

Significant Policy Moments: New South Wales 1990-2002¹

Last updated: 16 February 2014

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1990

Note: This was not explored as the government department responsible for juvenile justice was established in 1991.

1991

- *Department established*

The Department of Juvenile Justice was established as a separate autonomous government body on 1 November 1991.

- *Opening of Kariong Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC)*

Kariong JJC was opened in September 1991, and is the first purpose built secure unit in NSW. Has capacity to house 48 residents, who have proven difficult to manage in other centres or have a history of escape. Generally caters for detainees on control orders or offenders charged with very serious offences on remand.

- *Establishment of Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (September)*

Established as an independent committee to provide advice to government on juvenile justice policy for an initial period of 2 years.

- *Expansion of community based services*

The Community Youth Centre Program was established in Newcastle and Wollongong. A pilot program for female juvenile offenders was also commenced in Wollongong, offering support with social skills, employment, accommodation, health and legal rights.

1992

- *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1992*

Amended s8A of the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987* in order to establish the Official Visitors scheme for all juvenile justice centres.

- *Review and transfer of the Burwood Children's Court*

In March 1992 the Minister requested the Advisory Council review the operation of the new court. The Advisory Council advised the Minister that the Burwood Court Complex did not meet required or desirable standards for Children's Court facilities and recommended that an alternative location be utilised urgently. On 30 June 1992 the Minister announced that the court would be moved to the Lidcombe Children's Criminal Court.

- *Establishment of a structured case work program in juvenile justice centres*

An official program was set up at Mount Penang, Cobham and Riverina JJs. Following admission each young person is assessed and a formal case plan approved, followed by monthly reports. Intended to improve communication between

¹ Note: This work is based on departmental annual reports only.

the JJC and community based workers, around the preparation of court reports and identification of suitable Community Youth Centre programs and services available on discharge. This was subsequently rolled out in 1993/1994 to all juvenile justice centres and to all young people on community based orders (except for those relating to fine defaults).

– *Opening of Redfern Bail Hostel (September)*

Established to provide alternative accommodation for Aboriginal young people who would otherwise be remanded in custody. The Jaapalpa Aboriginal Corporation was specifically set up to take responsibility for the day-to-day management of the hostel. The hostel caters for up to 6 young people between the ages of 10-18. Implemented as a key recommendation of the RCIADIC.

– *Review of services for young women in custody*

The review suggested that specific staff be recruited to work with young women. Consideration is to be given to placing young women at a separate juvenile justice centre, which would specialise in providing services for young female offenders. Renovations were subsequently commenced to 2 units at Reiby JJC where young women are housed.

– *Pilot counseling program*

Juvenile Justice counsellors were appointed at Dubbo, Grafton and Wagga Wagga to facilitate access for young people in rural areas to Community Youth Centre programs. Sessional counselling is provided for young people on community supervision, conditional discharge or parole, and assessment and supervision is available for young people on remand.

– *Establishment of inter-departmental committees and liaison*

Two committees were formed with the Departments of Community Services and Courts Administration to identify problems and clearly define each department's role in service provision. Formal interagency liaison was also established with the NSW Police Service, the judiciary, Department of School Education and Community Services, local governments, non government agencies and community groups.

– *Creation of additional Community Youth Centre (CYC) offices*

Offices were established at Gosford, Muswellbrook, Taree and Broadmeadow to commence regional programs similar to the metropolitan Sydney CYC program.

– *Development of structured health care standards in centres*

Following a review in June 1992 of support to nursing staff, the position of manager, nursing/health services was created within DJJ. Subsequent to the establishment of the position, links with the Prison Medical Service decreased and there was increased involvement of adolescent specific health services within the community. A new Health Services Operation Manual and Nursing Service Procedural Manual were created.

– *Program evaluations*

In 1992/1993 evaluations were conducted of: South Sydney Youth Services JJ Program, the Taree Koori Community Justice Council (Pre-court diversionary scheme) for Aboriginal juvenile offenders, the Urimbirra Aboriginal Corporation's Aboriginal community worker (JJ) program operating in Bonnyrigg.

1993

- *Schedule 1 Department established*

The Department of Juvenile Justice was established as a schedule 1 principal department on 10 September 1993.

