The Comparative Youth Penality Project

Project Newsletter July 2016

The Comparative Youth Penality Project (CYPP) is an ARC Discovery Project led by Professor Chris Cunneen, Professor Eileen Baldry, Emeritus Professor David Brown, Melanie Schwartz and Professor Barry Goldson (University of Liverpool).

The CYPP is an international comparative study of youth punishment in Australia (focusing on NSW, Victoria, Queensland and WA) and in England and Wales. The project aims to analyse developments in the punishment of children and young people over the last 30 years. This is the first in-depth analysis of Australian youth penalty and the first comparative study of youth punishment across these jurisdictions.

The Project seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the defining features of contemporary juvenile justice penalty?
- How has youth penalty changed since the early 1980s across the jurisdictions that are the subject of this project?
- How have changing approaches to youth penalty impacted upon particular social groups, including racial minorities, Indigenous youth, young women, and young people with mental and cognitive disabilities?
- What, if any, jurisdictional differences are to be found in discourses on community safety, the nature of childhood and youth (including child welfare and protection), the appropriateness of rehabilitation and the character of punishment practices for youth?
- How has the development of a human rights framework impacted on penal law, policy and practice as applied to youth? What impact, if any, has a children’s rights framework had on differentiating youth justice from adult penal systems?
This newsletter provides stakeholders with an update on the progress of the CYPP. It also lists some of the latest news and research in the field of youth penalty. For more information please visit our website or contact CYPP Research Associate, Sophie Russell.

CYPP News

CYPP Twitter Account  @CYPPUNSW

The CYPP now has a twitter account. Follow us to stay up to date on youth justice news, events, research, and publications.

Reintegration Puzzle Conference

In June, Chief Investigator Professor Eileen Baldry and Research Associate Sophie Russell presented findings from the CYPP on young people with mental health disorders and cognitive disabilities in the criminal justice system at the Reintegration Puzzle Conference held at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria. The 2016 conference theme was ‘Disability and Incarceration: Multiple Disadvantage and the Need for Individualised Support’. The conference provided an opportunity for the CYPP project team to connect with service providers across Australia and hear leading research on the intersection between disability and the criminal justice system.

British Society of Criminology Conference

In July, Chief Investigator Emeritus Professor David Brown travelled to the United Kingdom to present research from the CYPP at the British Society of Criminology Conference in Nottingham. David chaired the session Children as Subjects and Victims of Criminal Justice and presented a paper on themes in juvenile justice which included interview material with children in detention and criminal justice professionals.

European Society of Criminology Conference

The CYPP will be presenting a panel at the European Society of Criminology Conference in Muenster, Germany in September.

News (Australia & UK)

Australia

Teenage terrorism suspects could be detained for two weeks under proposed NSW laws, Michael Safi, *The Guardian*, 4 May 2016.

Psychologist Professor Tim Carey says youth offenders at risk of mental harm if forced into mechanical restraint chairs, Matt Garrick, *NT News*, 9 May 2016.

Police frustrated as young offenders lead even younger siblings astray, Chris McMahon, *Townsville Bulletin*, 10 May 2016.


Supreme Court Chief Justice Chris Kourakis hits out at South Australia Indigenous jail toll, Andrew Dowdell, *The Advertiser*, 21 May 2016.


We must do more to help people with intellectual impairments stay out of prison, Frank Brennan, *The Conversation*, 24 May 2016.


We've been silent on injustice for too long, Ruth Barson and Julia Cleary, *The Age*, 25 May 2016.


Restraint chairs with cable ties approved for youths in NT, James Oaten, *ABC News*, 26 May 2016.


Schools’ tough approach to bad behaviour isn’t working – and may escalate problems, Anna Sullivan, *The Conversation*, 27 May 2016.

Aurukun youths may be suffering foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and need help not punishment, Meg Perkins, *The Courier Mail*, 30 May 2016.


Crime is up in Dandenong but can the Apex gang be blamed?, Tom Cowie, *The Age*, 18 June 2016.


If we want to reduce crime, we need to break the rules, Gino Vumbaca and Sarah Hopkins, *The Huffington Post*, 12 July 2016.

**UK**


Youth jails should be replaced by secure schools, finds review, Alan Travis, *The Guardian*, 9 February 2016.


Mother hopes joint enterprise verdict will overturn son’s murder conviction, Jamie Grierson, *The Guardian*, 20 February 2016.


Youth Justice Board’s record under scrutiny, The Guardian, 22 May 2016.

Half of children in youth custody have been in care system, review finds, The Guardian, 23 May 2016.

Children in care: Call to cut prosecutions for minor offences, Hannah Richardson, BBC News, 23 May 2016.

Praise for child care in Surrey, Farnham Herald, 30 May 2016.


Fall in number of magistrates ‘will mean less diversity’, Owen Bowcott, The Guardian, 23 June 2016.

National Probation Service chief to head up the Youth Justice Board, Jim Dunton, Civil Service World News, 27 June 2016.

Our justice system lets young people down – here’s how to fix it, Mat Ilic, The Huffington Post, 12 July 2016.

Research


Crowe, K. 2016 Secure Welfare Services: Risk, Security and Rights of Vulnerable Young People in Victoria, Australia, Youth Justice


Prison Reform Trust 2016 In Care, Out of Trouble, Prison Reform Trust: London.


Events

The 2nd Australasian Youth Justice Conference will be held from 13 – 15 September in Brisbane, Queensland.

The European Society of Criminology Conference will be held from 21 – 24 September in Muenster, Germany.
The **American Society of Criminology Conference** will be held from 16 – 19 November in New Orleans. The theme for 2016 is *The Many Colors of Crime and Justice*.

The **Australia and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference** will be held 29 – 2 December in Hobart, Tasmania. The theme for 2016 is *Horizon Criminology*. Looking over the horizon there are challenges for criminology and criminal justice requiring innovative interpretations and creative responses to the past, present and future.

The **Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference** will be held 15 – 16 February 2017 at the Dockside Function Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. The conference will showcase high quality Australian and international research in the areas of policing, offender rehabilitation, situational crime prevention, corrections, early-intervention and criminal justice administration.