

Tasmanian Aboriginal children and young people thrive within well-supported families and local communities, upholding their rights and contributing to the wellbeing and rights of those around them, leading healthy, safe and culturally enriching lives

Tasmanian Aboriginal children and young people are deeply connected to their culture, family and community, fostering a strong sense of identity and belonging



Tasmanian Aboriginal children and young people are the future

“

Have your say on the

Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy”

Why?

Aboriginal children experience heightened vulnerability because of the impacts of intergenerational trauma stemming from the damaging legacy of colonisation.

Aboriginal young people in Tasmania are almost six times as likely as non-Aboriginal young people to be under youth justice supervision.

Address the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Tasmanian youth justice system.

Aims

A reduction in the number of Aboriginal children and young people entering the youth justice system.

A reduction in the amount of time Aboriginal children and young people are in the youth justice system.

A reduction in the number of Aboriginal children and young people re-entering the youth justice system.

An increase in the number of Aboriginal children and young people connected to family and local communities and living healthy, safe and culturally rich lives.

How?

We recognise that Aboriginal organisations are best placed to ensure there are appropriate responses to address the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the youth justice system in Tasmania.

We will actively form partnerships to provide culturally appropriate supports and services for Aboriginal children and young people.

Who?

Aboriginal-led youth justice actions



By

Supporting Aboriginal organisations to develop programs that promote wellbeing and sustain connection with community and culture.

Ensuring Aboriginal children and young people have access to Aboriginal-led diversionary services.

Introducing new fit-for-purpose, secure and safe youth justice facilities, co-designed with Aboriginal organisations and supported by child-centric evidence-based and therapeutic models of care.

Ensuring cultural safety across the youth justice system for Aboriginal children and young people.

Increasing cultural competence across the youth sector to enable staff to identify and work in culturally appropriate ways.



Outcomes



Aboriginal children and young people feel safe and supported, valued and have strong voices and healthy relationships.



Aboriginal young people are not over-represented in the criminal justice system — Closing the Gap Socio-Economic Outcome 11.



The artist and artwork: *Bonnie Starick is a Pakana woman of the Trawlwoolway nation from the Country of Tebrakunna. Her bloodlines come from a long line of strong women; her grandmothers Emmerenna, Wathikawitja and Elizabeth Maynard. 'Together' depicts Community, connections and culture. I chose images that I felt reflected community through using the people in the foreground and handprints. To represent connections, I used images of Turapina (Ben Lomond) and Kunanyi (Mt Wellington). The sun is a symbol of new beginnings. For culture I used the yula (mutton bird), which is used in cultural practices, when families and community come together to work and support each other to gather and process the bird meat. The yula is a symbol of freedom through flight. The stars have dual meaning, through our creation stories of the spirit coming over the Milky Way to create Lutruwita (Tasmania), and for the representation of Aboriginal achievement and self-determination.*

Youth Justice Outcomes for Aboriginal

Youth Justice Blueprint Strategies	Domain
Prioritise prevention and early intervention to reduce engagement with the youth justice system	Aboriginal children, young people and families
Promote wellbeing and sustain connectedness with community and culture	Cultural rights
Ensure diversion from the justice system is early and lasting	Diversion to healing
Establish a therapeutically based criminal justice response for children and young people	
Integrate and connect whole-of-government and community service systems	Aboriginal-led
Provide an appropriately trained, supported and culturally aligned therapeutic workforce	Culturally competent system

Youth: A Possible Framework

Goals	Priorities
Voices	Work in partnership to develop Aboriginal-led activities:
Strengths	
Cultural rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing wellbeing, prevention and early intervention actions
Connections	
Care and respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-affirming cultural rights for children and families
First is last contact	
Not alone	
Leading and growing	
Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing diversion to healing actions• Establishing first contact, policing, court assessments and referrals• Partnering on supported accommodation• Providing intensive case management• Increasing diversion options for on remand children and young people• Reducing children and young people on community-based supervision• Reducing children and young people in custodial care• Helping transition youth from detention to community
Safe	



What we heard

Establish multi-year partnerships with Aboriginal-led organisations, focusing on trust-building, co-design, and shared accountability. This will enable the creation of a seamless pathway for Aboriginal children to move from youth justice into an Aboriginal wellbeing and healing system accompanied by their families and local communities.



Should we?

- Hold a workshop with Aboriginal families and organisations to design and develop pathways from youth justice to community-led wellbeing and healing systems.
- Partner with a youth justice service to review current cases and identify practical opportunities for moving Aboriginal children into community-led wellbeing and healing support.
- Develop guidelines outlining the steps for moving Aboriginal children from youth justice into Aboriginal family-centred care.