- *Green Paper on Future Directions in Juvenile Justice*

Presented to the Minister of Justice in February 1993. Contained 429 recommendations focusing on the juvenile as an individual, families of offenders, victims of crime, the law, police, education, accommodation, health, rehabilitation and support services.

- *Department of Community Service and DJJ protocols*

The protocol will be reviewed after 6 months of operation to ensure the document provides necessary guidelines for cooperative service delivery.

- *Review of the Sex Offender Program*

A report from the review was released in June 1993. Recommended establishment of a clinic coordinator for the program, to be recruited in 1994/1995.

- *Strategic Plan for Young Women in Custody*

Released in March 1993 following input from staff of Whitten College (Reiby JJC) and external agencies.

- *Appointment of an Indo-Chinese officer for custodial services*

Based at Mt Penang JJC. The Department is also developing an Indo-Chinese youth support program as an alternative to custody.

- *Pilot bail program in Dubbo*

A pilot Aboriginal bail support program was developed in Dubbo to target offenders from Dubbo and Wellington.

- *Pilot attendance centre program in Western Sydney*

Trialled from Nov 1993 – June 1994. Clients who had undertaken community service and re-offended were placed in the program, either as part of a supervision order or on conditional discharge from JJC's. The program was 13 weeks and consisted of learning modules and camps. The pilot was undertaken with 2 groups.

- *Kinship Caring program*

Developed following a needs analysis undertaken by departmental officers and Aboriginal communities in northern NSW. The program provides the courts with a culturally appropriate community based sentencing option. It offers a 3 tiered approach for intervention when you people are bail refused, released on a community based order or released from custody.

- *Review of Jaapalpa bail hostel in Redfern (December)*

The review identified difficulties with management and resources, and not conceptual issues. Made 27 recommendations to improve the hostel's operation. The 1993/1994 annual report states that Jaapalpa ceased operation and that the Department is seeking expressions of interest to establish a bail hostel in the next financial year.

1994

- *Children (Parental Responsibility) Act 1994*

Introduced in November and commenced operation in March 1995 in Gosford and Orange. The Act gives the court power to require parents to be present at criminal proceedings; permits courts to release children on condition that they give undertakings as to their future behaviour; enables courts to require parents to give undertakings as to the future behaviour of their children; makes it an offence for a parent, by wilful default or neglect to exercise proper care and guardianship, to contribute to the commission of an offence by a child; and gives police power to remove an unsupervised child under the age of 15 from a public place and to escort them to their parents home (or to a refuge if not possible), to reduce the likelihood of a crime being committed or the child being at risk.

– *Purchase of property adjacent to Minda JJC*

Property was purchased for \$5.5m in preparation for redevelopment outlined in the DJJ Strategic Plan.

– *Opening of Stayner Cottage at Mt Penang*

Opened in February to facilitate an extensive educational program for 11 residents.

– *Opening of Broken Hill JJC*

A 6-bed centre was opened in March 1994 to provide short-term remand accommodation. Residents remanded for over 5 days or on control orders are transferred to other centres.

– *White Paper 'New Directions for Juvenile Justice in NSW'*

The White Paper was developed from the Green Paper process and from consultations and input from other agencies. Was submitted for Cabinet approval in 1994.

– *Community Youth Support Taskforce*

The Taskforce was established in early 1993 to examine the issue of juvenile lawlessness and street disruption. Released a report to the Premier in early 1994 making recommendations relating to greater coordination of services on a local level. As a result the Government established Community Youth Coordinating Committees in Moree, Marrickville and Bourke/Walgett, to assist communities to develop local solutions.

– *Major study into juvenile recidivism*

The study, by Michael Cain, examined 52,385 offenders that appeared in the Children's Court between January 1986 and December 1994. The study found that 30% reoffended, and half of those only returned to court once. Very few juveniles became chronic offenders. The report presented a model for estimating recidivism risk in order to inform programs.

– *Launch of Crisis Support Team (March)*

Aims to provide a crisis response relating to residents mental health outside of business hours. Psychologists respond to suicide or self harm attempts; psychiatric emergencies or 'bizarre and sustained' behaviour that is unmanageable; and certain instances of serious assaultive behaviour.

