



2013 – 2014 Annual Report

Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People *Give Them A Life, Not Life in Prison*

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Executive Committee

Chairperson: Sarah Hopkins

Treasurer: Kerry Graham

Secretary: Gino Vumbaca

Ordinary Member: Siobhan Bryson

Ordinary Member: Brad Freeburn

Sub Committees:

Strategic Development Sub Committee: In 2013/2014 this sub committee replaced what had previously been called the 'working group'. This included those individuals and organisations that were involved in the organisation prior to the launch of the 2012 Campaign and those that were active in 2012 – 2013. This included: Weave, ANTaR NSW, Whitelion, Mission Australia, UnitingCare Children Youth and Families, Shopfront Youth Legal Service, Aboriginal Legal Service, Lifestyle Solutions, New South Wales Reconciliation Council, Anne Cregan, Ashurst Australia, Australian Council for Drugs, National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Council, National Community Legal Centres, the Kingsford Legal Centre and Jenny Lovric. Show Me The Way and the Aboriginal Education Council (NSW) Inc. also joined this sub committee this year.

Youth Engagement Sub Committee: Siobhan Bryson convened this sub committee and membership included Weave staff and volunteers. Kaleesha Morris and the Kingsford Community Legal Centre also participated once they became members Just Reinvest NSW. Trei Stewart, Kobi Duncan and Beau Foster, three of the Aboriginal young people who helped launch the Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People Campaign in May 2012, remained involved in this sub committee and in JR NSW activities during the year.

Staff: JR NSW Coordinator: Tiffany McComsey

New Champions

Shane Duffy, Chairperson of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (NATSILS) and Eddie Cubillo, former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner of the NT both accepted invitations to be Justice Reinvestment Campaign Champions.

New Youth Ambassador

During this year JR NSW welcomed a new youth ambassador, Kaleesha Morris. Kaleesha is a young Gumbaynggirr woman from Grafton, NSW who lives in Sydney. She is an Arts/Law student at the University of NSW and works as the Kingsford Legal Centre Aboriginal Access Worker. Kaleesha has a keen interest in advocacy and is particularly passionate about empowering Indigenous people, particularly Indigenous youth, to genuinely engage and participate in decision-making processes and policy development.

Pro Bono Support and Donors: In the first half of the year JR NSW enjoyed the continued support of Anne Wickham and Ben Hornbrook from Boxing Clever who provided public relations and communications advice and assistance. JR NSW continued to receive pro bono legal support and from Ashurst Australia who also kindly hosted the Campaign launch anniversary event at their Sydney office.



Chairperson Summary

This was an exciting year for JR NSW. After having met a milestone last year when we celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People Campaign, this year we saw the continued promotion of the work of Just Reinvest NSW. One of the major successes of Just Reinvest NSW to date has been helping to spread the word about justice reinvestment and how groups such as ours can start to effectively lobby government and other stakeholders to see the benefits of adopting a justice reinvestment approach. Groups across the country have been reaching out to us via our website and social media accounts. A second major achievement this year was our success in working with Aboriginal community members from Bourke NSW to assist them in obtaining funding for a Justice Reinvestment project in Bourke.

As Chairperson I have been able to work with a group of committed individuals and organisations that have supported the organisation in a voluntary capacity, taking time out of their busy schedules to do so. I would like to especially thank my fellow Executive Committee members and those individuals and organisations in the strategic development sub committee for taking on specific tasks throughout the year. These achievements are outlined further in this report.

And finally, on behalf of Just Reinvest NSW, I would like to thank the Aboriginal community of Bourke for inviting us to support the work you are doing in your community. The invitation to support the Bourke Justice Reinvestment Project has been a privilege for us and we look forward to being part of this journey.

Treasurer Summary

On behalf of the Executive Committee and JR NSW membership I would like to thank the Aboriginal Legal Service ACT/NSW for kindly continuing to auspice JR NSW. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work of Felix Orcullo, Chief Financial Officer and Poonam Bajpai, accountant. Both Felix and Poonam have assisted us with maintaining our accounts and helping prepare our financial reports.

Our sources of income this year remained the same: donations (carried over from the last financial year) and membership fees. We saw a slight decrease in membership numbers, which was the result of some individuals not renewing their membership. Our major costs during the year were the part time employment of a coordinator and travel costs for executive committee members to speak at conferences and present on the work of JR NSW.

The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT, on behalf of Just Reinvest NSW, will be auspicng funding for the Justice Reinvestment Bourke Project. Funding for this project will see two JR NSW Executive Committee members (Sarah Hopkins and Kerry Graham) funded for their involvement in this work as project officer and consultant respectively. Sarah and Kerry have been working on this project since its inception and this funding will allow them to continue this work.

2013 – 2014 Activities

Bourke Justice Reinvestment Project

During 2013, members of the justice reinvestment campaign, the Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party and the Australian Human Rights Commission worked together to develop a proposal for implementing justice reinvestment in Bourke.

In late 2013, this proposal was distributed to philanthropic, corporate and government sectors, many of whom have since come on board and who in March 2014 injected substantial funding and in-kind support to kickstart justice reinvestment in Bourke.

