

5th Australasian Youth Justice Conference – Book of abstracts

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Papers shown in alphabetical order by first presenter surname.

Functional family therapy for adolescent violence in the home: a therapeutic framework.

Mr Kaven Amerasekera¹

¹Ozchild, , Australia

Concurrent Session 4C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Kaven Amerasekera is the Program Manager – Child and Family services at Ozchild which includes the FFT, FFT-CW and TFCO programs in Western and South Western Sydney, Newcastle and the Central Coast, NSW. Kaven is a Psychotherapist who has extensive knowledge and experience in practicing, implementing and managing Evidence Based Programs including previously being the clinical supervisor for FFT and FFT-CW teams.

This presentation introduces FFT as an evidence-based early intervention which has emerged as a prominent and effective intervention model to address youth related issues including positive development, social identity and Adolescent Violence In The Home (AVITH). It sheds light on OzChild's initiatives and implementation of FFT in the Central Coast, NSW showcasing initial findings from 122 completed families that have successfully completed the program, of which 58 were First Nations families.

FFT demonstrates efficacy in managing various youth-related issues like conduct disorders, substance abuse, and school-related challenges. In Australia's evolving context of youth well-being, FFT emerges as a targeted and holistic strategy. It actively involves parents and caregivers in the therapeutic process, recognising their pivotal role in shaping the well-being of young people.

FFT is a relational model, engaging all family members in the intervention process. By fostering shared responsibility, it creates a supportive environment to address root causes and facilitate positive changes.

Therapists equip families with essential skills that directly address risk factors that contribute to youth positive development and social identity including communication strategies, conflict resolution skills, and emotional regulation.

FFT stands out as a valuable intervention model. Its adaptability, collaborative nature, and emphasis on strengths make it promising for nurturing positive change in families. By addressing both individual and systemic factors, FFT offers a comprehensive framework for fostering positive relationships, enhancing communication, and cultivating healthier family dynamics amid the journey of young people's development and social identity.

Strategic support: Multi-agency coordination for young people with a disability

Dr Stavroola Anderson¹, Michael Gathercole¹, Mr Neil Hayes², Ms Toni Simpson³, Mr Paul Higgins⁴, Ms Terri Jackson³

¹Acmena Youth Justice Centre, Department of Communities and Justice, NSW, South Grafton, Australia, ²Adolescent Mental Health, Clinical Operations, Justice Health, NSW, South Grafton, Australia, ³Induna School, Department of Education, NSW, South Grafton, Australia, ⁴Complex Support Needs Branch, National Disability Insurance Agency, Sydney, Australia

Concurrent Session 2C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Stavroola Anderson is part of the Psychology Team at Acmena Youth Justice Centre. Prior to embarking on the process to become a practicing psychologist, she completed PHD research involving young people engaged with the justice system in NSW. Her research, now published as four papers in international journals, investigated associations between language skills, aspects of empathy and callous-unemotional traits. Since first commencing work within youth justice systems, at the Brisbane Youth Education and Training Centre in 2005, Stavroola has been dedicated to investigating and enhancing services for the young people such systems serve. She is also committed to supporting front-line service providers to build their knowledge, skills and connections, in order to develop their service provision. Stavroola is an innovative thinker, with a strong belief in working in and across teams to achieve goals for clients with complex support needs. She considers connecting with other like-minded service providers as a key opportunity to engage in continual reflection and enhancement of systems within which she operates.

Young people engaged with the justice system often have complex life experiences and support needs. Due to an interplay of numerous factors, a period of residence in a secure youth justice setting may present the first, or most effective, opportunity to formally assess and diagnose disabilities and/ or formalise engagement with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). This is a complicated process, which involves input from multiple departments. At Acmena Youth Justice Centre, a 37-person capacity service in regional Northern New South Wales, we have developed processes to maximise coordination between departments and other service providers for clients who have a disability. In this presentation we will provide insight into how we allocate responsibilities and share information to ensure that we are taking a coordinated approach, with the aim of achieving the most appropriate outcomes for each client. We will further discuss some of the challenges we have encountered as a result of operating within a highly dynamic environment, as well as solutions we have enacted to address these. The approach outlined in this presentation will provide an exemplar of how strong connections can support young people to navigate complexity.

Empathy through education: Supporting young people's socio-emotional wellbeing in secure youth justice

Dr Stavroola Anderson¹, Ms Jocelyn Humbley¹, Associate Professor Helen Farley¹

¹Australasian Corrections Education Association, Sydney, Australia

Concurrent Session 4C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Stavroola Anderson has been involved in developing, delivering, and evaluating learning programs in secure youth justice, as well as settings supporting other vulnerable young people, for almost 20 years. She has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Australasian Corrections Education Association (ACEA) for over 10 years. Stavroola is a passionate advocate for the provision of high standard, appropriate programs to young people engaged with the justice system. Her research has highlighted the importance of recognising the interplay between multiple factors which contribute to the challenges these young people face in navigating their own emotions and the social world. As a member of the ACEA Executive Committee, Stavroola has facilitated and promoted opportunities for stakeholders to connect in order to advance their knowledge and skills service, and enhance their service provision. Stavroola is an innovative thinker, with a strong belief in working in and across teams to achieve goals for clients with complex support needs. She considers connecting with other like-minded service providers as a key opportunity to engage in continual reflection and enhancement of systems within which she operates.

In each of the various locations in which young people are detained on justice-related matters in Australia and New Zealand, there operates a school or education centre. The educational staff who work in these locations navigate the requirements, restrictions, policies and procedures of both educational governing bodies and youth-justice related site administrators to provide relevant learning experiences to students with complex life experiences and learning needs. This presentation will provide a brief summary of education provision within justice-related youth detention across Australia and New Zealand. Special attention will be given to the direct and indirect strategies employed throughout education programming to promote the development of empathy and socio-emotional wellbeing among students. The presentation will highlight the importance of skills in social understanding and emotional regulation for both accessing education and desisting from offending behaviour. Importantly, it will give insight into the outstanding and innovative work being conducted by educational teams operating within secure youth justice facilities in Australia and New Zealand.

10-13 year old children with offending behaviour: Professionals' views on current approaches and alternative responses

Rubini Ball¹, Dr Susan Baidawi¹

¹Monash University, , Australia

Concurrent Session 5B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Rubini Ball is a PhD candidate and Research Assistant in the Department of Social Work at Monash University. She is also a social worker with experience in youth justice, youth drug and alcohol and youth mental health fields.

Dr Susan Baidawi is a Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Criminal Justice Research Consortium in the Department of Social Work at Monash University.

This presentation canvasses findings from an Australian Institute of Criminology-funded study focusing on children aged 10 to 13 years with offending behaviour. Qualitative consultations were conducted with 47 judicial, clinical, legal, and social welfare professionals across regional and metropolitan Victoria in 2021-2022. The presentation draws together professionals' views concerning the unique characteristics of 10-13 year old children with offending behaviour, and limitations of current systems to prevent their criminalisation. Alternative responses to better support early offending children and their families will be presented, including suggestions for diversionary, therapeutic models that operate in community outside of the criminal justice system. Findings attending to the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are embedded throughout the presentation.

Place-based approaches for preventing and addressing youth violence

Dr Susan Baidawi¹, Dr Sara Valdebenito², Dr Stephanie Smith³, Dr Michelle Irving³, Emma Wills³, Jade Mitchell³, Amy Hall³, Baoyi Tan³, Jane Lewis³, Professor Aron Shlonsky¹

¹Department of Social Work, Monash University, , Australia, ²Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, ³Centre for Evidence & Implementation, , Australia & UK

Concurrent Session 2D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Dr Susan Baidawi is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work at Monash University and co-director of the Monash Criminal Justice Research Consortium. Her research focuses on the intersection of social welfare and criminal justice systems and populations, particularly 'crossover' or 'dual system' youth at the nexus of child protection and youth justice systems, and younger children charged with offending aged 10-13 years. Dr Baidawi's applied research has informed policy and practice in child and family welfare and criminal justice systems across Australia. She was an Early Career Research Fellow of the Australian Research Council (2019-22) and was awarded the 2022 Monash University Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence by an Early Career Researcher.

This presentation sets out findings of two linked reviews of evidence concerning place-based approaches (PBAs) for reducing youth violence. Place-based approaches are rooted in the recognition that youth violence is often highly concentrated in specific localities, reflecting features of the local environment, and requiring local knowledge and approaches to effectively address. Common features of PBAs include a focus on a specific locality, multi-agency collaboration, and an emphasis on community engagement. This presentation draws together evidence from 103 international studies (including 20 impact evaluations) to improve our understanding of models, implementation factors, and "what works" concerning place-based approaches for preventing and addressing youth violence.

A pathway to support after early police contact: perspectives of youth, families, police, and services

David Baker, Prof Stephane Shepherd, Prof Rosie Purcell

¹University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 2C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

David is PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. His PhD is considering pathway options to psychosocial support or mental health care for young people following early contact with the police for offending behaviour or experiences of crime.

David works in policy analysis and development, with more than 15 years' experience. In his current role, David has implemented a collaborative policy lab model that brings together content experts and policy workers to learn from each other. His policy impact includes mandatory Emergency Stability Control in new passenger vehicles (Victoria); impetus for the CommBank 'Benefits finder' (\$1 billion+ in benefits since 2019); improved Australian Government reporting for Childcare benefit payments, successful tender for the Mental Health Statewide Trauma Service (Victoria); and informing improved service access data collection and analysis (Commonwealth).

Most lifetime offending peaks during adolescence; overlapping with increased rates of experiencing crime and, the onset of most life-time experience of mental ill-health. For some young people, potentially with complex needs, an early encounter with police is an opportunity to provide access to support services – possibly for the first time. An early encounter with police is an opportunity to make or strengthen connections with appropriate support services.

To understand how these connections can be made or strengthened the perspectives of those involved need to be considered. We spoke with young people with a lived experience of police contact for minor offending behaviour, an experience of minor crime or both and parents/carers who supported a young person with such an experience. We also spoke with police and staff from youth, mental health, and legal services. These different perspectives need to be considered together in developing policy, program, and service reforms to improve connections to services, including the potential for alternatives to police.

Impact statement: Providing accessible pathways for young people and families will require stronger partnerships between police and support services. This is especially relevant as jurisdictions are taking steps to raise the age of criminal responsibility. This study provides insights that will inform innovation and reform.

Violence Risk, Protective Factors and Desistance in Australian Young People

Anjali Bapat-pers^{1,2}, Dr Nina Papalia^{1,2}, Dr Abigail Sheed^{1,2,3}, Distinguished Professor James Ogloff AM^{1,2}

¹Centre For Forensic Behavioural Science, Alphington, Australia, ²Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare), Melbourne, Australia, ³Victoria Children's Court Clinic, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 3C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Anjali is a Clinical Psychologist, AHPRA Board Approved Supervisor, and is currently completing a Doctor of Psychology (Clinical and Forensic) degree through the Centre of Forensic Behavioural Science at Swinburne University. She is also a member of the APS, a fellow of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists, and a committee member for the Victorian Branch of ANZAPPL.

Anjali's clinical experience has predominantly been comprised of working with high-risk adults and young people in both forensic and private settings presenting with a variety of forensic and clinical problems. She has held lead clinician roles in the assessment and treatment of young people who are justice involved and has research interests in the area of conduct problems and offending in young people.

Clinically, Anjali has a particular interest in forensic assessments, neurodivergence, specifically Autism and Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), risk to self-and other, personality disorders, complex trauma, and adult and child/youth ADHD assessment.

Youth offending is an area of ongoing interest and concern in Australia and internationally. Between 2020 and 2021 on average, there were almost 4700 young people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision on any given day in Australia. While the rates of youth offending have steadily decreased over the last 10 years, 41% of young people who were sentenced and under youth justice supervision between 2000-2001 and 2019-2020 returned for at least one subsequent period of youth justice supervision. Additionally, while rates of youth crime are decreasing, the number of offences committed against another person (including murder, assault, and sexual offending) are steadily increasing. Thus, those young people who are entering the justice system seem to be more recidivistic and appear to be engaging in increasingly more complex and violent offending behaviours. As such, it is important to ensure that the most effective and considered assessment and intervention practices are utilised within this population to offer appropriate risk assessment, risk management and rehabilitative practices. Given the relatively limited evidence base discussing the interplay between factors involved in desistance and risk and protective factors in justice-involved young people, there a systematic review of the literature was conducted. This paper aims to provide clarity regarding the factors involved in a young person's desistance process from offending, and to identify their relevance to the literature discussing risk and protective factors for young offenders.

Youth Detention Best Practice - we know what works so why won't we do it?

Ms Katherine Hayes¹, Matthew Dwyer³, Dr Sanne Oostermeijer², Ms Kate Bjur⁴

¹Youth Advocacy Centre, Brisbane , Australia, ²The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia,

³Churchill Fellow, Melbourne, Australia, ⁴PeakCare Queensland, Paddington, Australia

Concurrent Session 4D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Kate Bjur has spent the past three years in a senior leadership role in youth detention in Queensland and in 2023 she travelled around the world as part of a Churchill Fellowship project investigating best practice in youth crime prevention, gang exit strategies and therapeutic models of youth detention.

Matthew Dwyer is an architectural researcher, designer, and tutor, working in Naarm/Melbourne Australia, on the lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation. His work focuses on how design interrelates with other fields – particularly on the social and ecological effects of environments. In 2020, he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to extend his research on the design of youth justice facilities.

Dr. Sanne Oostermeijer is a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. She lives and works on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. Her research focuses on mental health and wellbeing with a particular focus on justice-involved young people. She has been working with Matthew Dwyer to study how the design of youth justice detention can best support justice-involved young people.

Katherine Hayes is a lawyer with 20 years experience and the CEO of the Youth Advocacy Centre in Queensland, and has experience of dealing with the state government in its approach to youth justice, including its overriding of the Human Rights Act Qld and holding children in watchhouses.

There is extensive evidence, locally and globally, that shows what kind of youth detention models are beneficial to young people and able to reduce recidivism. Despite this large body of evidence, Australian jurisdictions persist in building expensive large scale detention centres that continue to harm young people and staff, and do not reduce recidivism. There is now substantial evidence available on the positive impacts, as well as the key elements and the process of reform and implementation for good practise youth justice facilities. The panel members, with diverse background and experience across youth justice detention models, will outline what works, what doesn't, and will examine the obstacles to implementing best practice youth justice detention in Australia.

Panel - Therapeutic Models of Youth Detention

Ms Kate Bjur¹

¹Peakcare Services, Paddington, Australia

Concurrent Session 3D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Kate has over 25 years' experience working with and on behalf of children and young people in Japan, Canada, England and Australia. Her experience includes youth detention senior leadership, restorative practice, child safety policy, early childhood education, youth advocacy and family work.

In 2023, Kate travelled around the world as part of a Churchill Fellowship project investigating best practice in youth crime prevention, gang exit strategies and therapeutic models of youth detention.

Using this broad experience and international research, Kate is dedicated to advocating for children's rights; hearing and amplifying the voices of children, young people and their families; and connecting government and non-government partners to increase the responsiveness and flexibility of the child and family service system.

Kate holds a Bachelor of Arts in Japanese language and literature from the University of Queensland as well as post-graduate qualifications in the fields of Organisational Change Management, Community Services Work, Business, Early Childhood Education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

In February and March 2023, Kate Bjur travelled to six countries and visited over 20 secure settings for young people as part of a Churchill Fellowship. In this presentation, Kate describes the common elements of the most successful youth detention centres she visited. Success is defined in many ways, including reduced offending after release, safer environments for young people and staff, higher staff retention and young people's increased connection to their families and the broader community.

Examples of best contemporary practice include New York City's Close to Home Initiative, Spain's Diagrama Re-education Centres, Denmark's Youth Detention Centres and the State of Missouri's Division of Youth Services' Missouri Model. Based on the common features of these models, Kate will present a vision for therapeutic youth detention that includes elements such as change-oriented programming, engaging young people in meaningful activity, family therapy and leaves of absence for the purpose of reintegration. This model is most effective in smaller, home-like settings that are close to young people's families and communities.

Choice, Change and Identity : Findings from the Name.Narrate.Navigate Program for Youth Violence

Associate Professor Tamara Blakemore¹, Doctor Chris Krogh

¹University Of Newcastle, Newcastle , Australia

Concurrent Session 4C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Associate Professor Tamara Blakemore is a social work practitioner, researcher, and educator. She is recognised as subject matter expert in the field of practice, and education for practice, with violence, abuse, and trauma. Tamara has been a member of the federal government expert panel for families and children and has worked across Australia to support evidence-based practice and outcomes measurement in complex community contexts. Tamara is chief investigator and project lead of the Name.Narrate.Navigate (NNN) program for youth violence. NNN merges the neuroscience of trauma with Aboriginal ways of knowing and doing to enhance self-awareness, self-regulation, and skills for connection. Tamara remains actively involved in clinical practice and practice-based education and is an advocate for holistic, connection-based responses to violence abuse and trauma.