– *Program for young women in custody (March)*

The program caters for up to 21 women. Aims to provide women with skills for their return to the community and to address causes of their offending behaviour through therapeutic programs. A pilot group program was also conducted for young women sentenced to community-based orders, across the Sydney metro area.

- *Guidelines for breach action*

In 1994/1995 the Department formulated guidelines for breach action to ensure a young person's accountability to court ordered supervision.

- *Extension of supervision and counselling*

The Department extended the use of supervisors in country areas such as Broken Hill and Dareton so that young offenders in those areas could access the conditional discharge program. Counselling and intensive supervision services were also introduced in Gilgandra, Bathurst, Orange, Warren and Gulgong.

- *Aboriginal Over-Representation and Discretionary Decisions within the JJ system: Report by Cunneen and Luke*

Commissioned by the JJ Advisory Council. Proposed a number of strategies including the provision of more appropriate diversionary and support services; coordinated planning and delivery of services; and development of close working relationships with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

- *Establishment of 'Nardoola' residential program*

Based in Moree, the program is available to young Aboriginal offenders who need accommodation, supervision, training and support.

- *Indo-Chinese Youth Support Program*

Funded as a 12-month project to assist the community reintegration of Indo-Chinese juvenile offenders upon their exiting detention. An independent evaluation showed that the program had overwhelming support from clients and their families, was culturally appropriate and had achieved its program objectives.

- *Robinson Program*

This specialist program for young people in custody experiencing behaviour difficulties commenced at Reiby JJC in September. All JJC's refer people to the program (except for Kariong JJC). The program operates in 3 stages: stabilising behaviour; developing skills to improve self management and communication; and integrating the young person into the larger population of Reiby to test skills, before returning to their original placement.

- *Smoke free/clean air policy*

The Department introduced a policy in September 1994 prohibiting smoking in Departmental buildings and juvenile justice centres. It was intended to apply equally to staff and young people in custody but as a result of industrial action staff were allowed to continue to smoke outside the buildings.

1995

- *Review of JJ community services*

During 1994/1995 the Department initiated an independent review into the effectiveness of community services and youth centres. The report made 75 recommendations addressing increasing work with families; providing more detailed client assessments; targeting interventions to identified needs; enhancing communication strategies; integrating casework services; and providing more group programs.

- *Audit into DJJ (September)*

An Audit Office report revealed serious concerns about the Department's management and finances. A subsequent review of the DJJ organisational structure was completed in November and resulted in the establishment of 5 service clusters across the state, with newly appointed Directors in each region.

- *DJJ Disability Strategic Plan (July)*

Provides a framework for service implementation addressing the needs of people with a disability, promotes planning and coordination to ensure services are provided more equitably.

- *Extension of post release support*

Introduced based on research that revealed that young people are most likely to reoffend within 12 weeks of discharge from detention. DJJ identified priority rural areas for new post release support services, in conjunction with the Youth Action Policy Association.

- *Aboriginal mentor scheme*

Employs and trains Aboriginal people to support, advise and maintain young Aboriginal offenders in their own families and communities. Is being implemented in conjunction with the rolling out of the Safehaven alternative accommodation program for young Aboriginal offenders across the state. The program enables the placement of young people in supportive environments near to, or within, their own communities if they cannot return home.

- *Pilot volunteer program (March)*

A program was trialled in Yasmar, Cobham, Minda and Worimi JJs whereby selected volunteers supplement staff in areas of cultural support, sport and leisure training, numeracy and literacy tutoring and life skills development.

1996

- *Ombudsman's 1996 Inquiry into Juvenile Detention Centres*

- *Finalised plans for new JJs at Dubbo, Grafton and Mount Penang*

- *New corporate plan: Juvenile Justice Towards 2000*

The Department's four new corporate objectives are: to improve the quality and developmental focus of client interventions in abuse free service environments; to maximise the development and use of staff skills within a team environment focused on positive outcomes; to enhance our management of allocated resources...; and to enhance service delivery partnerships and community relationships whilst promoting greater awareness of our services and responsibilities.

- *Barnados Post Release Options Program*

Established in April 1996, the program assists young offenders from South East Asian, Arabic and Pacific Islander backgrounds by providing culturally appropriate pre and post-release intervention to these young people, their families and communities. The program covers Bankstown, Canterbury, Marrickville, Hurstville, Leichhardt, Ashfield and Burwood areas.