What we heard

Develop Aboriginal-led youth justice networks that actively support transitions into wellbeing and healing systems On Country. These networks connect children, families, and service providers to ensure continuity of care and sustained healing.



Should we?

- Convene a meeting of Aboriginal organisations and experts to create a transition map showing the connections between youth justice, family, and local wellbeing and healing systems.
- Fund the pairing of Aboriginal-led organisations with Aboriginal mentors to design a specific wellbeing- and healing-based project for Aboriginal youth.
- Fund a trial project helping move Aboriginal children from youth justice into Aboriginal extended family or local support systems, tracking the outcomes.



What we heard

On Country activities offer cultural healing and a supportive environment as an alternative to youth justice engagement and youth detention. Activities will support children to reintegrate into an Aboriginal-led wellbeing and healing system that includes family, extended family, and local supports.



Should we?

- Implement a series of one-day On Country experiences with Aboriginal youth, including their families, and map pathways into local wellbeing and healing systems with the group.
- Work with Aboriginal organisations to identify existing wellbeing and family-support services that can be directed towards post-youth justice care.
- Create a simple template for government staff supporting transitioning Aboriginal youth from On Country youth justice programs into ongoing Aboriginal family and wellbeing and healing support.

Should we? Establish a youth justice support distribution model to co-ordinate and distribute government services through Aboriginal organisations for Aboriginal children emerging and in the youth justice system.

Resources: The Coalition of Peaks and the Closing the Gap portals have numerous resources that support Aboriginal organisations and governments to take action to help Aboriginal youth and their families in the youth justice system.

Question 1: What Aboriginal-led services and supports do Aboriginal people want for their children and families: local family and community supports, health and education services and youth justice system services?

Question 2: What can agencies and community organisations do to support the creation and scope of Aboriginal-led youth justice services and health and education services for Aboriginal children, and to connect families and local community support networks with Aboriginal children and young people?

Reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system to **ZERO**

Immediate opportunities

Working in partnership on:

- ✓ Gathering and sharing information
- ✓ Building new services that embed self-determination
- ✓ Jointly monitoring progress
- ✓ Jointly instilling transparency between organisations and services for children
- ✓ Building the workforce
- ✓ Building investment opportunities
- ✓ Building opportunities for children and families to speak and act on their wellbeing

Tasmanian Government agencies will:

- ✓ Work in partnership to expand services performed by Aboriginal organisations in the youth justice sector
- ✓ Work with Aboriginal health and education providers to develop and grow wellbeing, health and education services for Aboriginal children and young people
- ✓ Help and co-ordinate access for Aboriginal children and young people to their families, extended families and local community support networks



Have your say

Contact your local community organisation or you can email us at yjreform@dpac.tas.gov.au



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Tasmanian Aboriginal
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Why?

Aboriginal children experience heightened vulnerability because of the impacts of intergenerational trauma stemming from the damaging legacy of colonisation.

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How?

We recognise that Aboriginal organisations are best placed to ensure there are appropriate responses to address the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the youth justice system in Tasmania.

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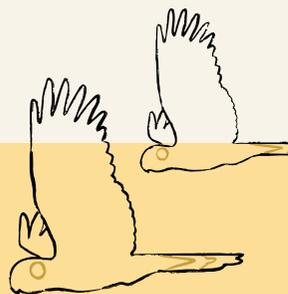
Outcomes



Aboriginal children and young people feel safe and supported, valued and have strong voices and healthy relationships.



Aboriginal young people are not over-represented in the criminal justice system — Closing the Gap Socio-Economic Outcome 11.



The artist and artwork: *Bianca Templar is a proud Truwulway/Bunurong woman, artist and Social Worker who resides on the unceded banks of the Kanamaluka/River Tamar. For this piece, I am wanting community to think of their inherited warrior strength that comes with being an Aboriginal person, to remind them of the importance of Country, culture and community. I envision achieving this through natural elements that remind mob of Country, such as wattle, gum leaves, walking on Country, petroglyphs (images carved onto rock), and two hands to show the journey of coming together for young people. I have outlined an image of a mangana (yellow-tailed black cockatoos) as it is believed they hold the spirits of our old people. I have included these as a reminder to our young people that they've inherited the spirits of our old people and even though they may not be here in person to guide us and walk with us, they are still here in spirit providing guidance.*

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First is last contact	
Not alone	
Leading and growing	
Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enabling cultural competence in the workforce
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