

# Youth Justice Reform Taskforce Action Plan 2024–2025 Report

July 2025

Youth Justice Reform Taskforce, Keeping Children Safe Unit  
Department of Premier and Cabinet



## **Acknowledgement of Country**

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we acknowledge and pay our respects to Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the traditional owners and ongoing custodians on Tasmania. We recognise Tasmanian Aboriginal people's continuing connection to Land, Sea, Waterways, Sky and Culture and extend our respects to Elders, past and present.

We are committed to working in partnership with Tasmanian Aboriginal people, to address the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system, ensuring they are safe and supported to live culturally-rich and thriving lives.

Published July 2025

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# Introduction

**Over the past 12 months, the Youth Justice Reform Taskforce has worked alongside children and young people, their families, Aboriginal leaders, frontline workers and community organisations to make Tasmania's youth justice system safer, more therapeutic and more effective.**

This work was guided by the [Youth Justice Reform Taskforce Action Plan 2024-2025](#), developed in response to the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings (Commission of Inquiry) and aligned with the Youth Justice Blueprint 2024-2034. The Plan focused on five priority areas that lay the groundwork for long-term change.

The Plan also complements the [Keeping Kids Safe in Detention Action Plan 2024-2026](#) which outlined actions the Tasmanian Government are progressing to keep children safe in detention now.

The Taskforce Action Plan focused on immediate and short-term priorities over a twelve-month period that progressed crucial infrastructure, prevention and diversion activities, and supports therapeutic practice to advance reform across the youth justice system.

The Youth Justice Reform Taskforce was a whole of government approach coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet from July 2024 to June 2025.

What follows is a summary of what has been delivered so far, and what comes next as the reform effort transitions to the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP).



# Delivering the Taskforce Action Plan

The Youth Justice Reform Taskforce was established to drive urgent reform over 12 months, with oversight from the Secretary of Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) and the Minister for Children and Youth.

This work aligned with Commission of Inquiry recommendations and laid the groundwork for long-term change through the Youth Justice Blueprint 2024–2034.

The following foundational elements were achieved:

- A new Youth Justice Model of Care that supports the youth justice workforce
- More early intervention, prevention and diversion programs for young people supported by a new Youth Justice Diversionary Framework
- A stronger and informed focus on bail support and transition options for young people in the youth justice system
- Consultation to inform a dedicated Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy
- The masterplan for a new Youth Justice Facility

The work focused on the following five key priorities:

## ACTION ONE

Finalise and commence implementation of a Youth Justice Model of Care

## ACTION TWO

Implement a range of early intervention, prevention and diversion programs and options

## ACTION THREE

Implement a range of assisted bail and transition from detention options

## ACTION FOUR

Develop a Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy

## ACTION FIVE

Design and construct a new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility

## Strong governance and community partnership

To guide reform, the Taskforce brought together government departments, experts across the sector, Aboriginal leaders and community voices through five key groups:

### Youth Justice Reform Expert Panel

Made up of independent specialists, the Expert Panel met seven times and advised on therapeutic reform, the Youth Justice Diversionary Framework and the facility masterplan.

### Youth Justice Reform Cross Agency Steering Committee (CASC)

The CASC was established by the Taskforce to support a whole-of-government approach to the development, implementation and monitoring of actions under the Action Plan in reforming the youth justice system in Tasmania. The CASC met three times and considered the review of the Youth Justice Act, Diversionary Services Framework, Place-based diversionary approaches, Youth After-hours Diversion Service and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy consultation.

### Youth Justice Reform Aboriginal Reference Group

This group met six times and ensured Aboriginal children and young people remained central to the reform. Their advice shaped the Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy consultation, the development and implementation of the Model of Care and the New Youth Justice Facility masterplan.

### Youth Justice Reform Community Engagement Group (CEG)

Over 30 community organisations participated in four forums that helped shape core youth justice reform elements including the Model of Care, diversion services, New Youth Justice Facility masterplan, and practice frameworks.

### Youth Justice Reform Cross-Agency Working Group (CAWG)

This government decision-making group helped steer the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry's 39 youth justice recommendations. The working group provided input on a broad range of Taskforce actions from the Model of Care to the Diversionary Services Framework.

Working groups such as the Diversion Working Group and Model of Care Resource Implementation Working Group were also formed on an as needs basis for key projects to support the Taskforce. Consultation with community organisations and stakeholders also occurred in relation to specific actions.