- *Development of a bail support service in Western Sydney*

This initiative was developed in conjunction with Mundarra Aboriginal Youth Services and is expected to commence towards the end of 1996.

- *Forensic Program*

This new program involved 6 psychologists working with clients suffering mental illness. 3 Family workers were also funded to work at adolescent drug services (PALM, Dunlea and Dunsmore House) to provide counselling to clients affected by alcohol and other drug problems.

1997

- *Young Offenders Act 1997*

Commenced operation on 6 April 1998. Establishes a scheme that provides an alternative process to court proceedings for children alleged to have committed offences, through the use of youth justice conferences, formal cautions and warnings.

- *Children (Parental Responsibility) Act and Regulations 1997*

- *National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families*

Chapter 24 of the report relates specifically to Juvenile Justice, highlighting the over-representation of Indigenous youth and how this varies across jurisdictions.

- *Expansion of Cobham JJC (St Marys)*

Two additional 15-bed units were constructed and will be opened in late 1998.

- *Construction of new JJC's*

Construction commenced at Grafton and Dubbo and is due for completion in the first half of 1999. A replacement centre for Mt Penang is also under construction.

- *Youth Justice Conferencing Directorate*

In August 1997 DJJ established its Youth Justice Conferencing Directorate. The Directorate has been responsible for the establishment, and since the proclamation of the Young Offenders Act 1997 on 6 April 1998, the operation of youth justice conferences throughout NSW.

- *Establishment of the Collaborative Research Unit (February)*

Early achievements included completion of the Robison Evaluation; a study investigation anxiety and depression levels of Aboriginal offenders; and a pilot study on the Hayes Ability Screening Index.

- *Joint Tenancy Assistance Program*

Established in the inner metro area of Sydney for homeless clients of DJJ. The Streetwork Program was also established in Woolloomooloo.

- *Implementation of research recommendations*

An implementation taskforce was formulated and a new 5 level programming model was introduced in detention centres based on research into delinquency prevention by the University of Liverpool (What works: Reducing Offending by James McGuire (ed)). Consultant dieticians were engaged to review food and nutrition policies. Work commenced on a comprehensive operations manual to standardise procedures.

1998

– *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*

Establishes a Commission for Children and Young People and provides for employment screening for child-related employment. Gives effect to recommendations of the Royal Commission relating to the paedophile inquiry.

– *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Police and Public Safety) Act 1998*

Amends the *Summary Offences Act 1988* to create an offence of having custody of a knife in a public place or a school without a reasonable excuse; to enable a police officer to conduct a search of a person in a public place or a school if the police officer suspects on reasonable grounds that the person has unlawful custody of a dangerous implement; to enable a police officer to confiscate a dangerous implement found in a person's custody in a public place or a school if the police officer suspects on reasonable grounds that it is unlawfully in the person's custody; and to enable a police officer to give reasonable directions to a person in a public place if the police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person's behaviour or presence is obstructing another person or traffic, constitutes harassment or intimidation of another person or is likely to frighten another person.

– *Redevelopment of JJC's*

The Department was allocated \$33.9 million in 1998-99 to continue its extensive capital works program related to the construction of the new detention centres. These facilities will enable provision of improved education and training programs and family work, and will assist in accommodating more young people closer to their homes. Construction of new 30 bed juvenile justice centres at Grafton and Dubbo continued in 1998-99 and is scheduled for completion in the second half of 1999. Construction of a replacement for Mount Penang Juvenile Justice Centre is substantially complete and scheduled for opening in October 1999. Planning for major cyclic maintenance at Kariong and Yasmar JJC's commenced during the year and both projects are expected to be completed in 2000.

– *Serious Young Offenders Review Panel*

Commenced operation in December 1998 as a pilot for 18 months, in response to the Minister's direction that an independent body be established to provide advice on the reclassification and granting of leave to serious violent offenders and those determined as classification detainees.

– *Study on health assessments at Cobham JJC*

In 1998 a retrospective study was conducted on 2330 juvenile health assessments completed by Registered Nurses at Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre between January 1994 and October 1998. Of the 2330 juveniles assessed 349 were found to be experiencing symptoms of opiate withdrawal requiring medication. Approximately 33% of clients at Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre are withdrawing from opiates and require a medicated detoxification regime.