The notion of choice pervades our everyday discussions about youth violence, and our policies, legislation, and practice in response. Despite a growing understanding of the multiple, dynamic, and contextualised factors that contribute to youth violence, the underpinning narrative of violence as a conscious and directed choice remains persuasive. If we consider our work with youth violence to be motivated by goals of desistance, and we assume that involves change, then ultimately, we are challenged to consider, “How do people change?”, and relatedly, “What is the role of choice in change toward desistance?” This presentation explores these interconnected questions by reflecting on the notion of identity-migration in practice and findings from the Name.Narrate.Navigate (NNN) program for youth violence. NNN is a trauma-informed and culturally responsive preventive intervention for youth violence, informed by dialectical behaviour therapy, universal learning and photovoice methods. NNN has been delivered to 200 young people aged 12-18years, strengthening their skills for self-awareness, self-regulation, and connection. Participant narratives shared in this presentation challenge assumptions that young people’s use of violence always follows from initiation to continuation or increases predictably or uniformly. Instead, they highlight the recursive influence of contexts and circumstances in the identities young people believe are possible, probable, and permissible and how these can be bound by community and culture, time, and place. This presentation shares key takeaways for practice in supporting young people navigating choice and change toward adaptive and healthy identities.

Young People and AVOs: successes and challenges from a mentoring program pilot in regional NSW

Ms Eleanor Booth², Mr Tim Stevenson¹, Ms Eleanor Booth¹

¹Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO), , Australia, ²For-Purpose Evaluations, , Australia
Concurrent Session 3D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Eleanor is a highly respected evaluator, facilitator and social impact measurement specialist. Her diverse experience working with community service organisations in Australia and overseas, both as a consultant and in direct service delivery roles, informs her belief that community services must effectively measure and communicate their social impact to remain sustainable. After working in the social services sector for over 10 years she founded For-Purpose Evaluations. FPE provides organisations with the tools and capacity they need to measure and communicate their social impact.

Eleanor has a Masters of Community Development (Measurement and Evaluation), Bachelor degrees in Journalism and Philosophy and a Diploma of Community Services. She also holds qualifications in data analytics and data visualisation. Eleanor is Chair of the Social Impact Measurement Network of Australia (SIMNA) Sydney Organising Committee and is a member of the Research Advisory Committee of Outward Bound International.

In response to the urgent need for targeted interventions addressing domestic and family violence offences among adolescents in the Illawarra region of NSW, ACSO has successfully piloted an innovative mentoring program, Boost. Boost is for young people aged 14 -17 who have breached or are at risk of breaching an AVO. The program was developed in close partnership with NSW Police, NSW Youth Justice, and the University of Wollongong and offers a promising solution to address the root causes of violent behaviours. However, with the current pilot program concluded in August 2023, the future of Boost hangs in the balance with future funding unconfirmed.

The pilot was evaluated by For-Purpose Evaluations with interesting results, that are worth sharing with the sector. The presentation will step through the successes and challenges of developing, delivering, and evaluating the Boost program. Including reflections on;

- The application of the Meaningful Evaluation approach used to determine the value and effectiveness of a relational-based mentoring program in terms of violent offending and sustaining short term outcomes into the future.
- The value of establishing formal partnership agreements and MOUs with government stakeholders.
- The success of a local community coming together to make the program work
- The challenges of the model being voluntary with limited engagement with families
- The success of a relationship based mentoring model
- The encouraging results with regards to the participants' wellbeing
- The challenge of extracting data for evaluation

Cultural Governance for Clients with Complex Needs

Ms Jodie Brahim¹, Dr Lauren Moulds¹, Mr Neville O'Loughlin¹

¹Department of Human Services - Exceptional Needs Unit, , Australia

Concurrent Session 3C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Jodie Brahim is an Iwaidja Woman with ancestral ties to the Bunuba people. Jodie is presently the Senior Aboriginal Cultural Consultant for the Department of Human Services SA Exceptional Needs Unit, where she provides support and advocacy for people with complex and multiple needs. Jodie has extensive experience in various sectors, such as disability, homelessness, corrections, mental health, and child protection. She is passionate about fostering strong cultural connections and strives to make a positive difference in the community by empowering Aboriginal people to achieve their potential. This includes advocating for the rights and wellbeing of the community with her sense of social justice.

Lauren has a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), Masters of Psychology (Health) and Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology). Lauren is the General Manager for the Exceptional Needs Unit, Department of Human Services. Lauren is also a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Adelaide and Honorary Fellow at Deakin University. Her work history spans across disability, family violence, youth justice, exceptionality and private practice. Lauren is passionate about developing innovative and systematically driven programs and interventions within the adolescent and family sector.

Neville O'Loughlin, a proud Narungga man serves as Principal Aboriginal Services Consultant in the Department of Human Services. With over 20 years of experience spanning disability, education, health, legal, and homelessness sectors, Neville is dedicated to bridging service gaps for Aboriginal communities. Neville has cultivated robust academic foundations in Narrative Therapy and Project Management, he passionately addresses social determinants, contributing significantly to the wellbeing of his community.

The 'Nunga team' within the Exceptional Needs Unit (ENU) is an innovative model of Aboriginal Cultural governance which places clinical and cultural governance side by side to ensure embedded and entrenched cultural leadership in all areas of service delivery. In this presentation, the Nunga Team will explore how they identify, map and lead partnerships to navigate complex needs and speak to how cultural oversight can create a powerful connection to identity, empowerment and self-determination can generate better and more sustainable outcomes. The presentation will discuss the robust cultural journey map that embeds culture within its models of practice. Further, it will underscore the importance of recognising culture as powerful connection to identity, empowerment, and self-determination in multifaceted intersections of homelessness, child protection, courts, police, and education, highlighting the challenges and opportunities in addressing complex needs.

We will discuss how our approach acknowledges the significance of profound impact of Aboriginal leadership and cultural oversight on improving outcomes for clients in promoting inclusivity and equity within the justice system. Through collaborative initiatives with Aboriginal leaders, we aim to establish a blueprint for effective, client-centered interventions that transcend cultural boundaries. This session will also explore the integration of trauma-informed approaches, throughcare strategies, NDIS implementation, mental health interventions, and considerations of health, wellbeing, relationships, and rapport within the context of youth justice clients. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the cultural framework underpinning our initiatives, fostering a broader understanding of the imperative to prioritise Aboriginal perspectives in the pursuit of comprehensive youth justice reform.

Making the first contact the last: Victoria Police – Aboriginal Youth Cautioning Program

Dr David Broderick¹

¹Victoria Police, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 3C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Dr David Broderick is the Youth Portfolio Manager within the Priority and Safer Communities Division at Victoria Police. His role is to support Victoria Police to improve outcomes for young people coming into contact with police, as well as to reduce the risk of young people having further contact with the justice system. Prior to this, David held positions with the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Royal Children's Hospital and within the university sector, conducting research on topics including adolescent moral reasoning, out-of-home care transitions, mental health, suicide, and school exclusion, the latter of which was the topic of his PhD (University of Melbourne). David is a registered psychologist and has worked with young people in a range of settings.

Victoria Police is committed to reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system. In recognition of the well-established benefits of diversionary approaches at the initial point of contact with police, Victoria Police has introduced a suite of initiatives aimed at increasing the use of police cautioning and strengthening connections to culturally relevant supports for Aboriginal young people. These aims are reflected within Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja -Victoria's Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA4) and have been developed collaboratively with Victorian Aboriginal communities through a self-determination model. They include an Aboriginal Youth Cautioning Program (AYCP), which aims to provide community-based cultural support for young people in contact with police in locations throughout Victoria. Since the introduction of the AYCP, the rate and frequency of cautioning for Aboriginal young people has more than doubled (Crime Statistics Agency, 2023). In addition to substantial increases in cautioning for Aboriginal young people for those at first offences and those with prior offending histories, this program of work has led to the development of an enhanced police custody oversight model and amendments to operational policy aimed at reducing barriers to cautioning for Aboriginal young people. This presentation will provide an overview of the development and operation of these initiatives and findings from this program of work and seek to prompt discussion of future opportunities for police-led diversionary initiatives.

Understanding interventions to reduce criminalisation for justice-involved young people - young people's perspective

Ms Kerrie Bryant¹

¹Federation University, , Australia

Concurrent Session 1C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Kerrie is currently undertaking her PhD candidature within Federation University and was confirmed in November 2023. Kerrie's research focuses on young people's perspectives in a criminal justice setting and this research will be based in a regional Victorian setting.

Kerrie is a Master of Justice and Criminology graduate from RMIT University. During her university education, Kerrie completed a Justice Research Project on wrongful conviction as her independent master's project. Kerrie also worked as the program manager for a mental health hub and has a keen interest in mental health, innovative justice, and reform.

Kerrie is at the beginning of her research career but is excited and motivated to undertake meaningful research that will have real-world impacts on young people's lives.

Young people's voices are often missing from the conversations when analysing the impacts interventions have on justice involved young people (Munford & Sanders, 2016; O'Reilly & Dogra, 2018). This paper presents the research design of a study which seeks to give primacy to the voices of young people who are or have recent experience of court ordered youth justice interventions. The aim of the research is to examine the impact of those interventions in reducing the criminalisation of the young person and whether young peoples' perceptions and experiences of these interventions were appropriate and beneficial to their needs. The research will also explore comparative experiences between young people and facilitators of interventions to see if there are correlations or gaps between how experiences are delivered compared to perceived. The research design consists of a constructionist approach which will underpin this research design. The theories applied, which include labelling theory and critical criminology, will aim to explain and inform our understanding of the challenges young people face in a criminal justice setting. The method includes qualitative interviews to elicit the lived experiences of young people. Juxtaposing these narratives will be the perceptions of workers of the efficacy of the interventions. This data will be obtained through working with organisations that are linked with the Ballarat Youth Justice Innovation Partnership and once completed, will assist their practice by highlighting how their young people feel about their intervention approaches.

Whiti ki te Ora: healing from intergenerational traumas, that have led rangatahi down a path of offending

Marama Castle-Brown, [Reegan Pukepuke](#)¹

¹Hoani Waititi Marae , Auckland, New Zealand

Concurrent Session 4C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Reegan Pukepuke is a Kaiako (teacher and guide) and was instrumental in the development of Whiti Ki Te Ora as the leading and most innovative youth engagement program in New Zealand. Whiti Ki Te Ora is located at Hoani Waititi Marae in West Auckland. Reegan completed six years of tertiary study at te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau (AUT) a Bachelor's in Māori Development and a Bachelor's then Master's in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Reegan's thesis and research delved into the success that kaupapa Māori youth justice programmes can have on young Māori. He explored the failures of the mainstream education system in addressing the specific cultural needs of Māori students.

As a young boy, Reegan grew up with limited immersion in te ao Māori and had taken steps to increase his understanding and awareness of his culture. This included completing his Bachelor's in Māori Development, taking various te reo courses, joining the University kapa haka rōpū, and working with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua in their treaty settlement. He experienced firsthand the advantages of bridging young Māori to their culture. His commitment over the past six years to understand through books, journal articles and academic lectures lead him to Hoani Waititi Marae and his current role helping rangatahi to build their own pathway forward and reach their full potential.

Whiti ki te Ora – A 12-week Rangatahi (Youth) programme based at Hoani Waititi Marae and focused on intergenerational traumas that contribute to Rangatahi offending.

The programme is delivered by young Kaiako (guides) at the marae. Youth-teaching-Youth is a key success to engaging Rangatahi.

Objectives:

Timatanga – Pōwhiri (Traditional Māori Welcome) is the start of their journey. Welcoming them and their family to Hoani Waititi Marae.

Whakapapa – What it means to identify as Māori through traditional karakia (prayer) and waiata (song) Rangatahi also research their whakapapa and pepeha (ancestors/origins) Tikanga and Kawa (customs/protocols)

Goal Setting and Aspirations – Rangatahi identify their strengths and how kaiako can support them. Through wananga (learning) Rangatahi begin mapping pathways and goals using the Whare Tapa Wha model to achieve this.

Tikanga and kawa – Rangatahi experience tikanga and kawa every day through practice at the Marae. They are embraced as whānau and are supported in understanding Māori processes and protocols.

Pathway options – Employment opportunities are established in the first three weeks with goal setting activities. A day, each week, is set aside for work experience.

Kia Angitu te Rangatahi (Youth Success) – The final two weeks celebrate Rangatahi completing the programme through Pōtaetanga (graduation). Rangatahi showcase their pūkenga (skills) and welcome whānau back to the marae as tangata whenua (family of the Marae)

Mutunga – Finally, Rangatahi visit their own Marae. This Haerenga (trip) supports them to reconnect with tupuna (ancestors) their Awa (River) Moana (Ocean) and Maunga (Mountain)

Workshop - Behaviour Support Team Early Intervention

Lisa Consolmagno¹, Rebecca Kempton¹, Naisargi Shroff¹

¹Department of Justice and Community Safety, Parkville, Australia

Concurrent Session 5B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

The role of a Behaviour Support Specialist Team includes:

- *Bringing a trauma informed lens to the youthJustice work force to support staff to consider the widespread impact of trauma, recognising that young people may have specific signs and symptoms which requires a comprehensive and integrative response to assist the young person in their healing process and to prevent re-traumatization.*
- *Collaborating with stakeholders and staff to understand and respond to the underlying drivers for behaviours of concern.*
- *Developing individualised evidence-based strategies in conjunction with unit staff and young people that are responsive to the young person's needs and risks and assist in reducing the occurrence and impact of behaviours of concern.*
- *Building staff capacity/upskilling staff to work in a trauma informed way.*

The Parkville BSS Team provides intervention to young people and upskilling for those working with them. Key roles of the BSS Team include focused coaching, trauma training, restorative processes, stakeholder engagement, and psych-education of staff. Every under 15 young person (including young women) is allocated to the BSS Team and due to the specific needs of this cohort, the BSS team work in a different way with them compared to over 15's. In the workshop, we will discuss the use of the Under 15 Profile to assess presentation and inform formulation of interventions and strategies to support working with young people and staff. The presenters will facilitate an under 15 profile session with participants to explore the presenting issues and development of strategies in these upskilling sessions run for staff. Discussion will also be held around assessments and documentation which are used for individualized interventions. We will explore with the audience, different programs we provide to support the under 15s including the includes Identity and Masculinity program, support sessions for staff, community meetings and the Daily RAP. The purpose of a Daily RAP is building upon relationships with the young people and staff to support prosocial engagement and development of the young person. The presenters will invite the participants to join in a Daily RAP. Participants will be encouraged to think about how their respective organisations may be able to include some of the functions of the BSS role into their own areas of work in engaging with under 15's.

Youth Justice and Positive Development: Personalized Support in Youth Justice Community Support Service Afterhours Program

Ms Sarah Covill¹, Ms Nicole Salter¹, Ms Bridie Keily

¹Jesuit Social Services, Brunswick, Australia

Concurrent Session 1C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Sarah Covill is the General Manager of Jesuit Social Services' Youth Justice Programs which operate across metropolitan Melbourne. These programs include restorative justice programs, intensive case management, cultural support and mentoring. Sarah has a Bachelor of Arts (Youth Studies) and thirty years experience in the youth and youth justice sector including local and state government and not-for-profit. Sarah is a passionate advocate for the rights of young people; particularly those involved in the justice system and was the recipient of the 2011 Robin Clark Memorial Award for "Making a Difference with Children, Young People and Families.

Bridie Keily (she/her) has worked in the After Hours Youth Justice Community Support Service (Jesuit Social Services) since 2019 and is currently sitting in the Senior Practitioner role. Bridie is a Bachelor of Youth Work alumni (Australia Catholic University) and is currently completing her Masters in Mental Health (Victoria University). Bridie is a Sessional Academic at Australia Catholic University, teaching Bachelor of Youth Work students.

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation that provides services and supports to those in need and seeks to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusions.

The presentation examines the connection of complex needs inherent in young people involved in the youth justice system and the necessity of tailored and intensive interventions for fostering positive developmental trajectories.

The Youth Justice Community Support Service (YJCSS) has been in operation since 2008 and Jesuit Social Services deliver the program across metropolitan Melbourne. The YJCSS provides intensive support that is flexible and responsive to the needs of young person and is complementary to the statutory case management undertaken by Youth Justice. In 2018, YJCSS was expanded to include evening and weekend support with a view to providing young people with a range of opportunities for participation in pro-social activities, increase their independent living skills and to improve family, community and cultural engagement.

Since 2018, YJCSS Afterhours has supported more than five hundred young people and engaged them in a range of social, sporting, cultural and recreational activities, through which we have seen increased independence, resilience, and pro-social affiliations, thereby endowing young individuals with the autonomy to make more positive life choices.