The voices of children and young people have informed the work of the Youth Justice Reform Taskforce through a number of different mechanisms. These included targeted engagement for the Youth Justice Model of Care, Youth Justice Diversionary Framework, 54 reasons review and the place-based community led work that involved children, young people and families.

# Work completed under the Taskforce

## ACTION ONE

### Finalise and commence implementation of a Youth Justice Model of Care

Collaboration across the youth justice sector through consultation and workshops provided the breadth of knowledge and experience that informed the development of the Youth Justice Model of Care (Model of Care).

In December 2024, Tasmania released its first Youth Justice Model of Care, setting a clear vision for how children and young people in contact with, or at risk of coming into contact with, the youth justice system should be supported.

All Tasmanian children and young people deserve to thrive. The Model of Care was developed in respect of cultures, to build on strengths, uphold rights, address unmet needs, reduce offending and keep communities safe.

The Model of Care aims to assist the youth justice sector to deliver therapeutic, culturally safe, integrated, collaborative and timely responses that are evidence-informed, rights-based and work together to support children and young people in, or at risk of coming into contact with, the youth justice system as well as their families and their broader communities.

#### The Model of Care is:



Therapeutic and trauma-informed



Culturally safe and inclusive



Evidence-informed to support social and community based approaches



Collaborative, with government and community working together

A self-assessment tool, case studies and training calendar are now being finalised, to help services across the state apply the Model of Care consistently.

## ACTION TWO

# Implement a range of early intervention, prevention and diversion programs and options

Supporting children and young people through early intervention, prevention and diversion before they enter the youth justice system are fundamental reform objectives. This year saw key investment in a number of child and youth focussed programs alongside a guiding framework:

### Diversion Framework released

Tasmania now has a state-wide youth justice Diversionary Services Framework to guide best practice in diverting children and young people away from the youth justice system. It helps ensure programs are evidence-based, consistent and targeted to the children and young people who need them most.

### Brighton community-led initiative launched

The Taskforce worked with the Brighton community, including children, young people and families, to co-design new place-based initiatives to prevent and intervene early in anti-social behaviour. Local community members and organisations are developing initiatives to improve and increase service coordination, service delivery, youth participation and access to education. These early intervention and prevention initiatives aim to reduce the number of children and young people in Brighton who come into contact with the youth justice system and increase their sense of belonging in their local community.

### Glenorchy Youth Hub place-based services commenced

The Taskforce is partnering with Glenorchy City Council in the development of youth hub services. Place-based services and programs for the hub will be co-designed with the community, including children and young people with the aim of reducing youth justice system involvement.

### Youth After-hours Diversion Service (YADS) commenced

Launched in May 2025, YADS supports children and young people in the Northern suburbs who come to police attention after-hours. The pilot is run by Anglicare and CatholicCare and offers immediate help when a responsible adult isn't available, to avoid further police attention, and reduce the number of young people remanded.

### Police cautioning and community conferencing review commenced

A review has commenced in response to Commission of Inquiry recommendation 12.13.1(a-b) to examine how police cautions and community conferences are used, their impact, and how they can be improved to support better access to diversion for children and young people.

## ACTION THREE

# Implement a range of assisted bail and transition from detention options

Young people on bail or transitioning out of detention often need extra support to stop reoffending and get back on track. A dedicated bail service model will support collaboration across government and community services to address the underlying drivers of offending for children and young people to make positive changes to their behaviour.

### REBOOT review completed

In response to Commission of Inquiry recommendation 12.14 the REBOOT program, provided by 54 reasons, was reviewed and a final report was provided in June 2025. Recommendations from this review are informing the design of a new 24/7 bail service system and improvements to transition to detention.

### New bail support system drafted for consultation

A draft system for 24/7 bail service support has been developed for consultation, focusing on safety, accountability and wraparound support for young people. The system aims to maximise opportunities for children and young people to access bail through:

- Increasing access to after-hours services, including legal support.
- Expanding bail support service provision and aligning service delivery to the Model of Care.
- Developing pathways to increase access to accommodation.
- Ensuring that any interventions for children and young people on bail are responsive to risks and needs.

Consultation on the new draft bail support system will occur with youth justice sector stakeholders.

