

Youth Justice Diversionary Services Framework

Implementation Plan
2025–2027

Youth Justice Diversionary Services Framework Implementation Plan 2025-2027

This two-year implementation plan from 2025-2027 shows how the government will implement the Youth Justice Diversionary Services Framework (the Framework) over the next two years.

The implementation plan should be considered as complementary to the Youth Justice Model of Care Implementation Plan, and the Youth Justice Blueprint 2024-2034 which include actions and strategies relating to diversionary services.

Service providers will implement the Framework in different ways depending on their operating environments.

Diversionary services that are required to apply the Framework include services that receive funding specifically to support children and young people who have been referred to their service as part of conditions or requirements

of a diversionary process, such as through cautions, community conferences or court orders and services that specifically work with children and young people for the purpose of addressing their offending behaviour.

This does not include services that are open to children and young people who have been diverted – such as the general services provided by schools, health services, housing support and family support services.

The Framework will also apply to services that support children and young people who are on orders relating to bail or transition from detention. While these are not directly linked to legislated diversionary processes, applying the Framework to these services will work to reduce the likelihood of children and young people having future contact with the youth justice system.



The table below demonstrates the requirements for implementing the Framework for organisations:

Service delivery type	Must implement the Framework	Highly recommended to use the Framework as a guide for good practice*
Delivering diversion, bail support or transition from detention services with Tasmanian Government funding	✔	
Delivering diversionary services with no Tasmanian Government funding		✔
Administering statutory diversionary processes, including police cautioning and community conferencing	✔	

**All youth justice sector services must implement the Model of Care regardless of funding source*

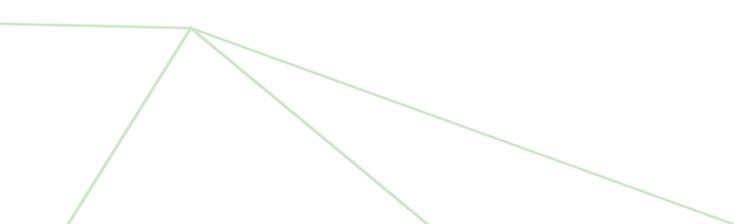
We will know that the Framework has been successfully implemented when there are fewer children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people, in the tertiary youth justice system through access to diversion that is early, proportionate and lasting. The Framework and implementation plan will support this by providing a range of diversion options that support children and young people with prosocial pathways and therapeutic supports, as well as through the review of existing statutory diversion processes.

The Framework will continue to be implemented and monitored over the life of the Youth Justice Blueprint 2024-2034 (the Blueprint) and through Commission of Inquiry (COI) Recommendation 12.13.

This plan includes activities and initiatives that will be undertaken, including:

- Delivery of place-based early intervention, prevention and diversionary approaches for youth offending in local communities.
- Delivery of JCP Youth’s BEAST program to an increased number of young people in the youth justice system
- A review of police cautioning and community conferences, as per COI Recommendation 12.13(a-b)

It is expected that following the completion of this implementation plan, the implementation of the Framework becomes business as usual for agencies and service providers.



Implementation of the Framework

Implementation of the Framework will involve stakeholders from across the youth justice sector to achieve better outcomes for children and young people, government agencies, and community and Aboriginal service providers.

The Youth Justice Reform Cross-Agency Steering Committee will become the steering committee for the implementation of the Framework and provide a forum for the coordination of activities across government agencies.

Implementation of the Framework will occur in a range of ways from the strategic to operational level. This will be underpinned by the advisory groups that support the Youth Justice Reform work. This includes participation from members of the:

- Youth Justice Reform Community Engagement Group
- Youth Justice Reform Expert Panel
- Youth Justice Reform Aboriginal Reference Group.

For those services that are funded by Government to deliver diversionary services, compliance with the Framework will form part of the conditions of their funding agreements.

Service providers will be required to demonstrate how the *Key Elements* and *Ways of Working* within the Framework are applied in their service delivery and report against agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as part of contract management. Where funding agreements between services and agencies have been finalised prior to the release of the Framework, the project team will liaise with responsible agencies and services to discuss how the Framework can be implemented into future funding agreements.

Monitoring implementation of the Framework

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the implementation of the Framework will be guided by the development of a Youth Justice Blueprint Outcomes Framework. In the interim, the Framework's outcomes will be measured by progress against the success measures below, and evaluation data collected from services.

The Youth Justice Reform Cross-Agency Steering Committee will monitor and report against deliverables in the Outcomes Framework and report to the Tasmanian Government Secretaries Board.

Monitoring of outcomes will be supported by data collected as part of service delivery, under funding agreements that align with the Model and Care and the Diversionary Services Framework.

Implementation actions

Actions for the Implementation Plan are outlined in each implementation stage for the Framework, and include goals, strategies, timelines and success measures across:

STAGE ONE

Establishment

STAGE TWO

Sector engagement/preparedness

STAGE THREE

Initial projects

STAGE FOUR

Ongoing work

Establishment

Strategies	Timeline	Persons responsible	Success measure
 Action: Communicate the Framework to service providers and government agencies			
Communicate the purpose and obligations of the Framework and the relationship with the Model of Care to stakeholders.	Jun – Aug 2025	Youth Justice Reform Team	Stakeholders are aware of the why/how to use the Framework in their service delivery.
 Action: Ensure that implementation progress is monitored and accountable			
Establish governance that includes cross-sectoral engagement through the Youth Justice Reform Expert Panel, Cross-Agency Steering Committee, Community Engagement Group and Aboriginal Reference Group.	Life of the project	Youth Justice Reform Team	Project has functional decision making and engaged advisory mechanisms to maintain project momentum.