The presentation will highlight; key outcomes for the young people supported by YJCSS Afterhours, the importance of family and cultural engagement in building resilience and pro-social networks and considerations as a program around diversity of staffing and delivery of a service outside of business hours.

Complex Trauma - What It Is and Why it Matters to Risk Reduction, Recovery, and Resilience

Dr Kieth Cruise

¹Fordham University , New York, United States

Keynote Address - Keith Cruise, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 09:15 - 10:15

Biography:

Keith Cruise is Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology at Fordham University, NY, USA. Dr. Cruise is also the Co-Director of the Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice (CTRJJ), a NCTSN Category II training and technical assistance center focused on enhancing a framework of trauma-informed care for youth and families experiencing justice system involvement. Dr. Cruise conducts research on the clinical-forensic assessment of adolescents within the juvenile justice system and has received grant funding (NIJ, OJJDP, SAMHSA) to examine the effectiveness of enhanced mental health screening for poly-victimization, trauma-informed case planning, and the impact of trauma screening on service delivery and legal outcomes for justice-involved youth. Dr. Cruise provides technical assistance and consultation to local and state juvenile justice systems on behavioral health screening, evidence-based use of risk/needs assessments, trauma treatment implementation, and collaborative, system-level coordination to enhance trauma informed care. His overarching focus is adopting, implementing, and sustaining evidence-based practices in juvenile justice systems that increase access to appropriate services, enhance adolescent and family functioning, and capitalize on strengths to support recovery while also maintaining community safety.

Trauma-informed care is frequently discussed as best practice in meeting the needs of adolescents with justice system involvement and is offered as organizing framework for service delivery. While trauma needs are high among many adolescents with justice system involvement, the benefits of trauma-specific treatments in supporting delinquency risk reduction are not well understood. Paradoxically, some adolescents who are identified as engaging in very serious aggression/violence have also experienced the highest levels of lifetime traumatic event exposures and associated sequelae. In this address, the term complex trauma will be unpacked and explained. Complex trauma will be offered as an explanatory factor to better understand the dysregulated behavior of adolescents with justice system involvement. Using a trauma lens - and careful attention to the developmental impact of trauma - can help promote a richer understanding of complex cases, outline potential paths for recovery, and support a collaborative approach to relationship building that can shift an adolescent's trajectory from reactivity to resilience.

The Embedded Youth Outreach Program at Victoria Police: a collaborative mobile response model.

Ms Katherine Danylak¹

¹Victoria Police, Docklands, Australia

Concurrent Session 2C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Katherine Danylak

Katherine Danylak (BA, Advanced Dip ESOL, M.Ed, M.PubPolicy & Man.) is the project manager of the Embedded Youth Outreach Program (EYOP) at Victoria Police. Katherine's career in public sector management has crossed the fields of education, health and policing. Katherine's management of projects including stakeholder engagement processes have crossed the boundaries of government, not for profit sector, industry and community and are currently contributing to Victoria Police's early intervention youth crime prevention strategies.

Tracie Alborough

Tracie Alborough (BPsySc, GDipAdolHlthWelf, GCertDevTrauma) is the Team Leader from Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS) and delivering services to the Embedded Youth Outreach Program in Melbourne's West in partnership with Victoria Police. Tracie has over 25 years' experience working in the community and human services sectors. She has a lived experience similar to many of the young people she works with on a daily basis and this continues to drive her passion for the work. Tracie has been a strong advocate for young people, working for better outcomes for their future. Through her advocacy she has ensured that the voice of children and young people is represented at local, state and international levels.

The Embedded Youth Outreach Program at Victoria Police: a collaborative mobile response model.

The Embedded Youth Outreach Program (EYOP) is an innovative Victoria Police led program designed to meet the needs of young people who come to the attention of police. The program is a collaboration between police and youth workers from the not-for-profit sector. The aim of EYOP is to reduce long-term involvement in the criminal justice system by engaging with the young person and their family, assessing their needs and referring them to appropriate youth-specific supports.

This presentation will provide an overview of the EYOP service operating model and the complexities of service delivery. The key elements of the partnership arrangement will be explored including the linking of skills across the two different disciplines.

Workshop - Tailoring Risk Assessment and Case Management to the Needs of Youth Offenders in Western Australia

Dr Kristie Dellar¹, Ms Wendy Telfer¹, Mr Wayne D'Souza¹

¹Department Of Justice, Perth, Australia

Concurrent Session 2B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Dr Kristie Dellar is a Psychologist at the Department of Justice in WA with over 8 years experience working with young offenders. She completed her PhD in 2022, examining the utility and validity of the YLS/CMI risk assessment tool in Western Australia. Kristie has subsequently developed two 5-item screener tools, tailored to the criminogenic risk/needs of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to improve the validity and utility of risk assessment and management practices in WA, with the ultimate aim of reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system.

Workshop will examine changes to risk assessment and case management practices in Western Australia to be more culturally responsive and reflective of the criminogenic needs of youth offenders, to improve service delivery and outcomes for young people, their families, and the community.

Department of Justice (DoJ) in WA has recently completed a 12-month pilot program evaluating the validity and utility of two 5-item risk screener tools that were developed according to the specific needs of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in WA (Dellar et al., 2022). Results have demonstrated significant improvements in the predictive validity and utility of the 5-item screener tools compared to the full (42 item) YLS/CMI assessment tool (Indigenous screener = 90% accuracy, non-Indigenous screener = 92% accuracy). Furthermore, where applicable, the pilot program prioritised addressing the criminogenic domains of Family Circumstances/ Parenting and Peer Relations for Indigenous young people and Substance Abuse and Peer Relations for non-Indigenous young people when formulating Case Management Plans. For young people in the pilot program, reoffending rates decreased significantly (Indigenous = 43% vs. 86%, non-Indigenous = 27.6% vs. 63.3%) and this is likely reflective of the screener tools increasing adherence to the RNR principles.

Methodology – presentation of the pilot program and screener tools. Case studies for participants to complete using the screener tools. Case management plan development – case study and practice. Maximum number of participants = 200.

Improving Risk Assessment and Management Practices Through a Tailored Approach: Evaluating YLS Screener Tools

Dr Kristie Dellar¹

¹Department Of Justice, Perth, Australia

Concurrent Session 3D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Dr Kristie Dellar is a Psychologist at the Department of Justice in WA with over 8 years experience working with young offenders. She completed her PhD in 2022, examining the utility and validity of the YLS/CMI risk assessment tool in Western Australia. Kristie has subsequently developed two 5-item screener tools, tailored to the criminogenic risk/needs of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to improve the validity and utility of risk assessment and management practices in WA, with the aim of reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system.

Risk and need assessment with justice-involved youth serves important functions, including the evaluation of recidivism risk to inform the intensity, priority, and focus of services to prevent future contact with the justice system. Our previous research (Dellar et al., 2022) highlighted significant differences in the criminogenic needs of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in Western Australia (WA) and indicated that a shortened version of the YLS/CMI risk assessment tool, tailored to the needs of WA youth, could increase the predictive validity of the tool. The Department of Justice (DoJ) recently completed a 12-month pilot program testing the validity of the YLS/CMI 5-item screener tools to predict recidivism in justice-involved youth in WA. Another aim of the pilot program was to assess the utility of the screening strategy for improving youth justice practices. It was expected that this work would contribute to creating a better strategy for screening of recidivism risk that is more accurate, with superior predictive ability and less vulnerable to cultural differences than current strategies. Preliminary results support these predictions, with significant improvements in the accuracy of YLS/CMI risk ratings and significant reductions in recidivism rates for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in WA. The findings of the current study and future directions of implementing the 5-item screener tools are discussed.

The drivers of the overrepresentation of South Sudanese Australian youth in youth justice

Dr Dr Santino A Deng¹

¹670275500, Melbourne, Australia, ²Department of Justice and Community Safety, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 3A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Dr Deng is the South Sudanese (Taskforce) Youth Justice Expert Working Group (EWG) Chairperson at the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety/Youth Justice (<https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/SSAYJ>). The EWG was established in 2022 to address the overrepresentation of young Sudanese/South Sudanese and other African Australians in the Victorian Youth Justice system. The EWG will hear from young people and their families about the challenges and what works for them and implement action plans to meet their needs.

He is also an Adjunct Fellow at Victoria University, Melbourne, and the founder and chairman of Ramciel University (Ramciel University – Transforming the Society) in South Sudan.

He works in several NGOs and government departments in Australia and New Zealand. Dr. Deng is also an academic, counsellor and community leader. He completed his PhD in 2016 at Victoria University on South Sudanese family dynamics, parenting practices and acculturation challenges post-settlement in Australia.

His expertise, work, and research interests include refugee/migrant resettlement/settlement, Diaspora (transnational/transitions), family dynamics and parenting practices in different contexts, community development, family/parent-based approach, social inclusion, education, and mental health. He has published widely and presented at international conferences in these areas. His upcoming book is 'Resilient Roots: Parenting the South Sudanese Way in a New Land.'

List of publications:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=santino+atem+deng&btnG=&oq=sa

According to the 2016 Australian census, 0.45 per cent of the Victorian population aged between 10 and 19 were of Sudanese and South Sudanese ancestry. However, this is likely an undercount as many young people grew and settled in Victoria.

They represent a vibrant and thriving community within Victoria, but compared to other ethnicities, they are proportionately overrepresented in the youth justice system, including custody, remand, and community population, and have continued to increase significantly over the past eight years. This overrepresentation in the criminal justice system would prevent them from reaching their full potential, and the Victorian Government established the South Sudanese Australian Youth Justice Expert Working Group (EWG) in partnership with the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) to address these by identifying the drivers of the overrepresentation and makes recommendations.

The EWG forms part of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2030 roadmap for reform of the Youth Justice system, specifically focusing on supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups in Youth Justice, which aim to prevent children and young people from entering the youth justice system by addressing the underlying drivers of offending.

The work of the EWG and relevant research informs this paper, which aims to explore the contributing factors to the overrepresentation, including intergenerational clashes/gaps or conflict (acculturation), unaddressed trauma (mental health challenges), alcohol and drugs, racism/racial discrimination and exclusion, poverty, unemployment/financial difficulties. It highlights the

significance of addressing the lack of culturally appropriate support services for this cohort, their families and the community.

Realign Systemic Youth Project - creative and adaptive intervention

Mr Richard England¹

¹DFFH, Dandenong, Australia

Concurrent Session 5B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Richard England (DFFH Practice Leader, Realign Systemic Youth Project) has worked in the child welfare sector for 13+ years, with a primary focus of high risk adolescents across multiple platforms and organisations.

More recently, Richard has focussed on enhancing and developing the evidentiary basis for a new intervention strategy which seeks to reduce the forensic risk of young people aged 10-14, accounts for protective concerns relating to a young persons developmental experience, build on the strengths of current models with the ambition of developing early intervention modelling which reduces risk.

In 2022, there was a surge of young people (aged ~10-14) in the Southern Melbourne Area (SMA) engaging in repeated, high-harm antisocial behaviours requiring repeated police intervention, often occurring in seemingly self-organised networks. This presented a significant challenge for forensic and protective services. It became clear that the needs of the young people and their families were not being met by the current best practice models available. A new way of thinking was required.

The Realign Systemic Youth Project (RSYP) was developed by SMA Child Protection, Alfred Health's Youth Forensic Support Service (YFSS) and OzChild MST in response to this challenge. This project draws on the principles of Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), adolescent-parent attachment theories, and individualised understandings of each young person formed at the intersect of Child Protection Analysis, systemic conceptualisation within MST, and clinical formulation. Together, these iteratively improved understandings of the young people in their relational context rest on a strong cultural governance to inform intervention planning.

In this presentation, we provide an analysis developed over nearly two years working with this population. Our approach seeks to more effectively understand these self-organised networks, the context of their risk and offending, the benefits of familial connection across youth networks, and how and why group work is a misunderstood and underutilised concept in forensic intervention. It considers the tension laid out in attachment theory between adolescent development (which entails individuation) and adolescent-parent connection, attempting to meet those challenges in creative and adaptive ways.

Responding to young people with neuro-impairment in Queensland Youth Justice system

Mrs Daina Fernyhough¹, Ms Loretta Crombie¹

¹Department of Youth Justice, , Australia

Concurrent Session 4B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Loretta Crombie has been working in Queensland Youth Justice for over 15 years. With a background in law and social work, Loretta has worked in the youth drug and alcohol and youth support sectors. Her career highlights include being president of an international children's and women's village charity for five years. Loretta is currently the Director for Regional Operations with the Department of Youth Justice. This portfolio includes teams that provide:

- *practice advice to 26 service centres across Queensland, including on statutory case management, restorative justice, Childrens Court matters, counterviolence extremism and sexual offending;*
- *Calculations, data and system support; and*
- *Taskforce Guardian, a joint service delivery initiative between Queensland Police Service and Youth Justice.*

This presentation will outline the partnership processes undertaken to develop and trial innovative practice and service delivery for Youth Justice involved young people with neuroimpairment, and share learning and next steps in this critical area of need and rapidly developing practice. In collaboration with Griffith University, First Nations organizations, communities, stakeholders, and neurodiverse youth and their families, Youth Justice is developing a Neuro-disability Framework for Practice and Practice Standard to enhance collaboration and understanding for Youth Justice and partners regarding needs and responses for young people with neuroimpairment and mental health challenges. The framework outlines principles, attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary for identifying undiagnosed disabilities, seeking diagnoses, and ensuring inclusivity in service delivery that respects and leverages cultural strengths. The aim is to establish a structured and measurable approach to meet the needs of youth with disabilities or mental health issues in the youth justice system. Additionally Youth Justice is co-designing two community-led, culturally responsive multi-agency pilot services, in two locations, for youth and their families that will support them to engage with services to have neuro-developmental or intellectual abilities assessed, specialist services accessed and adapted, and young people supported to achieve to the best of their abilities. This pilot, from procurement through to frontline delivery, is being developed and designed with First Nations organizations and stakeholders to ensure the pilot services are engaging, appropriate and effective for First Nations families and young people and all young people and families with neuro-related needs that will be accessing these services.

Common Ground

Ms Rebecca Fitzpatrick¹

¹Holyoake, , Australia

Concurrent Session 3D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Rebecca Fitzpatrick is a Clinical Services Manager with Holyoake where she sits on the Senior Leadership Team. Rebecca supports the organisation's focus on giving West Australians impacted by alcohol, drugs and mental ill health, the support, hope and confidence they need to live the life they choose.

With over two decades of dedicated experience in the healthcare sector, Rebecca leads over 40% of Holyoake's clinical team and continues to focus on cultivating a high-performance culture that delivers outstanding support services to clients.

A registered psychologist, Rebecca's extensive background spans the assessment and diagnosis of a wide spectrum of mental health conditions, treating clients across all ages with diverse needs. Her work is characterised by a dedication to enhancing mental health services through the integration of cutting-edge technology and evidence-based practices. This is evidenced in her collaboration with Curtin University, where she has been instrumental in developing and testing innovative technologies such as virtual reality to deliver psychological interventions to those in rural and isolated communities.

Beyond her clinical and managerial interests, Rebecca is focused on business development within the mental health sector. Her strategic approach to the incubation of new ventures, diversifying income streams, and forging enduring partnerships to contribute to the broader field are key interests.

A long standing member of the MIFWA Board, Rebecca is dedicated to strategic growth and leverages her expertise to influence positive change and foster advancements in mental health. Rebecca is also a Fellow with the prestigious AIM WA (FAIM), and a Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Director's (GAICD).

Confronted with the growing issue of young people becoming enmeshed in the justice system, Holyoake and the Western Australian Police Force collaborated and co-designed a programme; a first of it's kind – in response to the youth crises in Western Australia.

This initiative was designed to offer young people and their families alternative paths away from the justice system, leveraging innovation and a deep understanding of the challenges these young individuals face.

This presentation will cover the challenges and successes of the program, providing insights into how this unique partnership has made a difference.

The outcomes highlighted include creating new opportunities for youth, leveraging technology and innovative practices for better engagement, and enhancing the understanding of youth development. This program also created some unexpected outcomes which positively impacted the wider community.

By sharing the lessons learned from this collaboration, the presentation aims to shed light on the importance of partnerships, innovation, and a focused approach to improving youth justice practices.

Aboriginal Practice Mandate creates intersectional capacity for Aboriginal led practice in custody and community settings

Chrissie Franks¹, Shannon Hinton¹

¹Youth Justice Northern Directorate Office , Lismore, Australia

Concurrent Session 2B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Shannon Hinton

Shannon is a proud Aboriginal man from the Yuin and Wonnarua people of New South Wales. Since 2012, he has been employed within Youth Justice NSW, initially in custody and community roles and now as an Aboriginal Practice Officer. This position allows him to work closely with staff and our young people, focusing on practical solutions. His key strengths lie in the development of relationships with community service providers to guide our youth away from the justice system. By cultivating strong connections and networks, he aims to help them realise their full potential while promoting self-determination within their communities.

