> <p>Other</p>	<p><u>Assessment</u></p> <p>Individual needs assessment of each referred child</p> <p>Dedicated case-management plan</p> <p>Referrals to other programs / interagency collaboration</p> <p><u>Coordination and Referral</u></p> <p>Children with complex needs are referred for external support</p> <p>Providing this increases the chance Yiriman will have a positive</p> <p><u>On-Country Camps</u></p> <p>Mentoring and life readiness support</p> <p>4 x 7-10 day back to country each year</p> <p>Intensive camp 1</p> <p>Intensive camp 2</p>	<p><u>For Participant</u></p> <p>Improved knowledge of culture, history</p> <p>Stronger sense of identity</p> <p>Improved work readiness</p> <p><u>For Program</u></p> <p>Improved collaboration across service providers</p> <p>Tracking of outcomes</p> <p>MEDIUM TERM RESULTS: BEHAVIOURAL ACTION</p> <p><u>For Participant</u></p> <p>Flexible outcomes e.g. personal achievements</p> <p>Increased resilience/ability to cope with life events</p> <p>Improved school/work attendance</p> <p><u>For Program</u></p> <p>Camps begin to involve behaviour-change framework and SEWB framework</p> <p>LONG TERM RESULTS: ULTIMATE IMPACT</p>

<p><u>Oversight</u></p> <p>Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing</p> <p>Aboriginal Regional Governance Group</p>	<p>5-day camel trek with elders, mentors and AOD service staff</p> <p>6-week 'caring for Country' work readiness program</p> <p>PARTICIPATION:</p> <p>WHO WE WILL REACH</p> <p>Youth recommended and referred by community and stakeholders</p>	<p><u>For Participant</u></p> <p>Developed sense of cultural knowledge and identity</p> <p>Reduced youth reoffending measured by Youth Level Survey/Case Management Index score</p>
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Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation Youth Connexion program logic

Figure 26: Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation night patrol

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short to medium term outcomes	Long term outcomes
3 staff a night	Monitor locations where young people are likely to congregate and participate in antisocial activities	No. of participants	Increased support provided to Aboriginal young people to improve their wellbeing	Sustained reduction in incidents of reported antisocial behaviour in night patrol localities
1 driving, 2 staff to engage		No. of patrols		
Funding	Provide young people with safe transport to identified safe locations or home	No. of patrol hours	An increase in the number of young people redirected by the night patrol	Sustained reduction in vandalism costs for Fitzroy Crossing local businesses
Vehicle		No. of transfers home/safe place	A reduction in the number of street-present young people	Sustained improvements in perceptions of safety by community members
If it's really busy, 2 vehicles	Provide mentor support to young people as appropriate	Record of transfer locations (max 30km out of town)	An increase in the number of young people accessing safe places	Through a collaborative approach an increase in at-risk youth reengaging with positive activities including but not limited to attending school and employment
Food	Provide referrals to appropriate support services	Incident reports (passed on)	A reduction in antisocial behaviour incidents in the night patrol localities	
First aid kit	Follow up with appropriate day services		Reduced offending by youth on nights the service is operating and in those particular locations	Reduced offending by youth on nights the services operating and in those particular locations
	Work in close partnership with relevant stakeholders			
	Regularly maintain a reporting database			

