



Youth Justice Reforms

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As Co-Chair for the Tasmanian Governments B4 Early Years Coalition (B4) I wish to highlight the following in regard to the Youth Justice Blueprint 2022 (Blueprint).

As noted in the Blueprint there is a complex range of issues that impact on a child's wellbeing and development and their trajectory to possible anti-social or criminal behaviours. The range of impacts that we know start in the early years, pregnancy to 4, especially the first 1000 days being the period pregnancy to 2. Some children without a balance of protective factors to these impacts, establish a life trajectory that can include entry into the youth justice system.

An omission in Appendix B of the work already being undertaken by the government is that of a critical document, "It Takes a Tasmanian Village: Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy" (the Strategy). This Strategy with a strong focus on the first 1000 days is working to ensure all Tasmanian children grow and thrive. This emphasis on the early years comes from the growing evidence and research in understanding the correlation between a child's early life events and their later life outcomes which can include entry to the youth justice system.

For Tasmanian children if we can get it right in the early years, we have an increased ability get it right now and for life. Including interventions that see diversion beginning in the early years, that support and guide a trajectory away from youth justice system and other negative life impacts in later childhood or adolescence.

We applaud the work done in this Blueprint to ensure the voices of the children and young people, including those with lived experience, have been part of its development.

In moving forward with the Blueprint, B4 and our B4 Leaders group is always open to be contacted for support, assistance or guidance in regard to the early years as required. To contact please email B4 Support Team on b4@decyp.tas.gov.au or telephone (03) 616 55666.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth'.

Elizabeth Daly OAM

B4 Co-Chair