Chrissie Franks

Chrissie is a member of the Gringai Clan of the Wonnarua Nation located in the Hunter Valley of NSW. A law graduate, Chrissie has over 15 years' experience working with Aboriginal young people, families and communities within predominately non-Aboriginal workforces. Chrissie advocates for growing cultural safety as a "real" measure for positive impacts on over-representation and Closing the Gap targets. Chrissie's passion is engaging in the development of shared meanings and in the co-design of responses to systems, highlighting restrictive and limiting practices which often create unintended consequences, barriers and or hardship for Aboriginal staff and our young people.

In December 2022 YJ NSW introduced Aboriginal Practice Standards as part of an Aboriginal Practice Mandate that places Aboriginal staff and stakeholders as the central reference point for all service delivery across all levels of the agency.

Presentation is focussed on the innovative practices in delivering culturally responsive interventions with Aboriginal young people in the Northern Directorate of YJ NSW.

Achievements have been made possible due to the existing organisational supports already embedded across the service system.

Crucially, this means that Aboriginal staff have relative autonomy and ready access to practice, risk assessment and decision making in forums and contexts that previously did not include them.

Formally defining Aboriginal staff as experts has empowered and enabled Aboriginal practitioners and increased the capacity to strengthening relationships.

Practice is able to incorporate cultural restoration, to transfer unique cultural protective factors and provide care for young people whilst acknowledging historical legacy.

- Explicit support from Directors and Managers to support Aboriginal led practice and stakeholder engagement.
- Created opportunities for Aboriginal practitioners to work Caseworkers, Aboriginal young people and culture in ways that cut across the streams of conventional YJ service systems.
- The participation in decision making by Aboriginal Practice Officers and Aboriginal Caseworkers regarding risk assessment and appropriate support.
- Development of multi-agency frameworks for diversion from custody and growth in alternative sentencing options based on
- An increase in the number and time spent working face to face with young people in custodial and community settings.

Evaluation of the Embedded Youth Outreach Program

Associate Professor Rachael Fullam¹, Dr Janet Ruffles¹, Dr Ariel Stone¹, Distinguished Professor James Ogloff¹

¹Centre For Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University Of Technology, Alphington, Australia
Concurrent Session 2C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Associate Professor Fullam B.Sc.(Hons) (Psyc), PhD, provides project oversight and management across all contracted consultation, evaluation and research projects at the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science. She has expertise in qualitative and quantitative evaluation of interventions and services across health and correctional settings and holds specialist knowledge in forensic behavioural science. She regularly designs and manages evaluations of new services, interventions and training programs.

The Embedded Youth Outreach Program (EYOP) is an innovative Victoria Police led program designed to meet the needs of young people with whom the police come into contact. The program is a collaborative initiative which sees a police officer paired with a youth worker for attendance at scene. The program aims to reduce long-term involvement in the criminal justice system by engaging with the young person and their family, assessing their needs and referring them to youth-specific supports.

The EYOP was piloted across two Melbourne metropolitan sites over 2018-2020. A concurrent evaluation was conducted by the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science at Swinburne University of Technology. Although the program was understandably complex to roll out and evaluate, several promising findings emerged from the EYOP pilot period. Data will be presented that provide initial evidence that EYOP intervention has an impact on short term offending in young people and provides value for money. Emerging findings from a longer-term evaluation of the program across the period 2021-2025 will also be presented

Youth Gangs in South Australia: Genesis and Clinical Complexities – A Psychological Perspective

Mr Christopher Galimitakis¹, Ellie Minney¹

¹Department for Human Services - Youth Justice, Adelaide, Australia

Concurrent Session 3D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Ellie Minney and Christopher Galimitakis have worked as Senior Psychologists within the Youth Justice Assessment and Intervention Service (YJAIS) for over three years. Both holding a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) and a Master of Psychology (Clinical), they bring a breadth of experience to the role. This includes work within Community Mental Health, Inpatient Mental Health, Child Protection, the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Adult Forensic Mental Health, and now Youth Justice.

Christopher and Ellie are highly passionate about Youth Justice, particularly in working with young people to make sense of their experiences and advocate for their needs, with community safety at the forefront of this. They work intensively with young people presenting with significant levels of complexity as a result of complex trauma, disability, mental health, and emerging personality factors. In meeting the needs of young people within Youth Justice, Christopher and Ellie strive to understand how evidence based psychological approaches to assessment and intervention can meaningfully improve individual and community safety.

The Youth Justice Assessment and Intervention Service (YJAIS) stands as a specialised state-wide service within the Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre (KTYJC), dedicated to delivering targeted allied health consultation, assessment, and intervention for young individuals under Youth Justice mandates. YJAIS Psychology is an intensive service that provides assertive outreach, psychological assessment, and intervention, to identify and address outstanding psychological needs, aiming to reduce the risk of reoffending. YJAIS Psychology services young people with complex needs, including marked personality concerns, who are considered to pose a serious risk to community safety.

It has been noted by multiple government agencies that the recent emergence of Youth Gangs within South Australia is of concern, and closely parallels Youth Gang activity in the Eastern States. A Specialist Police Taskforce was established in response. Through intensive clinical involvement, YJAIS Psychology have identified predisposing and maintaining factors relating to South Australian Youth Gang involvement and associated offending behaviour.

This presentation will focus on sharing clinical experience and evidence relating to the genesis of Youth Gangs in South Australia and psychological mechanisms to reduce risk of reoffending with members. Notably, this presentation will discuss predisposing factors to South Australian Youth Gang involvement (including type of complex trauma) and distinct clinical profiles (including personality characteristics and disability related needs). Clinical insights regarding effective evidence-based psychological intervention conducted with these young people will be discussed. Furthermore, it will explore observations regarding missed opportunities for clinical and early intervention, emphasising mechanisms to facilitate critical engagement with psychological and criminogenic services.

Conversations in Self-care: Reducing the harm of vicarious trauma in practice.

Ms Lesley Gough¹

¹Department Of Justice And Community Safety, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 3B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Lesley is a social worker with 18 years' experience working in case management practice in disability, mental health and Youth Justice services across the community and government sector.

Lesley has worked for the last 6 years as the Senior Practice Adviser in the Southern Metropolitan Youth Justice team supporting evidence-based practice development, providing advice to inform policy and program design and driving a range of activities to improve workforce wellbeing and retention.

Over the last 3 years, Lesley has been a member of the Vicarious Trauma working group pilot. This pilot was a partnership between the Community Public Sector Union and Department of Justice and Community Safety, South Area, looking at responses to wellbeing and vicarious trauma in the workplace.

Her own experiences as a case manager and as a senior leader have reinforced the importance of continuous learning and critical reflection on how we collectively understand vicarious trauma and create systems of care for more resilient teams.

In 2021 a small working group was established with staff from the Southern Metropolitan Youth Justice team. The group came together with an ambitious goal to embed a culture of wellbeing and safety to reduce the impacts of vicarious trauma across the region.

The 'self-care project' was born.

A set of resources were developed for individual and team supervision to provide structure and support for staff to explore the risks of vicarious trauma, have meaningful conversations about self-care and collective care and for each team member to develop their own self-care plan including proactive and reactive strategies.

The self-care tools draw on wellbeing research including the PERMA model, a theory of wellbeing by Psychologist, Martin Seligman and the work of Dr. Vikki Reynolds who outlines self-care as an ethical requirement for case managers and a culture of collective care as a responsibility of teams.

This presentation will explore the self-care project and how these resources have evolved overtime. The resources will be presented, including the theory base that has guided the work, the challenges to implementation and learnings and successes along the way.

Lived experienced of youth detention in Australia.

Alison Grace¹

¹Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, , Australia

Concurrent Session 3C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Biography to be decided.

The panel will be made of 2 – 4 young adults who have personally experienced the youth justice system in Australia and have spent time in youth detention in their respective jurisdiction. These young people have been identified as a young person with lived experience of youth detention and have successfully transitioned into adulthood, moving away from the behaviours that saw them involved with the youth justice system and onto new experiences and careers with success.

The panel discussion will be facilitated by a member of the AYJA DCM. The facilitator will lead panel members through a series of questions about their background and what brought them into contact with the youth justice system. The panel will discuss their positive and negative experiences in detention, what they feel has supported them to transition away from youth offending and what they are doing now. All questions and answers will be planned and discussed with the panel and no questions will be accepted from the audience.

ACT's young adult spent time in youth detention in the ACT and is now a youth worker at the ACT's Queensland's young adult was in custody for over 18 months, working as a paid advocate with Queensland Health to review the health system in youth detention centres and community. This opportunity has continued post release and resulted in the young adult returning to the detention centre as a mentor within his Youth Advocate role.

Other panel members are TBD and will be advised as soon as possible.

Shared Responsibility and Aboriginal Family-Led Decision Making: Empowering Our Families by Embracing Risk and Upholding Self-Determination

Arrin Hazelbane

¹Department of Human Services, Adelaide, Australia

Keynote Address - Arrin Hazelbane, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 16:00 - 17:00

Biography:

Mr Arrin Hazelbane is a proud Warai and Kokatha man with cultural connections to the Finnis River region in the Northern Territory and the Far West Coast in South Australia who currently is the A/Director, Aboriginal Practice and Partnerships in the Department of Human Services.

Mr Hazelbane was most recently the General Manager, Aboriginal Practice and Services within the Department of Human Services and had responsibility for strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal people across South Australia and improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people, their families and communities.

He has held various positions across the State Government and has served on a range of committees working on policy and strategic initiatives.

Mr Hazelbane was a South Australian delegate to the First Nations National Constitutional Convention in Uluru and a proud signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

In the landscape of child and family services and youth justice, the criticality of Aboriginal Family-Led Decision Making (AFLDM) emerges as a pillar of empowerment and justice. This keynote delves into the pivotal role AFLDM plays, particularly concerning Aboriginal children and young people aged 13 years and under who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Drawing from firsthand observations, insightful reflections, and compelling case studies, this presentation is centred around the Child Diversion Program, a 24/7 Aboriginal-led service that aims to divert Aboriginal children aged between 10-13 years away from the criminal justice system. The Child Diversion Program is delivered by the Department of Human Services, South Australia.

Whilst we continue to navigate the nuanced terrain where policy meets practice, reforms such as the Child Diversion Program serve as a catalyst for change, recognising the wisdom and knowledges grounded in kinship systems and community connections - illuminating pathways for Aboriginal children and young people towards universal services rooted in community and cultural resonance. At its core, this keynote underscores the paramount importance of participation — advocating for the inclusion of Aboriginal children, young people, their families, and communities in decision-making processes. It is a call to action, an active effort, echoing the fundamental principle of self-determination.

Beyond Justice - Contemporary application of Restorative practice principles and processes within communities of common concern, and the learning systems that support practice.

Ms Genevieve Higgins, Lena Lettau

¹Jesuit Social Services, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 3A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

My name is Genevieve Higgins and I am the Manager of Community Justice Programs at Jesuit Social Services. I am a Social Worker and hold a Graduate Certificate of Family Therapy, as well as Restorative Practitioner Accreditation through the Australian Association of Restorative Justice. I have been working in the field of Restorative Practice for over 15 years, both as facilitator and Program Manager, and I have worked with stakeholders across justice, schools, and community to design and deliver restorative programs, as well as facilitate restorative processes.

My name is Lena Lettau, I am currently employed as a Senior Restorative Practitioner at the Jesuit Social Services and facilitate a Restorative Facilitator Skills Practitioner Community of Practice, in conjunction with the Australian Association of Restorative Justice. Prior to coming to this role, I graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Art/Law (Hons) and from the Australian National University with a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practices, before being admitted to practice as an Australian Lawyer. I have worked and volunteered in the legal sector for over 10 years, with a focus on employment, industrial and social justice matters.

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation, and we demonstrate our impact across three key focus areas:

- Supporting people to flourish in a network of healthy relationships,
- Empowering communities to participate and create positive change, &
- Changing hearts, minds and systems towards love and justice.

These areas of focus are aligned with restorative practice principles and processes, and Jesuit Social Services is a leader in this field, delivering legislated Youth Justice Group Conferences since 2005. Building on our restorative practice skills and expertise, we also support schools, families where young people are using violence in the home, diversion and post-sentencing and, more recently, partnering with Worawa Aboriginal College to deliver Lotjpdahan.

In this presentation Genevieve and Lena will touch on restorative programs developed and managed by Jesuit Social services, share lessons and insights from these experiences and explore how we can bridge the gap between knowing about restorative principles and knowing how to apply them. Specifically, this is centred on how to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, building flexibility into programs to allow for growth and change, and implementing processes for continuous learning.

Youth Justice Outcomes Framework: using lead indicators to enable practice and real time program analysis.

Dr Elizabeth Howe¹

¹Youth Justice, Brisbane, Australia

Concurrent Session 2B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Since graduating with a PhD in Psychology, Dr Howe has worked in various roles across government and the not-for-profit sector in research and evaluation, review and quality and improvement. Dr Howe first joined Youth Justice in 2017 in the Research and Evaluation space and has since worked in other justice agencies before returning to Youth Justice in 2021. While in government she has led a number of strategic reform pieces.

The Youth Justice Outcomes Framework (OF) aims to reduce reoffending through continuous data and evidence-informed practice, policy, and programs improvement. Traditionally evaluation and review has focused on developing short-term program specific outcomes and assessing long-term indicators to determine program/service effectiveness (e.g. reoffending) resulting in early effectiveness data not being comparable and often not aligning with the key predictors of youth reoffending. Further, long-term outcome assessment requires a lag (e.g. 12 months for reoffending) which does not enable timely continuous improvement or practice conversations with young people. The OF was developed through extensive consultation with frontline and central teams to align with known predictors of youth offending, correlated support areas (e.g. disability) and Cultural strategies (e.g. Our Way). The OF provides a way to review and evaluate programs and services using consistent and comparable data, enabling increasingly sophisticated analysis, while also operating as practice tool, supporting outcomes focused conversations and insights with young people. The OF has now been implemented with all funded external service providers and internally delivered initiatives and forms the centre of all evaluations. The final stage of implementation will occur in 2024 with go-live of the new case management system. Early analysis has provided valuable insights with the ability to directly compare across programs. Further, front line staff feedback is that the OF is assisting in conversations with young people and allowing practitioners to adapt their approach early when they can see declines or no change in outcomes areas for young people.

Sensory Processing Needs and Modulation at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre

Miss Olivia Hutchings

Concurrent Session 4D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Olivia is an Occupational Therapist who graduated from the University of South Australia in 2016, and began her career pursuing an interest in paediatrics for 4 years. In this role Olivia's passion for supporting children and young people to develop to their full potential grew. Olivia explored specialised areas of paediatric occupational therapy, with a large focus on sensory processing and modulation.

Following these four years in private practice, Olivia's career took a shift when she accepted a state government position in the Department of Human Services (DHS), Exceptional Needs Unit (ENU), within the Inclusion Support Program (ISP) (known at the time as the Youth Inclusion Intervention Program). The ISP provides assessment and intervention to individuals (youths and adults) at risk for radicalisation to violent extremism. In this role, Olivia brought her knowledge of child development, developmental conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, meaningful occupation and independence, and various models/theories and frameworks to guide the introduction of occupational therapy into the countering violent extremism space.

Olivia's expertise quickly became recognised in other areas of DHS, and was sought to support assessment and intervention in these areas. In January 2023, Olivia then took on the role of Senior Occupational Therapist in the Youth Justice Assessment and Intervention Service (YJAIS), located at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre (KTYJC) in South Australia. A focus of this current role is implementing the Sensory and Environmental Framework at Kurlana Tapa, including educating staff, introducing sensory tools and strategies, and supervising occupational therapy students on placements.

South Australia's Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre's (KTYJC) 2019 Disability Screening Project recommended to investigate the impacts of the environment within KTYJC on young people and staff, and how this could be better adapted to support people's needs within this environment. From 2021-22, the Kurlana Tapa Sensory and Environmental Framework (the Framework) was developed in response to the recommendation from the Disability Screening Project in partnership with the University of South Australia Occupational Therapy program. The Framework was developed to help promote a custodial environment that is responsive to the complex sensory needs of young people and staff.

It was identified that approximately 33% of young people within the custodial setting were presenting with significant sensory processing needs, compared to just 4% of the same-aged peers within the general population. Further, sensory, and environmental impacts were acknowledged to influence the relationships and responsiveness between staff and young people.