– *Survey of young people in Reiby JJC*

A NSW DJJ survey of young people in Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre revealed that 87% had been officially notified as abused and 63% had been notified on three or more occasions.

– *Commencement of Youth Justice Conferencing (April)*

In accordance with the YOA.

– *New review processes*

JJCs have continued implementation of the recommendations in the Ombudsman's report on detention centres, and DJJ introduced new comprehensive review processes to monitor compliance with National Standards for Juvenile Custodial Facilities established by the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators.

– *Implementation of Wood Royal Commission Rec. 67*

Implementation of Recommendation 67 began in 1998 with the expansion of alternative accommodation for homeless, at risk, juvenile offenders in regional and rural areas.

– *DJJ Recruitment of mentors*

16 new Aboriginal mentors were recruited across NSW and 6 new mentors from non-English speaking backgrounds were recruited in metropolitan Sydney to provide extra assistance and support to DJJ clients.

1999

– *Redevelopment of JJCs*

- Acmena Northern Rivers Juvenile Justice Centre opened in Grafton in September 1999.
- Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre replaced Mount Penang Juvenile Justice Centre in October 1999.
- Orana Juvenile Justice Centre was opened in Dubbo in December 1999.
- Minda Juvenile Justice Centre at Lidcombe was closed in October 1999.

– *Scott Bremmer, TAFE teaching assistant killed at Yasmar JJC*

An inter-departmental committee (IDC) was convened to review the risk to staff posed by detainees. The IDC's report has been provided to the NSW Ombudsman and Workcover NSW and the implementation of the recommendations will be systematically monitored across all departmental juvenile justice centres.

– *Government report on implementation of Ombudsman's recommendations*

In June 1999 the Department completed a comprehensive report on its implementation of the recommendations of the Ombudsman's 1996 Inquiry into Juvenile Detention Centres.

– *NSW Drug Summit 1999 (May)*

Through the summit the DJJ was allocated \$14.4 million over four years to implement specific projects identified in the Government Plan of Action.

– *Wood Accommodation Support Program*

In 1998-1999, new funding was provided to meet the costs of proposed accommodation support programs for juvenile offenders in rural and regional NSW. The Wood Accommodation Support Program (WASP) has been established to provide supported accommodation to juvenile offenders whose vulnerability to abuse and/or sexual exploitation is increased due to a lack of appropriate housing and support. Projects are funded in the Newcastle, Central Coast, Wollongong, Albury / Wodonga, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury areas.

– *NSW Young Offenders' Drug Use Survey*

A study was conducted by Dr John Howard of Macquarie University and Dr Jan Copeland of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of

NSW along with members of department staff led by Mr Tim Keogh. 302 young offenders were surveyed, including 273 males (90.4%) and 29 females (9.6%). The average age of these young people was 16.5 years. Compared to previous surveys of young people in detention in NSW, there have been very concerning increases in the reported use of injectable illicit drugs.

- *Police Specialist Youth Officers training*

DJJ developed and implemented, in collaboration with the NSW Police Service, a training program for Police Specialist Youth Officers on Youth Justice Conferencing.

- *Implementation of the Graffiti Project*

12 sessional supervisors and five juvenile justice officers were trained in graffiti removal techniques as part of the establishment phase of the department's Graffiti Program. Established 16 graffiti clean-up teams (ten in metropolitan Sydney and six in regional / rural NSW), to remove graffiti. Graffiti clean-up teams are established in partnership with local councils.

2000

- *Worimi Juvenile Justice Centre at Broadmeadow was closed on 3 July 2000*

- *Youth Drug Court established*

Established as a pilot program based at Liverpool, servicing the needs of courts and young people from Western and South- Western Sydney.

- *Ombudsman's investigation into Kariong JJC and Government progress report*

In March 2000 the NSW Ombudsman submitted to Parliament, a report on its investigation into Kariong Juvenile Justice Centre and events surrounding four serious disturbances at the centre in March and April 1999. On 30 June 2000, the Department submitted its first progress report on the implementation of recommendations made by the NSW Ombudsman. Actions taken by the Department include major upgrades in the physical security of the centre, increased staffing levels, substantial enhancements to staff training, and the establishment of a new school program.