Shire of Halls Creek Youth Engagement Night Officers and On Track program logic

Figure 27: Shire of Halls Creek Youth Engagement Night Officers and On Track

Objective Smart Justice in the Heart of the Kimberley: Aboriginal community designed place-based solution to reduce incarceration, and provide better outcomes for the young people of Halls Creek and surrounding communities.							
Problem Statement	Inputs	Processes How we do business	Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistent Indigenous social, cultural and economic disadvantage, and is driving the overrepresentation of young Indigenous citizens in the criminal justice system in Halls Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olubud Doogethu Aboriginal Corporation Board's leadership Community's Knowledge & Experiences, via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Design Process Ongoing consultation Shire Halls Creek's support – including resources, leadership & mentoring Support from Social Reinvestment WA partnership Program Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$XX \$XX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localising Solutions/ Building Community Capacity Strengthening Local Communities & Neighbourhoods Supporting Families & Young People Improving Justice Footprint Developing Collaborative Actions 	Overarching Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing co-design and consultation with communities of OD framework Data collection of general key population indicators Developing new ways of working Secure Resourcing for community priorities Specific Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Engagement Night Officers Family Support (Case Intervention) Mibala Alternative Education Kutjunga Community Navigators Menes Tribal Centre Learning on Country Coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation of all major family groups in decision making etc. Data Informed Decision Making Community Justice Model Cultural Mental Health Service Halls Creek Shire traineeships for all students on high school completion Every community having minimum of two male and female trauma-informed AOD/mental health or similar support workers Engaging 26 young people (18% aged 6-10 years, 46% aged 11-14 years, 36% aged 15-17 years) Nightly youth engagement patrols Engaging 18 young people & their families Youth Engagement Activities Case Management Access to services/resources via brokerage funding Engaging 10 young people Delivering Certificate II Cultural Knowledge Engaging 30 Community Members Referring community members to relevant service providers Advising services on community wants, needs & culturally safe ways of working Engaging 22 Community Members Create a culturally safe space for young men, fathers and sons Engaging 36 young people Delivering cultural activities in communities 	Self-Determination & Local Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culturally informed ways of working: (from family representation) Place-based involvement in funding direction and early intervention Demonstrated evidence of partnerships with other organisations for OD initiatives Open and continuous communication between community and all stakeholders Increased connection to culture & country Social Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Employment rate in OD Local & Remote Job Creation: Matching skill base of residents. Elders/family leaders engaging with youth Participation of previously disengaged youth in education programs or vocational studies Reduction in children in Out of Home Care aged between 10 & 18 years Reduction in street presence of young people Increased community engagement with service providers Justice Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OD intervention prior to justice system OD adaptive and responsive to patterns of crime occurring in community OD program intervention prior to justice system Options created for diversion and alternative sentencing 	Self-Determination & Local Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community as First Responders Improved Connection to Country/Language/Culture Community Engagement Services Engagement (inclusive of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations) Government Engagement Social Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Job Creation: Increased Local Employment Ratio of Aboriginal people in Workforce or Training Education: increased engagement & completion Increased literacy and numeracy Mental Health: reduction in suicide rate Housing: reduction in overcrowding Early childhood: reduction in vulnerability in domains Reduction in Child Protection Orders Reduction in street presence of children Justice Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in crime (Class 2 & 3, and FDV) Reduction in criminal convictions (for selected offense types) Reduction in recidivism Reduced imprisonment (adults & children) & increase in community sentencing diversionary options Increase in Community Preventative Policing (development) Reduction in Police Call Outs/Presence/ Cautions/Charges/Fines/Orders Increased access to Legal Support Overall Cost Reduction across Criminal Justice System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build better futures and opportunities for the people of Halls Creek, one of WA's most disadvantaged regions. Increase local capacity to achieve self-management by Aboriginal communities in place; Self Determination Reduce Aboriginal Incarceration rates, Crime, and Justice System involvement for all people in Halls Creek. Generate economic savings for the state, and local return on investment through reinvestment and job creation. Inform research, evidence-based models & approaches to Justice Reinvestment for public benefit.

Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation program logic

Figure 28: Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation

Program	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Back to Country Camps	Funding Staff Vehicles Camping equipment	Elders sharing knowledge of Country, culture and traditional ways	No. of program participants No. of camps	Demonstrated decrease in antisocial behaviour and contact with the justice system by regular participants in each program Young people are diverted from the justice system early Demonstrated increase in self-esteem and positive behaviour change in participants
Bush Tucker nursery	Funding Staff	Seed collecting Education about traditional bush tucker	No. of program participants No. of lessons	Establishment of Men's Shed and Bush Tucker Nursery as a community accepted safe place for males to learn new skills, grow traditional foods and gain social support
Back on Track BMX Program	Funding Staff Bike repair tools	Teaching youth how to maintain and repair their bikes	No. of program participants No. of sessions	

Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation program logic

Figure 29: Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation program logic

Program	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short to medium term outcomes	Long term outcomes
New Way Right Way (Diversion program) Case management	Funding Staff Referrals from: Children at Risk forum Wyndham WA Police Juvenile Justice Teams Other Designated case managers	Young Men's Group (ages 10-15) Young Women's Group (ages 10-15) Deliver culturally secure AOD education, wellbeing and healthy peer relationship education Client needs assessment Developing the Stay Strong Plan Client evaluations	No. of evening programs No. of young people engaged in evening programs No. of youth provided case management	Increase in the number of young people redirected Increase in the number of young people accessing safe place programs A reduction in antisocial behaviour incidents in the night patrol localities An increase in the number of young people being diverted from antisocial behaviour and contact with the juvenile justice system	Sustained reduction in incidents of reported antisocial behaviour in night patrol localities Sustained perception of safety by community members Increase in school attendance by participating youth A decrease in alcohol and other drug use by participating youth An increase in young people's social and emotional wellbeing, trust, and resilience Increase in positive intergenerational exchange between youth participants and parents/guardians

		Post-support evaluations		<p>An increase in young people currently engaged with the juvenile justice system meeting their relevant requirements</p> <p>Young people actively engaged into positive activities and reconnected to culture, language and Country</p>	
Night Patrol	<p>Staff/ Funding</p> <p>Bus/vehicle</p> <p>Referrals from Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation Night Patrol (adult), Wyndham WA Police and community</p>	<p>Help street-present youth identify a safe place to stay</p> <p>Transport youth to safe locations</p>	<p>No. of night patrols</p> <p>No. of youth engaged</p> <p>No. of youth transported to safe spaces</p>	Night Patrol	