Complex needs, such as sensory processing difficulties, create challenges within high-risk and restrictive environments such as custodial facilities whereby a person's usual regulation and modulation strategies may not be available or able to be supported. The implementation of the Framework commenced in January 2022, and since then has acted as a bridge between therapeutic staff and operational staff, increasing capacity and understanding, to allow complex sensory processing and environmental needs to be addressed appropriately.

This presentation will discuss outcomes and recommendations that have been actioned from the Framework thus far. Additionally, next steps towards future directions of the Framework will be examined.

Listening to the voices of Pasifika youth in the justice system Aotearoa New Zealand

Professor Julia Ioane¹

¹Massey University, , New Zealand

Concurrent Session 2A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Julia is Pasifika clinical psychologist and professor at Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand. She provides assessment and therapy to young people and their families, including teaching, research and supervision in the clinical psychology programme with a focus on child and youth justice. She sits on a number of advisory and governance boards nationwide and is committed to ensuring indigenous and CALD worldviews are authentically reflected in psychology teaching, practice and research in justice.

Symposium: We are from different parts of the forest but connected in one cause. O lupe sa vao ese'ese, ae ua fuifui faatasi.

In this three year research, Relationships and Connection was seen as fundamental to working with Pasifika youth and their families in the Justice system. Va is a conceptual space that governs relationship amongst Pasifika communiites. When offending occurs, these relationships are violated and healing from these experiences requires an all of community response. This research showed the need for a Va based service delivery framework in order to engage and maintain interventions when working with Pasifika youth and their families. This research highlights the role of family and peer-based intervention including the importance of social and economic wellbeing. Responding to and mitigating the risk of Pasifika youth offending behaviour requires complex, innovative and grown-breaking solutions that are led by Pasifika people, yet implemented by all involved.

The future of reporting on children aged 10–13 who come into contact with law enforcement

Ms Callin Ivanovici¹, Ms Amanda Donges¹

¹Aihw, Bruce, Australia

Concurrent Session 2D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

As Unit Head of the Justice and Education Unit at AIHW, Amanda leads data collection, analysis and reporting projects on youth justice, prisoner health and teacher workforce, to create information and statistics that support policy development in these areas. She also leads the Child Wellbeing Data Asset, a national data integration initiative, as well as a number of data linkage projects, including the Youth Justice and Criminal Justice Data Asset linkage. She has over 20 years' experience in public administration, including in policy development, analysis and advice. Amanda obtained a Masters in Public Policy at ANU in 2011.

This presentation discusses the range of information on young people aged 10–13 who have been under youth justice supervision in four Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) publications that source the Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS): Youth justice in Australia 2022-23, Youth detention population in Australia 2023, Young people returning to sentenced youth justice supervision 2021-22 and Young people under youth justice supervision and their interaction with the child protection system 2020-21.

With some jurisdictions now raising the age of criminal responsibility, and potentially more to follow, the YJ NMDS could soon no longer be a source of information for this age group.

New data sources to look at young people aged 10–13 who come into contact with law enforcement will need to fill the gap. National integrated data initiatives such as the Child Wellbeing Data Asset and the Crime and Justice Data Asset will be able to provide a broader, national picture of children within the context of their whole life circumstances, for example their family circumstances, education, and health care.

Restorative practices at youth justice precincts – achievements, lessons, aspirations - Queensland and Victorian experience.

Sarah Cahill², Mr Russell Jeffrey¹

¹DJCS, , Australia, ²Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training, , Australia
Concurrent Session 4A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Sarah has over a decade of experience working within Youth Detention and Service Centres across Youth Justice, Queensland in operational, restorative justice and restorative practice roles. Experienced in delivering restorative practice training and the facilitation of restorative processes between young people and the staff working with them. This experience is coupled with a Bachelor of Behavioural Studies (psychology) from the Swinburne University of Technology. In 2023 she was one of five Impact Scholarship recipients offered by the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP), in Pennsylvania United States, and has now commenced a Master of Science in Restorative Practices.

Russ' – Russ has over 20 years-experience as a restorative practice facilitator, trainer, coach and mentor, and in developing restorative practice policies and programs. This includes with government and non-government organisations in the areas of youth justice, adult corrections, family violence, workplaces, and with residential communities.

Conflict is inevitable in youth justice precincts.

Conflict occurs between young people, young people and staff, and between custodial staff. Left unresolved, conflict can amplify negative emotions like anger, fear, and contempt, which can lead to physical and emotional harm.

Addressing conflict is complex given the unique customs, rules and regulations, that exist in a custodial setting, and the scope in abilities of young people to regulate their emotions.

Historically, custodial facilities have focused on 'managing challenging behaviour' to establish and try to maintain safety, (for young people and staff). While behaviour management interventions will continue to be required, it is important to note that they do not necessarily address the key drivers of conflict and/or mitigate the risks of further harm.

At Queensland and Victoria's youth justice precincts, Restorative Practices are utilised to support a shift, where appropriate, from behaviour management to 'relationship management'.

When 'right relations' are established, maintained, and repaired (where harm occurs), and young people and staff are encouraged to use respectful communication and prosocial skills, young people are less likely to use physical or emotional violence, ... making custodial precincts safer.

Sarah and Russell will provide an overview of the achievements, lessons and future aspirations from the Queensland and Victorian restorative practices experience. They will discuss the concept of 'right relations' and how restorative practices are utilised to achieve this. Finally, a facilitated discussion will provide the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas about the continued evolution of restorative practices across Australian Youth Justice Precincts.

Supporting Youth Mental Health Within the Justice System

Dr Martina Jovev¹

¹Orygen, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 1B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Martina Jovev (MA(Clinical Psych.)/PhD) is a senior clinical psychologist and team leader at Forensic Youth Mental Health Service (FYMHS) at Orygen, Melbourne, Victoria. She has 20-year experience as a clinician and researcher in the public mental health service in the fields of early psychosis and personality disorders in youth. She has worked in FYMHS as a senior clinician since its inception in 2019. She is also a co-investigator on several large clinical projects in the field of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) in young people, including randomised controlled treatment trials focusing on improvements in symptomatology and psychosocial functioning.

Symposium title: “Empowering future: Navigating the intersection of Youth Justice, custody, and mental health through collaborative partnerships”

Presentation 1

Orygen is a leading youth mental health service in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. It aims to address the mental health needs of young people through research, clinical programs, and community education. Orygen Forensic Youth Mental Health Service (FYMHS) focuses on enhancing mental health services for young people in the justice system, providing targeted support through a multidisciplinary approach and partnerships. This symposium will discuss successful strategies and challenges in supporting youth mental health within the justice system. An overview of FYMHS and its services in the community and custody will be provided in the introductory presentation. The next presentation will highlight Orygen FYMHS strategies for engaging young people and the importance of inter-agency connections, continuity of care, understanding vulnerability, and flexible engagement practices. The spotlight will then shift to improvements in specialist youth custodial mental health services, emphasising streamlined processes, trauma-informed care, and culturally responsive interventions. The presentation will advocate for early intervention, cultural sensitivity, and longitudinal assessments. The final presentation will address the complexities of working with young people under 15 years of age. The multidisciplinary approach focusing on assessment, formulation, and treatment, will be highlighted. The need for screening and therapeutic interventions will be discussed, along with collaborative efforts within custody and community. Overall, these presentations provide valuable insights into youth justice and mental health, offering strategies and lessons for practitioners in supporting young people in the justice system.

Putting Families First: Innovative integration of DFFH,DCJS with Funded Service Providers empowering complex, vulnerable families

Ms Scarlett Keally¹, Ms Alison Norbury², Ms Meagan Donoghue³

¹Ozchild, , Australia, ²Department of Families Fairness and Housing - Child Protection , , Australia ,

³Department of Justice and Community Services - Youth Justice , , Australia

Concurrent Session 4B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Scarlett Keally: OzChild, PFF Manager. Scarlett is an experienced Social Worker with over seventeen years' international experience in the child, youth, and family's sector, both statutory and not for profit industries. Scarlett has worked in significantly diverse and innovative programs through design, implementation, operational, practice and evaluation for Child welfare, Justice and Therapeutic led services. Forever seeking professional growth and career development opportunities Scarlett follows her passions to ensure her skills not only remain contemporary but also impactful, especially in advocating for vulnerable families and individuals, ensuring their narrative is heard, social constructs are challenged, and creative solutions are explored.

PFF is an innovative, pilot Victorian program aiming to address challenges which limit the impact of services for youths, mothers and their wider families who are engaged within the Justice and Child protection systems, notably families of African, Pasifika and Aboriginal culture, with additional vulnerabilities.

DFFH and DCJS united with funded service providers to design and implement a complex, integrated inter-disciplinary model to be delivered by a core team; reducing statutory interventions and increasing family access to targeted community supports.

Building upon the Better Connected Care framework and Early Intervention Investment model, to support the delivery of a whole of individual, whole of family service model.

PFF is seeking to evidence service reform through a tiered partnership approach to ensure effective working systems. Families embedded within statutory Child Protection and Justice services are referred to PFF, whose core team is a consortium of agencies bringing culturally and skillfully diverse practitioners to co-ordinate specialist service intervention through eight integrated multi-disciplinary functions; including: health, family violence, AOD, legal, Financial, mental health and housing services.

The family is further supplemented through the support of a Community Connector to access place-based services to support their cultural, universal, recreational, and educational needs.

This co delivered oral presentation by OzChild, DFFH and DCJS aims to educate and inform on the design and implementation of PFF to date, early outcomes of families, the impact of this collaboration on intra-departmental and funded service provider partnerships and workforce and the responsiveness of PFF services in navigating complex needs.

Collaboration, Coordination and Community: A whole of service initiative to reduce short-term remand in NSW

Josh Harvey Joshua Harvey¹, Janet Killgallon¹, Sophia Scarpellino, Sarah Lehman, Ms Sharlene McKenzie OAM², Leanne Sanders

¹Youth Justice Nsw, , Australia, ²Allawaw Aboriginal Corporation, Sydney, Australia

Concurrent Session 4B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

In recent years, Janet Killgallon has led teams responsible for developing human-centred design methodology and adopting this methodology to design and test multidisciplinary service responses for young people and families experiencing vulnerability, through a number of pilot projects.

Janet has experience in social policy, project management and communications in local, state, and federal governments.

Janet has qualifications in legal studies and marketing and communications from South Africa.

Sophia Scarpellino is the A/Short-term Remand Program Coordinator in the South Sydney Police Area Command area. Previous to this, Sophia was part of the design team for the Short-term Remand Program. She has a strong interest in public policy and systems thinking, and in this work applies a Human Centred Design methodology in addressing complex systems issues. Sophia has also led multiple projects to ensure young people's voices are included in the design of policy and programs. Sophia has a Master of Policy and Applied Social Research from Macquarie University.

The Short-term Remand is a pilot program based in South Sydney and Riverina NSW

The aim of the project is to reduce the volume of children and young people (young people) aged 10 – 17 experiencing avoidable short-term remand is defined as instances where a young person is refused bail by Police and subsequently granted bail by a magistrate at their first court appearance, usually within 24 hours).

On the surface, short-term remand presents as a difference in police and court bail decision-making, however there are multiple drivers including: Support People not available when needed; information not available about the young person's circumstances; lack of accommodation; lack of services to respond quickly; young people not connect to support or the right supports. This represents why a coordinated-multiagency-response is necessary to reduce short-term remand.

The Program design is led by NSW Police Force and the Children's Court NSW, facilitated by Youth Justice NSW, and designed collaboratively with local communities, the NSW Government and non-government agencies.

The Youth Justice NSW has worked closely with local Aboriginal Elders and Community Groups, young people and their parents/ carers with lived experience, local government and non-government organisations and subject matter experts in the two pilot locations to understand the needs of the local community and to inform the design and implementation of culturally safe services.

A human-centred design approach has been used to empower local communities to design services and supports to meet the individual needs of this cohort of young people and their families.

Kotahi te Whakaaro – Thinking together/One Thought

Jayne King¹, Craig Clark²

¹Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, , New Zealand, ²New Zealand Police, , New Zealand

Concurrent Session 2D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Jayne has been with Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children for 17 years. Within the ministry, she has served in a number of roles including as a registered social worker, supervisor social worker, Hospital Liaison, Mass Allegation Investigation Coordinator, Senior Advisor for Youth Justice, and most recently as a Regional Practice Leader for Youth Justice and Care and Protection.

Introduction: The Covid lockdowns in 2021 saw a surge in child/first time offenders aged 10-13 rapidly progressing through the Youth Justice and Care and Protection pathway in Counties Manukau. Vehicle theft and retail burglary (including ram raid offences) saw significant increases in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) causing substantial tangible harm, media attention, and political discussions throughout New Zealand.

Findings: The efficacy of traditional responses to young people offending failed to make change as this cohort exposed a ‘grey area’ for offending related support services. Kotahi te Whakaaro closed this gap in service delivery by pioneering a new sense of interagency collaboration. Through better systemic governance from the South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board; co-location of the various ministry and community personnel supporting whanau (family), efficient sharing of information, better allocation of resources, and collective decision making, Kotahi te Whakaaro is in the best position to enact change.

By prioritising the family’s immediate needs to enable capacity to respond; taking a whole of whanau approach; and focusing on the underlying social issues contributing to their offending, Kotahi te Whakaaro has prevented over 200 young people and 600 siblings from re-offending and formally entering ‘the system’ to get support.

Implications: By redefining service delivery from a systems level to the individual practitioner, Kotahi te Whakaaro role models a successful way of working to prevent offending. By actualising Reil et al.’s (2022) recommendations and bettering the positions of our family, Kotahi te Whakaaro has further eliminated a need for further social interventions.

Validation and reciprocal communication in working with young people who use violence

Dr Chris Krogh¹

¹University Of Newcastle, Ourimbah, Australia

Concurrent Session 3B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Chris Krogh is a lecturer in the human services major of the Social Sciences program at the University of Newcastle. He is an experienced practitioner who has worked across adolescent counselling, child protection and out-of-home care, youth sector development, NSW government policy and program evaluation. In addition to contributing to Name.Narrate.Navigate, Chris researches in the area of youth service delivery and gender equity in workplaces.

Increasingly, young people's use of violence is a catalyst for their becoming involved in the youth justice system. Invalidation, especially within familial relationships, or other relationships where there is an imbalance of power, may be a precipitating factor to some violent situations. Reciprocal communication is a practice approach that supports workers to validate young people and prevent further invalidation. This can, though, bring workers into the complex space of relational practice and self-disclosure. Navigating these complexities requires a framework for the practice as well as a nuanced ethical starting point in their work.

Drawing on research associated with the Name.Narrate.Navigate program, this presentation will explore the potential links between invalidation and violence before moving on to outline what reciprocal communication can offer as a framework for the complex practices of responsive, relational, ethical practice with young people in justice (and other) settings. As a robust, multi-session group program designed for young people who have used violence, Name.Narrate.Navigate has found relational practice, grounded in reciprocal communication, has been key to working with young people in the program. The paper will also present the "Postcards to Practice" tool developed in the Name.Narrate.Navigate (NNN) program as a means of validating and giving voice to often invisible, ignored, or invalidated experiences.

Working beyond our borders: Young people's connection to their international community

Mrs Ely Lee¹

¹Department of Justice and Community Safety, Youth Justice - South, Australia

Concurrent Session 1D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Ely Lee is the General Manager for Youth Justice South, having come from a Not-for-profit organizational background prior to 2019, working in homelessness, youth, family services, education and women's custodial settings. Since moving into the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Ely moved from being a Senior Clinician in the Offender Behaviour Programs, across into Community Corrections at Dandenong, before stepping into Youth Justice.

Ely's work has had a core focus within the South East of Melbourne over her career, with the continuing need to build in greater levels of cultural consideration into everyone's baseline work. Through transitioning of roles within Not-for-profits and role changes within the Department, Ely has been keen to explore opportunities to support young people's voice and connection to community, in a way that is meaningful/empowering to them and supportive to the needs of that young person and the community.

Throughout the last 12 months, Youth Justice South has been continuing to build a focus within our region, on supporting young people, through creative opportunities to connect with community and culture.

This opportunity has identified a number of systems and elements for teams and managers to navigate, whilst considering the impact of family/community/culture, through the LSRNR model and the potential to divert young people from our system.

This session will explore some of the learnings we had experienced and how we have needed to collaborate with families and community groups to consider the broader risks and implications, within the wider community. Additionally, how consideration has been applied for young people to connect with their identified community and what was needed for this to be achieved. Furthermore, how within Youth Justice, we are considering our approaches that can empower the young person to have their voice and informed choice around their needs, whilst diverting away from concerning behaviour, by connecting with their culture and family.

Our Rangatahi, Our Future. Breaking the Cycle of Māori Youth Offending

Ms Sharn Manga¹, Professor Julia Ioane¹, Dr Pikihuia Pomare

¹Massey University, , New Zealand

Concurrent Session 2A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Kō Sharn Manga tōku ingoa. Nō Whaingaroa, Mangamuka, me Aitutaki ōku tūpuna. My name is Sharn and whakapapa to Waikato, Ngāpuhi, and the Cook Islands.