- *DJJ Disability Action Plan 2000-2002*

- *JJC planned to accommodate women*

In 2000–2001, the Department announced that a purpose built facility will be built to accommodate girls and young women. This centre will be located at Lidcombe to allow access to the city services and will be designed specifically for young women. A mothers' and babies' accommodation unit will be included in the new centre. This will give young mothers an opportunity to care for their children whilst in custody and therefore allow them to address their offending behaviour without being separated from their children.

- *Implementation of COCQOG Recommendations*

DJJ established seven working parties to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of COCQOG (Council on the Cost and Quality of Government (COCQOG) Report) into the structure and function of juvenile justice centres and services.

– *Interdepartmental Committee review into safety at Yasmar JJC*

In 2000-2001 the Department finalised its Interdepartmental Committee Review into safety issues at the centre, following the death of an Assistant TAFE teacher in 1999. DJJ also extended new processes for program risk assessment throughout all juvenile justice centres ensuring that all young people participate in higher risk programs only when formally assessed as suitable, following that serious case.

– *Establishment of the Joint Assessment and Review Team (JART)*

Established in conjunction with the Department of Community Services, NSW Health and the Department of Education & Training; JART undertakes initial assessment of clients referred to the Youth Drug Court Program, completes a program plan and continues to monitor the young person's progress in achieving goals within the plan. JART conducted 81 initial assessments, leading to 41 acceptances to the program. By 30 June 2001, three young people had successfully completed the full six-month Youth Drug Court program.

– *Evaluation of the NSW Youth Justice Conferencing Scheme*

Published in June 2000, by BOCSAR.

– *Hayes Ability Screening Index*

The DJJ took part in research to develop the Hayes Ability Screening Index (HASI) in order to better meet the needs of intellectually disabled young people in contact with the justice system. The HASI is designed for use by a wide range of criminal justice personnel to identify individuals with intellectual disability and other types of learning difficulties.

– *Training sessions on the Young Offenders Act 1997*

Training was delivered to Police Prosecutors in collaboration with the NSW Police Service. Information and training sessions on the Young Offenders Act 1997 were also delivered to Aboriginal Legal Services in a number of regions across NSW, including Dubbo and Armidale.

– *Diversionsary counseling and group work*

10 Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) counsellors have been employed to provide diversionsary counselling and group work programs for drug using young offenders on community based supervision orders in regional NSW. The counsellors undertake comprehensive assessment, interventions and AOD education of clients. The Department also appointed an AOD Coordinator.

– *Use of drug detector dogs in JJC's*

The use of passive alert drug detector dogs in juvenile justice centres was introduced to reduce the entry of contraband. In the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 there were 95 searches by drug detector dogs in the nine juvenile justice centres. Passive alert dogs also randomly checked visitors to centres. As a result 4 people attempting to visit centres were arrested and 1 visitor was cautioned by Police.

– *Pre-employment Skills Training Program*

Established in 9 locations as a pilot aimed at ensuring that young offenders have access to education, vocational training and employment pathways. The target group for the program is young people aged 15 to 18 years who are subject to a supervised court order, including those clients exiting custody; are reasonably prepared for education, training and employment, but who have experienced difficulties gaining access to existing services. ARTD Management and Research

Consultants evaluated the PST Program for the first twelve months from 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2001. The evaluation found that the 'broad intensive support model' was more successful in achieving program outcomes for clients and recommended that all PST service providers move to that model of service delivery.

2001

- *The Criminal Legislation Amendment Act 2001*

The Act decriminalises a breach by a child of a community service order as stipulated by the previous sections 24–26 of the *Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987*.

- *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Amendment (Adult Detainees) Act 2001*

Amends the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987* to make the transfer to prison at age 18 of a young offender guilty of a Serious Children's Indictable Offence mandatory, unless the sentencing court determines that there are special circumstances which justify the young person remaining in a juvenile justice centre.

- *The Justice Legislation Amendment (Non-association and Place Restriction) Act 2001*

As part of the Government's package of anti-gang laws and initiatives, this Act enables non-association and place restriction conditions to be attached to the grant of bail, parole, custodial leave and home detention.