Sector engagement/preparedness

Strategies	Timeline	Persons responsible	Success measure
 Action: Continue to grow relationships, partner with the youth justice sector, including non-government organisations to implement the Framework in their service delivery			
Regular engagement with funded organisations to monitor progress and identify gaps and opportunities.	Life of the project	Youth Justice Reform Team & governance groups	Opportunities to increase the range and options for diversionary services are identified.
Incorporate the Framework into future and existing funding agreements and processes.	Life of the project	Youth Justice Reform Team	Children and young people are supported by diversionary services that are child centred and evidence informed. Diversionary service providers are supported to transition to alignment with the Framework.
Develop tools to support providers in meeting requirements of new Funding Agreements.	Aug 2025	Youth Justice Reform Team	Service providers are able to design their programs in alignment with the Framework.



Initial projects

Strategies	Timeline	Persons responsible	Success measure
 Action: Identify, develop and implement new place-based diversionary approaches in Hobart's Northern Suburbs			
Place-based early intervention and prevention initiatives developed and implemented in Brighton and Glenorchy municipalities.	Already commenced – Jan 2027	Youth Justice Reform Team and community stakeholders	Children and young people have the underlying drivers of their offending addressed by the provision of prosocial and therapeutic pathways in their local communities.
Deliver a new Youth Afterhours Diversion Service 6-month pilot.	Already commenced – Oct 2025	Youth Justice Reform Team	Children and young people who come into contact with the youth justice system afterhours have increased access to diversion pathways.
 Action: Provide additional places in JCP Youth's BEAST program			
Delivery of \$3.7m over three years to strengthen JCP Youth's BEAST Program, providing critical support for up to 90 young Tasmanians at risk of entering or re-entering the justice system.	Already commenced – ongoing	Department for Education, Children and Young People	Up to 90 additional places are provided in JCP Youth's BEAST program to support children and young people by addressing the underlying drivers of offending behaviour.

Strategies	Timeline	Persons responsible	Success measure
 Action: Review existing statutory diversionary processes (cautioning and community conferences) for utilisation, effectiveness, and alignment to the Framework			
<p>Undertake a review of cautioning and community conferences and identify any opportunities for change and to reduce barriers for children and young people to access these options.</p>	<p>Already commenced – Dec 2025</p>	<p>Youth Justice Reform Team, engaged with Services for Youth Justice (DECYP) and Tasmania Police (DPFEM)</p>	<p>Children and young people are supported by diversionary processes that are aligned to good practice, contemporary evidence and a therapeutic youth justice approach, and are effective.</p> <p>Barriers are removed to accessing diversionary processes.</p>
 Action: Review the current bail support program with a view to expanding its capacity and funding additional bail support programs			
<p>Undertake a review of 54 reasons' REBOOT program.</p>	<p>Already commenced – Jul 2025</p>	<p>Youth Justice Reform Team</p>	<p>Children and young people on bail are supported by programs that are aligned to good practice, contemporary evidence and a therapeutic youth justice approach, and are adequately resourced.</p>
<p>Develop a 24/7 bail service system model.</p>	<p>Already commenced – Jul 2025</p>	<p>Youth Justice Reform Team</p>	<p>Children and young people who have been charged with offences are supported by a bail system that prioritises diversion, therapeutic and evidence-based approaches and is adequately resourced.</p>

Strategies	Timeline	Persons responsible	Success measure
 Action: Develop a consistent and coordinated approach for preventing and identifying harmful sexual behaviours in Tasmania			
<p>Develop a Statewide Harmful Sexual Behaviours Framework for preventing, identifying and responding to harmful sexual behaviours in Tasmania. This will be developed collaboratively with stakeholders, and promote partnerships that deliver a contemporary, evidence-informed and aligned approach to meet the needs of children and young people.</p>	<p>Already commenced – Oct 2025</p>	<p>Department of Premier and Cabinet, engaged with government agencies, community partners, impacted children and young people</p>	<p>Harmful sexual behaviours are understood, prevented, identified and responded to in a consistent way across Tasmania, to produce effective and meaningful outcomes for children and young people.</p>



Ongoing work

Strategies	Timeline	Persons responsible	Success measure
 Action: Identify and contribute to Tasmanian and Australian Government policy, legislation, budget processes and project development relevant to the Framework			
<p>Engage with work underway to implement other youth justice related COI recommendations, especially the review of the <i>Youth Justice Act 1997</i>.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Youth Justice Reform Team and Department for Education, Children and Young People Legislative Review Team</p>	<p>Review of the Youth Justice Act has progressed to give effect to COI recommendations including to prioritise rehabilitation in sentencing, and reducing barriers to accessing diversion, such as the requirement to admit guilt.</p>
 Action: Implement organisational realignment for child safety and youth justice services			
<p>Establish the new Child Safety and Youth Justice Operations Portfolio to share a single philosophy, model of care and practice framework between these areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Department for Education, Children and Youth People</p>	<p>Children and young people experience consistent and joined-up service delivery and case management and build trusting relationships with their key worker. Staff working in child safety and youth justice services are better able to support children and young people with youth justice system involvement to address the underlying drivers of their offending through a consistent, trauma-informed, and child-centred approach.</p>
 Action: Explore new ways of working to address underlying drivers of offending			
<p>Ongoing engagement with the youth justice and community sectors to identify opportunities for new services or to update existing services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Youth Justice Reform Team</p>	<p>The Youth Justice Reform Team is well positioned to identify future opportunities to increase the range and options for diverting children and young people from the justice system and to avoid duplication.</p>

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