I was born and raised in South Auckland by my mother and grandparents. Raised in a low socio-economic and marginalised community, the house was a reflection of colonisation. Many of the values and foundations of my upbringing were endorsed by te ao Pākehā (the Western world). Although of Māori descent, my whānau (family) had little to no knowledge of their indigenous language, and tikanga (practices, customs and traditions) was not a big emphasis in my environment. My koro (grandfather of Māori decent) refuses to engage with the Māori world; a reflection of the trauma he experienced as a child. As a young Māori woman longing for connection to my Māoritanga (traditions, culture and ideals of being Māori), I have spent the last nine years learning my whakapapa (genealogy), my reo (language), and strengthening my connection to my Māoritanga. This connection has reinforced who I am as a Māori woman, and a mother, understanding my connection to the world, and the people around me. It has also influenced my passion for Māori mental health, and my desire to continue further research that aims to serve our Māori communities by empowering through understanding, giving our marginalised communities a voice, and making changes that are by Māori, for Māori and with Māori.

Symposium: We are from different parts of the forest but connected in one cause. O lupe sa vao ese'ese, ae ua fuifui faatasi

Rangatahi Māori are over-represented in offending yet despite this disparity, research is needed to better understand their perceptions of offending behaviours. The study aimed to explore rangatahi Māori perceptions, and their perspectives on offending and engagement in offending, using a sample of five participants from South Auckland. The participants' perceptions of the existing justice system in Aotearoa, and their solutions to reducing reoffending were also explored. The entire research was underpinned by kaupapa Māori methodology. Semi-structured interviews were conducted and recorded, and then individually transcribed. Thematic analysis was completed to identify themes that aligned with the aims of the study. The results demonstrated that the perceptions of the participating rangatahi viewed rangatahi Māori in a manner that carried cognitive distortions, through selective abstraction, as well as overgeneralising. The emergence of other themes included a disconnection from positive role models and culture, failures within existing systems themselves, and the impact of environmental factors in their upbringing. These concepts brought to light by the participants were identified as key factors in the development of engagement in criminal activity, and the maintenance of the existing over-representation. The findings of this study provide important direction for future research, with the aim of developing on existing frameworks and having greater awareness when engaged with rangatahi Māori from South Auckland in order to reduce their risk of offending behaviour.

Collaborative partnership to support a young person presenting with homicidal ideation and aggressive behaviour

Dr Yvonne Maxwell¹

¹Sal Consulting, , Australia

Concurrent Session 4B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Dr Maxwell has more than 12 years of experience working with individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system. This has included the provision of assessment for treatment needs and individual intervention for individuals with offending behaviour. Provision of group-based sexual and violent offending behaviour programs (CBT and DBT based) for intellectually disabled and non-intellectually disabled adult offenders. Provision of group-based drug and alcohol programs for offenders and development/provision of mindfulness programs for offenders. Administration of psychometrics to determine risk, motivation for intervention and personality assessments.

Dr Maxwell also has experience in providing complex assessment reports for court for individuals with a disability/mental health needs, offending behaviour, and legal mandates. Extensive experience in providing treatment plans, risk assessments and treatment progress reports for individuals who are mandated under various legal acts. She also engages in multi-disciplinary teams to provide client-centred and best-practice interventions for individuals with adults and adolescents who present with complex needs, aiming to reduce the risk associated with behavioural presentation and increase the quality of life for those individuals.

Dr Maxwell has worked across multiple states and territories in Australia and has engaged in developing multi-stakeholder-based service provisions for clients who have extensive and complex needs. Dr Maxwell has engaged in training and presentation of adapted DBT treatment programs both internationally and within Australia. Dr Maxwell also has extensive experience working within the family violence field, working with men and adolescents who use violence in the context of family systems.

Homicidal ideation in children is thought to be indicative of underlying psychiatric, psychological, and environmental factors. Prevalence is relatively rare and thought to peak between the ages of 12 and 15 years. This presentation will review the collaborative partnership utilised to address the complex needs of a young person presenting with homicidal ideation and aggressive behaviour. The collaborative practice involves multiple stakeholders who utilised a trauma-informed approach; with forensic risk analysis overlay. Multiple factors required addressing such as attachment, peer connection, community inclusion, mental health support, family, and placement.

Collaborative practice included the involvement of MacKillop Family Services, Child Protection, the education system, Proactive Policing Unit, psychiatry and mental health support, psychological support from a forensic perspective and secondary consults when required. The young person was also consulted and engaged throughout the entire process.

As part of the process, both forensic risk assessment and the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) assessment were utilised. The risk was monitored via the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY), with a significant focus on enhancing the lack of protective factors. The NMT assessment was utilised to guide strategies and intervention opportunities from a trauma-informed and attachment perspective. Ultimately over the two years, a risk reduction was noted, and the NMT noted a doubling of the young person's relational scores when comparing the 2021 to 2023 assessments. The collaborative partnership has been seen to have played a significant role in these changes.

What role has diversion played in the youth crime decline and could it be reshaped?

Dr Molly McCarthy¹, Mr Shaun McLaws², Associate Professor Troy Allard², Dr Ben Matthews³

¹Deakin University, Burwood, Australia, ²Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, ³University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland

Concurrent Session 2D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Dr Molly McCarthy is a Senior Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute, Deakin University, and she also holds an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow appointment at the Griffith Criminology Institute. Molly conducts research in two key areas - examining social and ecological drivers of youth offending behaviour with a focus on chronic youth offending, and exploring influences on police coercion and law enforcement approaches. She was recently awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award to conduct a program of research examining cotemporary social and ecological influences on youth offending in Australia.

Notable declines in youth offending behaviour in recent decades have been observed across many international jurisdictions, including Australia. Some scholars have proposed that reductions in aggressive youth crime control responses are likely to have played a role in this decline, such as through expanded use of caution and diversion. We examine this proposition in Australia, specifically that the extent of police cautioning and diversion of young people has played a role in the Australian youth crime decline. Drawing on data for 121,887 young people proceeded against by police across multi-cohorts (young people born in 1994/95, 1997/98 and 2001/02) and multiple jurisdictions (New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland), this study finds major reductions in the number of young people engaged in low-level offending from older to more recent cohorts, and small growth in the number of young people engaged in high frequency or chronic offending. Regression analyses suggest that rather than increasing, exposure to police-led diversion has decreased for more recent cohorts of young people. Analyses support the positive effects of police-led diversion, with young people who had higher probabilities of diversion with their first three offences more likely to display low or moderate, rather than chronic, offending patterns from ages 10 to 17, and significantly lower recidivism. Further analysis indicates that diversion within the first three offences is associated with significant reductions in recidivism even for those with early markers of chronic offending, such as an early age of offending onset. Implications for diversionary processes in Australia will be discussed.

Results from a scoping review on housing as an intervention for justice-involved young people

Dr Joel McGregor¹, Ms Zoë Goodall¹, Professor Wendy Stone¹, Dr Piret Veeroja¹

¹Swinburne University Of Technology, Hawthorn, Australia

Concurrent Session 3A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Joel McGregor is interested in the systems and services that support individuals after involvement with the justice system, with a specific interest in young people and their workers.

Stable housing serves as a foundation for positive development and the formation of a strong social identity for young people transitioning from custody. In fact, the relationship between housing circumstances and crime are well established, with safe and affordable housing known to be a significant factor for people who are desisting from crime. However, a less-explored area of study is the role of housing in the desistance process. This would involve understanding how stable and supportive housing conditions contribute to an individual's ability to discontinue criminal activities, including how their housing facilitates access to positive social networks and the reduction of factors that may contribute to criminal behaviour. In this paper, we will present results from a scoping review, alongside a wider theoretical framework that conceptualises care in housing specifically for justice-involved youth. The scoping review examined the extent to which housing is a focus of research on diversion with justice-involved young people. While results pertaining to housing were minimal, they offered insights into the broader facilitating and inhibiting factors for young people's successful outcomes. We therefore argue that there is a need for more research and understanding regarding how housing conditions play a role in facilitating the process of desistance, including how secure housing and prosocial bonds increase a young person's chances of desisting from crime.

Reignite - an example of responding to local and emerging need through innovation and collaboration.

Jill Meade, Ms Jill Meade

¹Meli, Geelong, Australia

Concurrent Session 1A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Jill Meade has worked in the community sector for over 25 years. After completing a Bachelor in Teaching as a mature age student she worked in the education system and community sector. From there she determined that the community sector was where her passion lay, originally working in Community Development. She has a diverse range of experience in working in AOD, Health Promotion, education, youth services and family services across various parts of Australia. Jill has now worked in the Geelong Region for over 14 years, particularly focusing on marginalised young people, the challenges they experience through disconnection, and the importance for their reconnection in community to thrive. Instrumental in the establishment of the Youth Statutory Support Service (YSSS) platform in Meli, she has been able to work towards a consolidation of service delivery in the youth justice space.

The Victorian Government's commitment to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 years old by end of 2024, and 14 by 2027, offers the opportunity to enhance service design and delivery to ensure timely responses which intervene with, and divert those people at-risk of future entry to the justice system, rather than delaying this trajectory through legislative change.

Since 2022, Meli has worked in close partnership with Child Protection and other key stakeholders in the Barwon region to ensure complex young people aged 10-15 at elevated risk of justice system entry are identified early and referred to the Reignite program. Reignite provides an intensive early intervention case management service which is matched to the complex needs of referred young people and their families. This ensures an adequately resourced, flexible and individualised response is available at the point when behaviours of concern are emerging, rather than delaying intervention until a more advanced threshold of risk and need is reached, which is necessary to access alternative Youth Justice-funded community supports.

The partnership between Meli and Child Protection is built upon mutual goals and values, strong communication and a clear understanding of respective roles and responsibilities.

From operations to strategic oversight, Meli and Child Protection have established systems, processes and frameworks which ensure young people who are not eligible for, or able to access, existing service interventions are adequately and appropriately supported. Reignite is a particularly strong example of the positive outcomes which can result from successfully maintained partnerships.

Empowering youth to build a fulfilling life after incarceration

Ms Claire Moore¹

¹Sweet Justice, Huntly, Australia

Concurrent Session 3B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Claire is a deeply passionate beekeeper who founded an organisation, Sweet Justice, which teaches beekeeping within the youth justice system and offers transition employment for those exiting the justice system. Sweet Justice, aims to reduce recidivism by providing a rewarding career to those who have lacked such pathways.

After winning the 2019 AgriFutures Victorian Rural Woman of the Year award for her important work in the beekeeping industry, Claire realised that a need for young workers in the agriculture industry might be eased by trained young people exiting the justice system. She approached the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct to propose the beekeeping teaching concept and with the support of the programs team began the program in late 2019. The training program is continually evolving to cater for the varying needs of both the justice system and the diverse range of young people within it.

In 2022, the Sweet Justice Honey commercial beekeeping business began and has developed into a 1,500 hive organisation that offers transition employment while producing honey and wax products, creating new hives, and providing pollination services. Sweet Justice Honey also offers a support and wellbeing program for workers exiting the system.

Claire has developed an incredible amount of experience in working with young recidivists during their incarceration and beyond. In her presentation, Claire will share her experience and wisdom, demonstrating both the challenges and rewards of her work, and will offer guidance and encouragement for others in similar fields.

Australia's recidivism statistics are poor. Without intervention and support approximately 51% of young people in Victoria will re-offend and return to custodial services within six months of their release and 44% of adults will return to custody within two years. Post-incarceration statistics are equally dire, and many people who become involved in the criminal justice system come from a personal and broader family context that involves violence, stigma, poverty, dependency, welfare, a lack of education and an even starker lack of opportunity.

Sweet Justice is a diversified 'for-profit-for-purpose' in honey wholesaling and retailing and provide specialist commercial beekeeping services. Believing deeply in the power of providing a job and a career to people who have previously lacked that pathway, Sweet Justice offers vocational training, and post-training employment to adults and young people who have become involved in the criminal justice system.

Sweet Justice was founded in 2020 by agri-entrepreneur Claire Moore: the 2019 AgriFutures Victorian Rural Woman of the Year. Since this time Sweet Justice have trained hundreds of people in the youth justice system and provided employment post release.

The core motivations at Sweet Justice are the life changing power of giving someone a job when few others will, a deep understanding of the challenges facing the 'bee' sector domestically and internationally, and the environmental and sustainability outcomes that flow from a healthy industry.

Claire has developed an incredible amount of experience in working with young recidivists during their incarceration and beyond.

Bridging Communities: Supporting Youth Through Justice and Mental Health Systems

Olivia Morrow¹, Natalie Harper¹

¹Orygen, , Australia

Concurrent Session 1B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Olivia Morrow is a Senior Clinical Psychologist and the Team Leader of Orygen's Community Forensic Youth Mental Health Service, and has worked in the youth forensic mental health space for the past five years. Olivia was the inaugural clinician in the Children's Court Mental Health Advice and Response Service (CCMHARS), setting up and managing this innovative new service at the Melbourne Children's Court in 2019. As the Team Leader for Orygen's Community FYMHS Team, Olivia continues to oversee the CCMHARS program, in addition to complementary community-based services.

Natalie Harper is a Senior Mental Health Social Worker who has worked in the Youth Justice Mental Health Initiative for five years. This initiative provides mental health consultation for youth justice staff and youth justice involved young people in the north metropolitan region of Melbourne.

Symposium Title: 'Empowering Future: Navigating the Intersection of Youth Justice, Custody, and Mental Health Through Collaborative Partnerships'

Presentation 2: 'Bridging Communities: Supporting Youth Through Justice and Mental Health Systems'

Abstract: This presentation will draw on a case example to describe the experience of a young person navigating the journey through the Youth Justice and mental health systems in Melbourne, Victoria. The case depicts a young person who has engaged with multiple sub-teams of the Orygen Forensic Youth Mental Health Service (Orygen FYMHS), as well as with external service providers, across both custodial and community based settings. The chosen case speaks to a number of features of Orygen FYMHS which have assisted in supporting the young person by seeking to address underlying contributors to alleged offending, breaking down barriers to engagement with support services, and minimising iatrogenic harm.

Key features of the work include 1) the importance of connection and strong working relationships both within and between services operating in this space, 2) continuity of care across the various settings of which the system is comprised, 3) the importance of looking past challenging and confronting behaviour to see the vulnerability beneath, and 4) the need for both intra- and inter-agency collaboration and flexible engagement practices when working with justice-involved young people experiencing mental health concerns.

Exceptionality - what is it, and what do we do with it?

Dr Lauren Moulds¹

¹University of Adelaide , Adelaide , Australia, ²Deakin University, Victoria, VIC, ³Exceptional Needs Unit, SA, Australia

Concurrent Session 2C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Lauren has a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), Master of Psychology (Health) and Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology). Lauren is the General Manager for the Exceptional Needs Unit, Department of Human Services. Lauren has worked with individuals and families across the age range over the last 10 years as a psychologist and manager in both the public and private sector. Lauren is passionate about developing innovative and systematically driven programs and interventions within the adolescent and family sector. Lauren's research has focused on adolescent family violence. Lauren holds academic titles at both the University of Adelaide and at Deakin University. She has published work, spoken at international conferences and continues to supervise research in this area.

The idea of exceptional in relation to needs and risk is often used interchangeably with the term complexity - however, exceptionality is a unique and important frame to understand when individuals, families and systems get stuck. The Exceptional Needs Unit (ENU) is a multidisciplinary team that works to help navigate systems to assist individuals and families who may be stuck, facing complex responses, or are confronted by barriers in accessing appropriate supports. Our team prides itself on strong clinical and cultural leadership and sees the support of over 500 clients across South Australia. It has a particular focus on working with young people, especially those with disability, justice, mental health, and trauma comorbidity. A unique aspect of the ENU is our approach to service coordination, as opposed to direct client delivery, and our method of risk management which improves communication, consistent management and oversight.

This presentation- aims to explore what exceptionality is - how can we identify it and how risk, and responsivity factors and barriers play a part in making circumstances exceptional and how does this change over time. Secondly - Why it is important to identify exceptionality and pull it apart from complexity, with a particular focus on clients in the youth justice system. Finally, the presentation will aim to a solutions mindset by exploring how we assess and navigate exceptional needs clients and how we consider "success" - and how can we keep hope, optimism, and generosity alive in these cases.

Prevalence of Neurodisability among Indigenous Children in the NT Juvenile Justice System

Mr Clement Ng¹

¹University Of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Concurrent Session 5C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Clement commenced his PhD candidature with the Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW in 2020. His PhD focuses on examining the challenges faced by Indigenous children with neuro-disabilities in juvenile justice administration.