With funds in hand, we pulled together an amazing team to begin developing the case for justice reinvestment in Australia.

Bourke Justice Reinvestment Project Team

Alistair Ferguson, Executive Officer: Alistair is the Executive Officer in Community Development, and will be based in Bourke over the two-year project period. For the last ten years he has been the Chairperson of the Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party (BACWP). Key to Alistair's community development is the belief in seeing communities truly empowered and taking responsibility for their own issues and plight. The position of Executive Officer is funded by the [Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation](#) and the [Dusseldorp Skills Forum](#).

Cath Brokenborough, Facilitator: Lendlease is releasing Cath to fill the role of external facilitator, to be based in Bourke three days per month. Cath is Chair of Indigenous Engagement and Reconciliation at [Lend Lease](#) and has had a long involvement with the Bourke Housing project. Cath has the authority and capacity to reach within Lend Lease to secure additional skills and time should that be required at various stages of the work.

Data Manager, Aboriginal Affairs NSW: [Aboriginal Affairs NSW](#) has agreed to provide an in-house data manager to coordinate the collection and collation of data on Bourke.

Data Reference Group: A data reference group has been established and includes representatives from [University of NSW](#) (UNSW), the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) (ABS) and [NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research](#) (BOCSAR). As the project's university partner, UNSW will further provide advice on best practice responses to achieve the agreed shared measures.

Economic Modelling Team: Over the next two years, [KPMG](#) will lead the work of costing the implementation of justice reinvestment in Bourke. They will also produce economic modelling of the cost savings for government observers.

Sarah Hopkins, Project Coordinator: The project will be coordinated by Sarah who is the Chair of Just Reinvest NSW.

Kerry Graham, Consultant: Kerry has agreed to provide critical advice on the collective impact framework.



Subsequent to this initial funding, further funding was provided by the Saint Vincent De Paul Society (NSW) for a Bourke based project officer. This twelve month position was advertised and filled by Vanessa Kendall who has over 20 years experience working with Aboriginal communities in community service case management, education and cultural heritage.

Over the next two years in Bourke, Just Reinvest NSW and the team will develop a watertight case to demonstrate that justice reinvestment offers a real solution to Australian communities seeking to tackle problems around offending and incarceration, while at the same time creating alternate pathways for young people.

Youth Engagement and Ambassador Work

Trei Stewart, Beau Foster and Kobie Duncan, who have supported the Campaign since it launched, continued to contribute to our work. Over the past year, these young Aboriginal men have continued to advocate on behalf of the campaign by spreading the word to their peers, in the community, at schools, and at relevant youth sector forums.

In August they travelled to Adelaide where they presented at the 2013 Australian Youth Action Coalition Conference. Their presentation, which included a new Justice Reinvestment rap song, was a great success and received media attention. Trei and Beau also participated in a conversation about Justice Reinvestment with girls from the Tough Tiddaz program when they visited Sydney in November 2014. Tough Tiddaz is a group of twelve year 7-9 girls from Bourke High School who are participating in a strengths-based program providing the opportunity for better education outcomes and enhanced health and self-esteem, and aimed at reducing the risk of harm from AOD and violence.

Stakeholder Backing of Justice Reinvestment

In November 2013, members of Just Reinvest NSW Inc. met with the Australian Red Cross. The Australian Red Cross has now added its voice to the call for Justice Reinvestment now.

Red Cross says they recognise that while prisons are a necessary part of society, the current level of expenditure is unproductive and ineffective in rehabilitating people or in deterring crime.

Red Cross believes it's a much smarter investment to direct the funds that would be spent on expanding prisons to spending that addresses the causes of crime and to build stronger and safer communities.

In its submission to the 2013 Senate Inquiry into justice reinvestment Red Cross noted that the justice system is particularly failing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and called for justice reinvestment to address this. The Australian Red Cross strongly supports the introduction of justice reinvestment in Australia.

In April 2014, the newest member of Just Reinvest NSW hit the ground running starting to campaign for justice reinvestment in NSW ahead of the 2015 NSW State Election. Youth Action, the peak organisation representing young people and youth services in NSW launched a nine-issue agenda for the upcoming NSW State Election, which included



asking the NSW government to fund a justice reinvestment approach in Bourke and support the implementation of early intervention programs and services in the community.

Forum and Conference Presentations

In May 2014, JR NSW's Chairperson and youth ambassadors were invited to speak at the NSW Reconciliation in Parliament forum. This annual event hosted by ANTaR NSW and the NSW Reconciliation Council, and the focus this year was to encourage parliamentarians to focus on building safer communities through justice reinvestment and a collective impact approach.

In June 2014, Sarah Hopkins presented on behalf of JR NSW at the NIDAC Conference in Melbourne and at the annual ALS Conference.

Major Projects Announced

Online Justice Reinvestment Tool for Communities

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD), in partnership with Just Reinvest NSW, is working on producing an online justice reinvestment tool for communities. This online tool will provide ways of accessing data so a person can do some local modeling to see if Justice Reinvestment is suitable for their community. Once it's developed, the online tool will be free and ready to access from the JR NSW website. This will be developed over the course of the next year.