

Responses to supplementary questions – Youth Justice NSW (Kempsey)

Supplementary Question	Response
<p>How long has the issue of youth crime been prevalent in your region and why do you think it's continued?</p>	<p>BOCSAR reporting on regional crime prevalence indicates that for the Mid North Coast region there has been an increase in the young people proceeded against to court between 2020 and 2023 (i.e. 335 young people in year to December 2020 and 520 young people in the year to December 2023)</p> <p>The three most prevalent crimes for young people in Kempsey over the year July 2023 to June 2024 have been assaults (DV and non DV), break and enter dwelling, and motor vehicle theft.</p>
<p>In your evidence you said, 'I think we need to focus on not risk-assessing kids out of services in our local community.'</p> <p>What supports are available to young people deemed too 'high risk' to access local services?</p>	<p>There are some key stakeholder partnerships to support young people who are at risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the Macleay/Dhina Durriti: Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) assists in linking young people with valuable community resources and support. • Uncle Willie Thompson (KMC): Cultural mentoring for young people within the community, contributing to Youth Justice Conferencing and overall community engagement. • Uncle Darryle Russell (KMC): Cultural mentoring, supporting young people in connecting with the community. • YP Space: A youth refuge that offers essential support for young people in need. • Health Hub Connect: A network of local not-for-profit service providers that collaborate to deliver appropriate mental health and AOD support, primarily through The Buttery. <p>Youth Justice NSW Funded Programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casework Support, delivered by Uniting. • Youth on Track, delivered by Mission Australia. • Safe Aboriginal Youth (SAY) Program has been funded since 2023 and delivered by PCYC but is currently being recommissioned for delivery by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in Kempsey

<p>In your experience, how are youth justice conferences impacting recidivism rates?</p>	<p>The data for Youth Justice Conferencing for all young people indicates that the majority of young people who participate in a Youth Justice Conference do not reoffend within 12 months after their participation. This has been the case since 2001.</p> <p>The current data indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66.9% of young people who participated in a Youth Justice Conference in the 12 months to 30 June 2023 had no further contact with the justice system within 12 months after participation in a YJ Conference • 48.0% of young people in a Youth Justice Conference in the 12 months to 30 June 2022 had no further contact with the justice system within 24 months after participation in a Youth Justice Conference <p>Source: Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, JuvenileReoffending30JUN2024.</p>
<p>In your evidence you said:</p> <p>A lot of the young people that we work with have different diagnoses—intellectual disabilities, for example—and often don't fit the mainstream setting of education that's provided in this area.</p> <p>How are young people with complex needs supported to address their criminogenic risk? Are there suitable vocational training programs available for this cohort?</p>	<p>There are supports available for young people with disability needs in the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Macleay Vocational College is a vocational school that supports many of our young people and plays a key role in our engagement and information exchange efforts. • Nautilus College, Port Macquarie is a vocational school that often hosts a number of our young people, facilitating effective engagement and information sharing.

In your work with local service providers, have you noticed duplication or gaps in services? How can service providers collaborate more effectively to support young people?

- There is capacity for improvement to deliver services in the Kempsey area, including accommodation support, mental health services and recreational programs.
- Greater coordination and cohesion among government and non-government services providers is a critical component to meet the needs of young people.