Clement was first admitted to practice in 2010. Between 2011 and 2017, Clement was a lawyer at the NT Legal Aid Commission and primarily represented both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young offenders in the Youth Justice Court and the Supreme Court.

In 2016, he was awarded a Churchill fellowship to study juvenile mental health courts and other justice responses to children with mental health issues in USA, Canada and New Zealand.

Prior to commencing his PhD, Clement worked as a senior lawyer at the Legal Policy Division of the NT Department of the Attorney-General and Justice (AGD) and volunteered at the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission.

The revised General Comment No. 24 published by the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2019 makes this clear: 'Children with developmental delays or neurodevelopmental disorders or disabilities ... should not be in the child justice system at all, even if they have reached the minimum age of criminal responsibility.'

Despite reforms following the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory since 2017, Indigenous children continue to be significantly over-represented in the youth justice system. Examining over 750 court files, my PhD thesis provides empirical findings suggesting that not just Indigenous children but Indigenous children with neurodisability and multiple neurodisabilities are disproportionately criminalised in our youth justice system.

This conference presentation will discuss a wide range of empirical findings including 1) the prevalence rate of various kinds of neurodisabilities; 2) the demographic characteristics and comorbidity of these Indigenous children with neurodisabilit(ies); and 3) how Indigenous children with neurodisabilit(ies) are subject to criminalisation in different juvenile justice processes from charging, bail, remand to sentencing. Several case studies will be selected to explain and better understand the implications of these empirical findings, relevant to juvenile justice administration. The objective of this presentation is to begin a bigger conversation with juvenile justice administrators around Australia and New Zealand as to how we can better respond to the needs of this particular cohort of vulnerable children as part of the overall contemporary reform agenda.

Collaborative Practice in AOD-Mental Health Treatment and Youth Justice: Enhancing Responses through Community Engagement

Nyachan Nyak

Keynote Address - Nyachan Nyak, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 15:45 - 16:45

Biography:

Nyachan Nyak is the visionary founder and managing director of Nas Recovery Centre (NRC), delivering collaborative and culturally determined substance use and related mental health issues support to youth, adults and families from African backgrounds.

Nyachan earned her master's degree in mental health counselling and a bachelor of Community Mental health, Alcohol and Other Drugs. She is skilled suicide prevention trainer and actively participates as a member in various committees, including the Department of Justice and Community Safety Advisory Committee and the State and Territory Suicide Prevention Response Expert Committee. In these roles, she advises the government on evidence-based strategies for suicide prevention and response.

Nyachan has over 10 years of experience in health treatment services and project management. She firmly believes in the importance of integrated care and collaboration among professionals from various disciplines. Nyachan's vast insights and experience also makes her a sought-after keynote speaker on the topic of Strengthening Connections: The Power of Relationships and Strong Service Partnerships.

This presentation will draw on Nyachan's 10+ years of experience as a South Sudanese community member trained and experienced in the delivery of AOD and Mental Health treatment services, and the critical role community embedded practitioners can play in establishing community and culturally informed common goals for positive re-entry outcomes. This presentation will showcase the successful establishment of Nyachan's vision, the community embedded NAS Recovery Centre (a South Sudanese Australian Youth Justice Expert Working Group community funding initiative).

Key Points:

1. Community informed and community based collaboration: emphasize the benefits of deep and wide reaching collaborative practice in addressing the complex needs of AOD-Mental Health and youth justice-involved individuals, through partnership and interdisciplinary teamwork.
2. Leveraging community therapist expertise: outline the transformative role community based therapists and community knowledge and expertise can play in empowering clients to make positive choices and change behaviours, showcasing evidence-based approaches and success stories.
3. Day-to-day collaborative systems: showcase practical strategies and intervention choices that agencies and professionals can start implementing to improve treatment outcomes, client engagement, adherence, and satisfaction.

Designing facilities that foster adolescent health, well-being and healing.

Dr Sanne Oostermeijer¹, Matthew Dwyer²

¹The University Of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, ²Churchill Fellow, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 3A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Matthew Dwyer is an architectural researcher, designer, and tutor, working in Naarm/Melbourne Australia, on the lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation. His work focuses on how design interrelates with other fields – particularly on the social and ecological effects of environments. In 2020, he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to extend his research on the design of youth justice facilities.

Dr. Sanne Oostermeijer is a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. She lives and works on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. Her research focuses on mental health and wellbeing with a particular focus on justice-involved young people. She has been working with Matthew Dwyer to study how the design of youth justice detention can best support justice-involved young people.

Across the world justice-involved young people are still being placed in prison-like facilities, typically large-scale with a focus on risk-management and security. These are places designed to isolate from young peoples' families, their communities and society at large. This happens despite the lack of positive outcomes, its high costs, and ongoing violence and harm towards both young people and staff.

Conventional juvenile justice detention facilities interfere with factors generally thought to promote both desistance from offending and positive adolescent development, including links with community, family ties, employment, education and housing.

Although reforms are not uncommon, institutional practices and routines persevere and re-emerge despite determined efforts to re-train staff, implement new programs or reconstitute the agency itself.

Is 'a gilded cage always a cage'? Is the deprivation of liberty the same in any form? Is it possible to imagine any system in which custody benefits adolescent development?

The presenters will discuss jurisdictions that have attempted to reimagine what custody means at a most basic level, considering examples that prioritise fostering adolescent health, positive relationships, community connection, wellbeing and healing.

We will discuss how these priorities have effected major changes to facility design, location, staffing, practice, and culture. We will discuss how these characteristics impact on the lives and experiences of the young people detained, and the lessons we must implement in Australia.

Does age at first youth justice system contact impact mortality?

Implications for Raising the Age

Ms Lindsay Pearce^{1,2}, Ms Afaf Humam³, Dr Lucas Calais-Ferreira^{1,3}, Prof Stuart Kinner^{1,2,3}

¹Justice Health Group, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville, Australia, ²Justice Health Group, School of Population Health and enAble Institute, Curtin University, Bentley, Australia, ³Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia

Concurrent Session 5B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Lindsay Pearce is a Research Associate with the Justice Health Group, Curtin University (Perth) and Murdoch Children's Research Institute (Melbourne). Lindsay completed her Master of Public Health in 2017 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Lindsay's research and work has focused on the health and health care experiences of vulnerable populations including people who use drugs, people living with HIV and Hepatitis C, and incarcerated populations. She is interested in the application of both quantitative and qualitative research methods to elucidate the stories of these populations and drive evidence-informed health system change.

Background

In Australia, justice-involved young people experience disproportionately high rates of premature mortality compared to their non-justice-involved peers. Amidst calls to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR), Australia continues to incarcerate children as young as ten-years-old. Evidence on mortality outcomes according to age at first contact with the justice system, and type of contact, would inform the ongoing debate to Raise the Age.

Methods

Using linked justice and mortality data on 48,670 justice-involved young people in Queensland from 1993-2014, we examined mortality outcomes according to three age thresholds for first contact (10, 12, and 16-years-old) and type of contact (detention, community-based supervision, or charge only).

Results

We did not observe statistically significant differences in mortality according to age at first contact. However, standardised mortality ratios comparing mortality rates in the cohort compared to non-justice-involved young people of the same age and sex were elevated at all age thresholds. Disparities were highest for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and those experiencing incarceration.

Discussion

Due to the relatively small number of deaths in our cohort, we were unable to establish a statistically significant impact of age at first contact on mortality. Nonetheless, our findings reinforce the importance of addressing poor conditions in youth detention, increasing the MACR, and providing alternatives to detention to address the health inequities experienced by this population. Future research using a recently established national youth justice cohort can overcome the limitations of this study.

PBL in Youth Justice

Merran Peisker¹, Kate Spencer, Lisa Wilson

¹ACT Government, Canberra, Australia

Concurrent Session 4B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Merran Peisker is a Speech Pathologist, graduating from the University of Newcastle in 2009. Merran currently works at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre in the ACT acting as Principal Practitioner and Project Officer. Merran's clinical area of interest is in Developmental Trauma and more recently Youth Justice. In her current roles at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, Merran has been leading projects on the Centre's Behaviour Management Framework, understanding disability needs and reasonable adjustments within a custodial environment.

In 2021, Bimberi Youth Justice Centre conducted a review into best practice models of behaviour management within youth justice settings. The review drew on evidence-based and behavioural science research, as well as best practices around Australia and internationally to identify what would meet the needs of the ACT.

The Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) model was chosen as the basis for the Bimberi Behavioural Management Framework (BMF) due to its focus on positive and proactive interventions used to support positive changes in young people's behaviour.

The project team was led by Bimberi and included close partnership with the Education Directorate.

The project team worked collaboratively with staff, stakeholders, and young people to design the framework, ensure that it could be adapted to a custodial setting and that it was engaging and accessible for young people with reasonable adjustment needs.

In 2023 the framework was launched and imbedded into practice, through a comprehensive program of training, workshops, coaching and information sessions for young people and staff.

This presentation will provide information on the success of the implementation after 12 months, including a decrease in significant incidents within the centre and positive behaviour change for young people and reflections and learnings from the process.

Navigating Vā-Driven Practice and Community-Based Pathways for Pasifika Youth: Facilitating transformative change following violent offending

Ms Rayna Phillips¹, Professor Julia Ioane¹

¹Massey University, , New Zealand

Concurrent Session 2A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Rayna is a proud daughter of Sāmoa (Sataoa, Salelologa, Satupa'itea) and the Celtic coasts of Cornwall. Born and raised in Aotearoa, her father's family arrived four-generations ago while her mother, aunty, and uncles joined the Pasifika wave of migration in the 1970s. Rayna is currently studying a Doctor of Clinical Psychology at Massey University. She is passionate about Indigenous psychologies, justice reform and transformative rehabilitation, health equity, and research for, with, and by Pasifika. Since completing the above research, Rayna is undertaking phase two of the project. To adjoin the frontline voices, she is now gathering the voices of Pasifika youth and families as the service-users and expert knowledge bearers. By adopting the Sāmoan fa'afaletui framework/traditions, she seeks to facilitate an interwoven talanoa exploring the service needs and empowerment factors for Pasifika youth and their families following violent offending behaviour.

Symposium: We are from different parts of the forest but connected in one cause. O lupe sa vao ese'ese, ae ua fuifui faatasi

Pasifika youth are overrepresented in violent offending statistics and at a rate higher than all other ethnic cohorts in Aotearoa. Access to genuine opportunities for transformative change is complicated due to elevated severity and age of first offence. Despite trends for violent offending behaviour being comparable across global diasporas, there remains no non-violence intervention designed for Pasifika youth nationally or internationally. In lieu, Pasifika youth receive untailored care that neglects their diverse cultural needs and obstructs future positive outcomes – heightening community vulnerability for cyclical violence and high custodial overrepresentation. This qualitative study facilitated an explorative talanoa with Pasifika probation officers (PO) in Aotearoa. Thematic analysis of data generated themes that highlight the strength of culturally responsive practice and a desperate need for rehabilitation programmes available within the community. POs' frontline perspective found official responding must be vā-driven. Hence, priority must be given to nurturing respectful relationships that cultivate engagement and more positive outcomes for youth. In addition to establishing community-based rehabilitation programmes, a wraparound approach was strongly called for to address systemic stressors Pasifika youth disproportionately experience. Overall, responding should be conceptualised as co-navigation that empowers Pasifika youth, families, and communities towards transformative change.

Youth Justice Custodial Workforce Strategies and Implementation in Victoria

Charlie Allen¹, Dominique Picco¹

¹Youth Justice, , Austria

Concurrent Session 3B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Dominique Picco, the Manager, Workforce Strategy and Support joined the team in Youth Justice in 2020 to support the opening of the new Cherry Creek Youth Justice Precinct, and has continued to oversee the Workforce Strategy for our custodial and community precincts.

Title: Youth Justice Custodial Workforce Strategies and Implementation in Victoria

Victoria has made a number of improvements to its workforce support and retention as part of its Youth Justice Custodial workforce plan. This presentation will provide an overview of some of the activities that have seen a significant improvement in our workforce stability at our custodial precincts.

Key Features of the Plan include:

- An uplifted workforce model for custodial unit-based staff.
- A new recruitment campaign, developed with Fenton Stephens in 2022, showcasing Youth Justice staff and promoting the uplifted workforce model.

Recruitment and Workforce Stabilisation

- Previous recruitment shortages have been alleviated by factors such as the uplifted workforce model and the recruitment campaign
- Victoria worked closely with recruitment services to review the end to end high volume recruitment process, which has seen an improve in participation and overall process duration, this includes the implementation of phone screen assessments, and an increase in input from our existing custodial staff to support hiring decisions along the way of the process.
- A shift from less frequent foundational training intakes to monthly groups has seen lower wait times for candidates who are ready to start their career with Youth Justice.
- Victoria is seeing an improvement to workforce stabilisation in 2024 as a result of these efforts.
- Victoria is actively working on focussing on workforce diversity as a part of our recruitment and retention strategies.

Queensland Youth Justice Intensive Case Management Program: Evaluation findings 2018-2022

Ms Sandy Pieper, Ms Laura Spatuzzo

¹Queensland Department Youth Justice, Brisbane , Australia

Concurrent Session 5A, Olympic Room, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Sandy Pieper is the Manager, Intensive Case Management (ICM) Program, Queensland Youth Justice. Sandy holds a bachelor in Behavioural Science, majoring in crime and youth. She has extensive experience in the criminal justice sector, working with adult and juvenile populations for the past 20 years. Young people don't always make great decisions and often when they come into conflict with the criminal justice system, there are multiple complexities impacting their life choices. Sandy's passion is working to reduce offending behaviour and supporting young people and families to be the best versions of themselves. After many years in the criminal justice system, she values the importance of working collaboratively across family, community, and government systems.

With a passion for evidenced based practice and innovation, Sandy has led the design and development of programs to reduce offending behaviour, including the Intensive Case Management Program, piloted in 2014. Sandy continues to lead the ICM team to reduce youth offending in Queensland. Recognising the importance of collaborative relationships, the ICM program aims to improve outcomes for justice involved young people and their families, reduce re-offending, and enhance community safety. Cultural connectedness, voice and choice empower young people and families to achieve their goals and support positive life outcomes. The collective efforts of the ICM team and Queensland Youth Justice have resulted in a significant reduction in the frequency and severity of offending and positive achievements for young people and their families.

In 2022 the Department of Youth Justice in Queensland commissioned an independent evaluation of the Intensive Case Management (ICM) Program (2018-2022), across seven service centres throughout the state. The objective of the evaluation was to examine the effectiveness of the program in reducing offending among serious repeat offenders. This presentation details the findings of the five-year evaluation. The evaluation concluded the ICM program is more effective than alternative Youth Justice approaches in reducing offending among the more serious offending cohort. Most significantly, over 40% of young people who completed the program did not re-offend post program, some for up to 3 years. The ICM cohort reduced the 6-month reoffending count by 51% (22% greater reduction than the comparison cohort), with a 72% reduction in the proportion of 'crimes against the person', (59% greater reduction than the comparison cohort).

The ICM model is regarded as culturally appropriate and equally effective with First Nations, Māori, and Pasifika families. By working intensively with families, the program achieved improvements in family functioning including enhanced parental capacity, stronger familial relationships, enhanced problem-solving skills and provided a unique opportunity to intervene early, working with younger siblings. The focus on multi-agency collaboration and integration of the ICM model demonstrates system level gains through enhanced engagement or independence from multiple government systems. Importantly, ICM demonstrated a positive cost-benefit to the justice system and the community of between \$9.8 and \$19.1 million when considering losses incurred due to youth crime.

Panel - Pathway to Diversion: Children's Court Youth Diversion in Victoria.

Melissa Pritchard¹, Amanda Carter²

¹Youth Justice Victoria, Department Of Justice And Community Safety, Melbourne, Australia, ²Victoria Legal Aid, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 5A, Olympic Room, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Melissa is a manager in the Diversion Community and Programs team overseeing the state-wide operation of the Children's Court Youth Diversion (CCYD) Service in Victoria.

Over the past sixteen years, Melissa has worked in a variety of criminal justice related roles including as a case manager in Community Correctional Services, an offender management officer within Victoria Police and in program and policy related roles both in Corrections Victoria and Youth Justice.

It is proposed that other presenters involved in this panel discussion will include high level representatives from:

- Children's Court of Victoria
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Victoria Police
- Regional CCYD manager

Youth Justice is committed to early intervention and diversion as the most effective approach to reducing youth crime, as outlined in the Youth Justice Strategic Plan and Youth Diversion Statement. The Children's Court Youth Diversion Service (CCYD) was established in 2017 to provide a state-wide legislated diversion response. It is a pre-plea option available to young people who come before the criminal jurisdiction of the Children's Court that seeks to:

- Encourage young people to accept responsibility for their behaviour and understand the harm caused.
- Respond to offending behaviour by identifying and addressing criminogenic needs through appropriate supports.
- Reduce stigma and long-term impacts associated with a criminal record.