## ACTION FOUR

# Develop a Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy

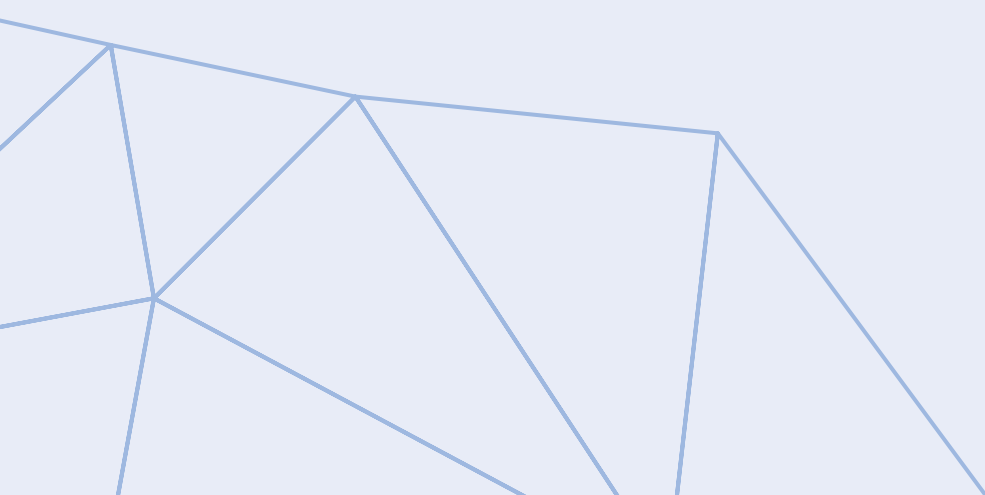
Aboriginal children and young people are over-represented in the youth justice system. Alongside the Blueprint and Model of Care, a dedicated Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy is being codesigned with Aboriginal communities to ensure support for Aboriginal children and young people is culturally responsive and safe.

Engagement on the Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy with Tasmanian Aboriginal people is ongoing and through various means. The driver of engagement has been to establish and promote Aboriginal-led activities to inform the development of the Strategy and lead engagement with non-Aboriginal stakeholders.

Work is underway across government and community to map current services for Aboriginal children and young people, and to identify priority areas that require resources for effective service delivery.

*Have your say* pamphlets and posters were released in May 2025, targeting Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations, to promote discussions on the Strategy within organisations and across their membership.

Two Tasmanian Aboriginal artists were commissioned to develop artwork for the pamphlets and posters and artwork will later be commissioned for the Strategy, to ensure the Strategy is respectful of and promotes connection with Tasmanian Aboriginal people, culture, storytelling and community values.



**ACTION FIVE**

## Design and construct a new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility

Central to Tasmania's commitment to a comprehensive and long-term youth justice reform is the closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) and replacing it with a new secure detention facility that promotes the development of trusting and therapeutic relationships between staff and children and young people.

The new facility will be built at 466 Brighton Road, Pontville. The facility will provide an environment where children and young people experience the highest standards of child centred, rights-based and therapeutic care, where they are provided with education, services and opportunities that support them to enhance connections and return successfully to community.

This facility is one part of an integrated reform program that aims to reduce the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system.

Feedback from the Masterplan is currently being considered. The Development Application is scheduled to be submitted to the Planning Authority (Southern Midlands Council) in mid-August 2025.

 **Site confirmed**

466 Brighton Road, Pontville

 **Masterplan released**

Now closed for public comment.

**The Masterplan includes:**

<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
residential beds	treatment beds	orientation beds

- Entry, Admission, health, education and recreation facilities
- A cultural centre and garden to support connection to family, community and country

Responsibility for the delivery of the new facility has now transitioned back to DECYP who have responsibility for the facility's ongoing management when delivered.

# Next steps

From July 2025, the Department for Education, Children and Young People will take the reform program forward.

## Key next steps include:

- Rolling out training and the self-assessment tool to support implementation of the Model of Care
- Finalising the police cautions and community conferencing review
- Continuing YADS and consultation on broader rollout of the program, including 24/7 bail support services
- Finalising the Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy
- Submitting a Development Application, finalising design documentation and continuing delivery of the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility
- Continuing place-based early intervention and diversion work with Brighton and Glenorchy and identifying new locations to develop place-based youth justice initiatives

Reform is ongoing, but the foundations are in place. With community support and shared commitment, we are building a responsive and therapeutic youth justice system.

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