- *Inquiry on the increase in Prisoner Population*

The Select Committee on the Increase in Prisoner Population was established in November 1999 and filed a final report in 2001, inquiring into: the effectiveness of imprisonment, including for people with special needs, Aboriginal peoples, and people with a non English speaking background; the use of prisons for people remanded in custody; the effectiveness of building a new women's prison to address increasing numbers of women prisoners and any contract entered into for such a prison; alternatives to incarceration; and post release policies and coordination of integrated assistance.

- *AJAC Report: Aboriginal People and Bail Courts in NSW*

The report reviewed 100 bail cases from 5 NSW courts, and found that the type of bail conditions imposed for similar offences varied greatly between locations; there was inconsistency in the amount of surety required between courts; and bail decisions within a given court sometimes conflicted between similar cases.

- *Bail Accommodation Support Program in the New England Area*

The program will be established in the Inverell area to provide an accommodation option for young people who would otherwise be refused bail due to a lack of appropriate accommodation. The service will provide bail support, residential and reintegration programs for juvenile offenders as an alternative to incarceration in a juvenile justice centre, with specific attention to young Aboriginal offenders. It is anticipated that the local Inverell community will play an active role in the program through the establishment of an advisory panel, including members of the local community, Inverell Shire Council and police.

- *New residential rehabilitation facilities*

DJJ contracted the Ted Noffs Foundation to establish new residential rehabilitation facilities in Dubbo and Coffs Harbour as a Drug Summit initiative. The Coffs Harbour

facility opened in October 2001 and the Dubbo facility in June 2002. The services provide treatment programs for departmental clients to increase their capacity to manage their lives and achieve a sustained reduction in their levels of substance abuse.

- *DJJ Corporate Plan 2001-2004*

The Plan specifies 3 Key Result Areas (KRAs) focusing on Effective Interventions, Social Justice and Organisational Health.

- *Review of the Mentor Program*

A review of the Mentor Program was conducted by ARTD with the aim of providing a basis for strategies to improve or modify the current Mentor Program to reflect best practice, and to identify alternative models to deliver support to clients. A major finding of the review was that administration of the program had caused difficulties on a number of levels.

2002

- *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002*

Assented to on 29 November 2002, and commenced in December 2005. Was introduced in response to the Wood Royal Commission, which recommended that police powers be consolidated into one Act.

- *The Children (Detention Centres) Amendment Act 2002*

Requires that detainees who escape from lawful custody or who fail to return from leave serve the time they missed while they were unlawfully absent from custody ("street time").

- *Crimes Amendment (Police and Other Law Enforcement Officers) Act 2002*

Commenced on 15 July 2002. The Act amends the *Crimes Act 1900* with respect to offences committed against police officers and other law enforcement officers; to provide greater protection for such officers.

- *Statutory evaluation of the Young Offenders Act*

UNSW is conducting the statutory evaluation with the DJJ as a collaborative partner and with the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council in this Australian Research Council funded research project. The research, designed to investigate whether the Act is meeting its stated objects, is due to be completed in 2002.

The department is also conducting a review of the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987 and its Regulation*.

- *Responsibility for transportation*

Previously the responsibility for transporting and supervising detainees at court was a shared responsibility between the Department of Juvenile Justice and NSW Police. On 1 July 2002 the Department assumed responsibility from NSW Police for all transportation and court supervision of detainees appearing at court in the Hunter Region of NSW.

- *The Young People in Custody Health Survey 2002*

Work commenced on a comprehensive population survey of the psychological and physical health characteristics of young people in custody; to be conducted across all JJs in NSW. This survey is being facilitated through collaboration between the

Department's Psychological and Specialist Services and Health Services, Corrections Health Service and The University of Sydney.

– *Post Release Support Program*

A new service delivery model for the program was introduced in March 2002. The program has 3 Key Result Areas: Reintegration Planning and Implementation; Network Building; and Working Collaboratively. Within each of the Key Result Areas the program identifies eleven outcome streams: Accommodation; Income Support; Offending Behaviour; Vocational Training and Employment; Education; Health; Living and Survival Skills; Social and Personal Skills; Legal Issues; Leisure and Recreation; and Family and other Support Networks. 10 agencies are providing services in Blacktown, Cabramatta, Marrickville, Miller and Waterloo in Sydney, and at Dubbo, Grafton, Newcastle/Taree, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.