A recent evaluation found that CCYD is effectively reaching young people early in their engagement with the justice system, has had a positive impact on reoffending rates, and contributes to enhanced protective factors for young people.

This panel discussion will involve an overview of CCYD, including the implementation of the program and the subsequent impact on the broader youth justice system. This will include information on diversion numbers, success rate, and reductions in the number of young people under Youth Justice supervision in community and custody.

The success of CCYD relies upon collaboration with several key strategic partners. The panel discussion will involve representation from:

- Children's Court of Victoria
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Victoria Police
- Regional CCYD manager

The panel discussion will explore panel members' views and experience of CCYD, including the challenges and success they have experienced in the program.

Listening to the narratives of young women who use and experience violence.

Ms Louise Rak¹

¹University Of Newcastle, , Australia

Concurrent Session 3A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Louise is the program manager for the Name.Narrate.Navigate program for youth violence, the NNN Practice Pathways and Now See Hear project at the University of Newcastle. She brings a wealth of expertise to her role with over 18 years practice experience across social services in areas of youth homelessness, OOHC, mental health, disability services, youth justice and early intervention. Louise is a Board member for Justiz Community Social Justice Organisation, an Aboriginal run service for Aboriginal community members. Louise's PhD explores the narratives of young women who use violence in their interpersonal relationships.

The use of violence by young women who use, and experience violence is a complex and growing issue that is under researched and often poorly understood. The voices and life experiences of women of all ages are largely absent from practice, policy, and research into the female experience of the use of violence. How practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and the wider community perceive the use of female violence may provide context as to why the voices of young women who use violence in their relationships go unheard and unvalued. This presentation discusses and shares the narratives of 24 young women. Their stories indicate the prevalence and role of trauma, homelessness, structural disadvantage and intersectionality in their use and experience of violence.

Panel - Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the ACT: Lessons and future directions

Ms Tyla REDMAN¹, Mr Shaun Kelly¹

¹Act Government, Canberra, Australia

Concurrent Session 2D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Shaun Kelly is a Senior Director in the Community Services Directorate, ACT Government. He is the project lead in designing the service system to operationalise the raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility law reform. A key project component is the therapeutic support panel (panel) which has been introduced by the legislation as an alternative, therapeutic, early intervention and diversionary response pathway for children and young people who will no longer enter the criminal justice system.

In November 2023, the ACT enacted the Justice (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years and then to 14 years in July 2025, making the ACT the first jurisdiction in Australia to legislate for a minimum age of 14.

A key aspect of this reform is the introduction of a therapeutic support panel (panel). This is a voluntary, alternative service response for children and young people who are, or at risk of, engaging in serious harmful behaviour to other people or themselves. The independent panel, chaired by a statutory office holder, will facilitate therapeutic and other supports for these children and young people, aimed at changing their life trajectories.

This panel discussion will bring together leaders of the minimum age of criminal responsibility reform in the ACT to discuss the drivers for change, key learnings, and their views on how the human services system needs to adapt to better support children and young people who had previously been involved in the criminal justice system or are at risk.

Subject to confirmation, the panel members will include the ACT Minister for Families and Community Services, Chair of the panel, a leader from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and a key academic or advocate for this reform.

The panel discussion will focus on why broad ranging service systems reform must accompany legislative reform to create alternate pathways and improve outcomes for children, young people, and families.

When systems collide: Exploring the lived experience of 'care criminalisation' in South Australia

Ms Shona Reid¹

¹Office Of The Guardian For Children And Young People, Adelaide, Australia

Concurrent Session 5A, Olympic Room, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Eastern Arrernte woman, Shona Reid, is South Australia's Guardian for Children and Young People and Training Centre Visitor, appointed to promote and advocate for the rights of children and young people in care and youth detention.

For over two decades, Shona has devoted her knowledge, experience, professional and personal life to the advancement and rights of Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities. For 15 years, she worked across the child protection, young offending and the out-of-home care sector, predominately in regional and remote areas, including the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. In recent years, she has focused her expertise on governance and accountability across the APY and Far West Coast regions of South Australia.

Prior to becoming the Guardian, Shona was the CEO at Reconciliation SA and held various roles in public service including at the Legislative Council - Parliament of South Australia, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Ministerial Offices and various iterations of the now Department for Child Protection. In early 2020 she was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award for service to Aboriginal Children, Young People, Families and Communities from Flinders University.

"I know the statistics for kids like me. I've researched it."

- Young person in care, aged 17.

On an average day, 1% of South Australian children are in care, yet those in care account for one in three young people in detention. This social phenomenon – commonly referred to as 'care criminalisation' – is deeply reflective of the intersectionality experienced by many young people in care. Social factors which carry increased criminogenic risk are often concentrated for those in care, including trauma, poverty, disability, racial discrimination and social exclusion.

The South Australian Dual Involved Project (July 2022) explored opportunities to divert pathways to youth detention for young people in care, through identifying:

- support needs for those at risk of offending behaviours
- features of the child protection and youth justice systems that exacerbate and contribute to criminogenic risk.

The project reviewed administrative child protection and youth justice data for 71 dual involved young people to identify statistical trends. Extensive interviews were conducted with 16 young people about their experiences of the child protection and youth justice systems, to better understand their lives and their views on how they came into detention. This included if (and how) their care environment influenced offending behaviours.

Through engaging with these experiences, the learnings and observations from the SADI project hold significant potential to improve practice across the entire continuum of child and youth services – including to better promote trauma recovery and investment in the lives and wellbeing of children in care.

The mental health and mental health service use of young people with family violence behaviours

Dr Maddison Riachi^{1,2}, Dr Benjamin Spivak^{1,2}, Professor Troy McEwan^{1,2}, Dr Nina Papalia^{1,2}

¹Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia,

²Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare), Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 1A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Dr Maddison Riachi completed her Doctor of Psychology (Clinical and Forensic) at Swinburne University and The Centre of Forensic Behavioural Science in Melbourne, Australia. She is a Member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and Associate of the APS Colleges of Clinical and Forensic Psychologists. Dr Riachi currently sits on the APS College of Forensic Psychologists National Committee as the Early Career Representative.

Dr Riachi has gained experience in several specialist forensic and clinical services across both Victoria and Queensland. She has provided clinical assessment and treatment to those with major mental disorders, child maltreatment/trauma histories, relationship challenges, and cognitive impairments. Dr Riachi also has experience providing specialised risk assessments and treatment to young people and adults engaging in offending or challenging behaviours. She has worked with victims of crime, particularly children, young people and families affected by sexual abuse. Before commencing her doctoral studies, Dr Riachi worked as an Advanced Child Protection Practitioner for the Victorian Government.

Her predominant research interests include youth offending, child and youth forensic mental health, and child maltreatment. Her doctoral research investigated the relationship between mental health and youth family violence.

Symposium Title: Risks and needs of young people reported to police for engaging in family violence behaviours: Expanding the evidence base.

Despite increased police call outs to incidents of family violence perpetrated by young people, a higher presentation of aggression and violence in youth mental health service consumers, and a high number of justice-involved youth having engaged in violence against family members or intimate partners, there continues to be a deficit in knowledge and understanding about youth family violence (YFV). In particular, the mental health of this cohort. understanding of risk factors and points of intervention.

This study aimed to address this gap in the literature by investigating the mental health service use patterns, including recorded diagnoses, of 361 young people (aged 25 years and under; 75% male) whose violence towards their family members or intimate partners brought them to the attention of Victoria Police between September 2016 and June 2017. Administrative police records for individuals were linked by an independent linkage agency to administrative mental health-related databases, including Medicare Benefits Scheme and information held by the Victorian Agency for Health Information.

The results indicated a high prevalence of mental health service contacts (74%) and mental health diagnoses (31.3%) for this group. Of particular interest, there was no difference in mental health service contacts or mental health diagnoses between YFV types. There was also evidence of a temporal relationship between mental health service use/mental health diagnosis and YFV incidents. Implications for the mental health and justice systems will be discussed.

Orygen-FYMHS-Presentation 3: Enhancing Youth Custodial Specialist Mental Health Services: A Holistic and Culturally Responsive Approach

Ms Jasmine Organ¹, David Rowlands¹, Mr Nathan Hall¹

¹Orygen, , Australia

Concurrent Session 1B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

David is a Social Worker with ten years of post-qualified experience working in the fields of forensic youth mental health, public sector mental health, community healthcare and alcohol and other drugs.

Jasmine Organ (BNsg/BAppSc (Psych), MN (Mental Health), GDipFBS) is a Senior Mental Health Clinician and Nurse Practitioner Candidate at Orygen's Forensic Youth Mental Health Service (FYMHS) in the custodial team. She brings over nine years of experience in child and adolescent psychiatry, spanning inpatient settings, emergency psychiatry and early psychosis intervention. Jasmine has spent the last four years in the Youth Justice Mental Health Initiative, working towards improving young people's access to mental health services and upskilling Youth Justice staff in the area of mental health. She has a particular interest in working with the Crossover Kids, and Jasmine looks forward to pioneering the way for nurse practitioners in the Youth Justice space in Victoria.

Nathan Hall is a Senior Addictions Specialist at Orygen's Forensic Youth Mental Health Service (FYMHS). He commenced working in mental health in 2000 and qualified as a mental health nurse in 2004. He has worked as a Registered Mental Health Nurse in Australia since 2006. Nathan has been a Senior Dual Diagnosis clinician since 2014, supporting people with Dual Diagnosis issues and services to manage complex presentations, including direct support and counselling with young people in custody.

This presentation delves into comprehensive improvements in youth custodial specialist mental health services, emphasizing a streamlined process of assessment, treatment, and structured exit pathways. The focus is on purposeful interventions and ensuring continuity of care with effective information sharing to prevent re-traumatization through repeated storytelling.

Addressing the trauma that is prevalent in young people in Youth Justice custody, the presentation highlights the challenges of implementing trauma therapy in a custodial environment. It underscores the critical need for a psychologically safe and trauma-informed setting for effective treatment.

In the realm of Alcohol and Other Drug interventions, the presentation advocates for a systematic approach involving assessment, motivational interviewing, harm reduction, lapse/relapse planning and community AOD service linkage. It considers the impact of obstacles such as shame, withdrawal, and substance use on a young person's mood, cognition and engagement.

Cultural responsiveness is central, incorporating insights from Orygen's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing Worker, and collaborations with teams who support multicultural young people in and out of custody. The presentation considers cultural barriers such as low rates of mental health literacy, stigma and privacy concerns and how these impact young people in custody and their families.

Finally, the benefits of conducting longitudinal assessments in custody, often spanning multiple episodes of care are discussed, as are the challenges associated with out-of-home care and homelessness and their impact on service linkage, emphasizing the need for sustained and multi-faceted approaches.

The Deportation of African Youth from Australia: research co-design as Ubuntu.

Mr Sam Sakama¹

¹Youth Justice / DJCS, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 5C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Sam Sakama is a Youth Justice Worker, Lawyer and a PhD Candidate at the University of Canberra, Australia. His research focuses on the deportation of young people of African heritage who are noncitizens from Australia and the impacts of deportation on African families. Sam has over 25 years of experience working in international development, community development and the public service in Guinea, Liberia and Australia.

The Deportation of African Youth from Australia: research co-design as Ubuntu.

Sam Sakama, Youth Justice/DJCS and University of Canberra

Samuel.Sakama@justice.vic.gov.au

Co-design is based on community-based participatory research (CBRP) which encourages partnerships between researchers and study participants. The inclusion of study participants to co-create knowledge and understanding about the social problems affecting them is stressed throughout this model. Co-design is a participatory tool for problem-solving that brings together technical expertise and lived experience, on equal ground, to design solutions together. Australia is a settler colony with racialised criminalisation processes on marginalised populations where the creation of knowledge can often exclude groups such as this cohort which is why co-design is encouraged. Most importantly, co-design has been used by researchers in working with the African-Australian community in Victoria to examine socio-economic and traumatic challenges with settlement. My PhD focuses on why young people of African heritage are deported from Australia and investigates the African communities' concerns and understandings of deportation using co-design. This paper discusses the co-design processes with the Community Reference Group (CRG) from the African-Australian community in Victoria to co-produce knowledge with study participants (young people, families and legal representatives) in our study. It also includes connections between co-design and the African philosophy of Ubuntu to integrate individual, familial and collective experiences of study participants with the everyday adversities of settlement and deportability.

"I don't understand": Communication Assistants for Young Defendants in South Australian Youth Justice.

Melissa Saliba¹

¹Department Of Human Services, Community and Aboriginal Partnerships, Youth Justice and Exceptional Needs, Adelaide, Australia

Concurrent Session 4C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Melissa has worked as the Senior Speech Pathologist in Youth Justice Therapeutic Services, South Australia, since 2018, drawing from over 15 years of clinical experience gained from youth justice, mental health, disability and education sectors. Melissa has special interests in improving written and verbal communication access for young people in youth justice, adolescent literacy intervention, and environmental influences on early language development. She values collaborative work to empower and improve the outcomes of young people, their families and communities.

This presentation details the practise, rationale, process, limitations and outcomes of utilising onsite communication assistants (CAs) in the South Australian youth custodial setting, Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre (KTYJC). Onsite CAs facilitate genuine access to justice for the many young people who cannot effectively participate in judicial processes, including court proceedings, due to identified or suspected communication, comprehension and cognitive difficulties. Outcomes include increased meaningful engagement with the justice system, empowering youth voice, improved comprehension of legal matters and conditions, and reduced risk of incidents relating to young people's confusion and frustration.

Understanding the complexities of developmental difficulties in the youth justice environment and what to do.

Ms Laura Seeley¹

¹Orygen, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 1B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Three Co presenters:

Bron Clark Senior Psychologist, several years experience working in the youth justice custodial setting, she has a particular interest working with youth offenders under 15 years old.

Sarah Sherwell is an experienced neuropsychologist with almost 5 years working in the forensic mental health Neurodevelopmental Assessment Team.

Laura Seeley is a very experienced speech pathologist bringing knowledge from a range of different settings into the forensic setting to support comprehensive assessment and diagnostic undertakings for young offenders.

SYMPOSIUM Orygen Forensic Youth Mental Health Services: Presentation 4

Understanding the complexities of developmental difficulties in the youth justice environment and what can be done.

We aim to highlight the complexities and challenges in working with young people under the age of 15, particularly with associated developmental vulnerabilities, and to demonstrate how our expertise and collaborative practice highlights the possibility of change both in custody and community.

When young people are incarcerated, it is during a crucial stage of their development (physically, emotionally, socially and psychologically). Underlying developmental differences in teens and young adults can significantly influence their experiences within custodial environments.

Research highlights the link between developmental trauma, education practices and the influence of culture in regard to disability in young offenders. According to Speech Pathology Australia, 90% of people in custody have speech, language, and communication difficulties, which is disproportionately high when compared to the general population of Australia. Screening, assessment and diagnosis, and ideally therapeutic interventions are crucial for young people with such vast developmental differences and underlying vulnerabilities. At Orygen, we offer a multidisciplinary approach to assessment, formulation, and treatment. We are developing strong stakeholder relationships within custody and community, collaborating through shared goals and treatment plans for the young person at the centre of our care.

Follow the story of John Doe through his remand, to his release back into the community and see how our team work to support the best possible outcomes.

Transforming Youth Workforces: Restorative Practices for Safe, Connected, and Award-Winning Cultures

Ms Kerrie Sellen, [Ms Kerrie Sellen](#)¹

¹Restorative Journeys, Adelaide, Australia, ²International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), Bethlehem, USA

Concurrent Session 3B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 17, 2024, 10:40 - 12:40

Biography:

Kerrie Sellen, with over two decades in community services, has expertise spanning Youth Justice, Homelessness, Domestic Violence, and Drug and Alcohol sectors. Her journey, beginning in South Australian Youth Justice, encompasses significant roles in youth detention, shaping her understanding of youth needs.

Kerrie is renowned for founding two large, non-profit youth services, acclaimed for their strong staff culture and client engagement. Her leadership has established these organizations as models in program design and delivery.

A proponent of transformative leadership, Kerrie's implementation of a restorative practice framework significantly improved workplace culture. This approach led her organization to be ranked as Australia's 6th best workplace by Business Review Weekly.

Kerrie's experience extends to remote Aboriginal communities, including Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and Arnhem Land, where she developed services and provided consultancy.

Internationally, Kerrie has influenced practices through keynotes and training in Singapore, including Changi Prison, and presentations across America.

Active in shaping the youth sector, Kerrie chairs the Southern Youth Round Table, contributes to the South Australian Childhood Death and Serious Injury Review Committee, and is part of the South Australian Youth Worker's Association.

As an accredited trainer in Restorative Practice, Youth Mental Health First Aid, ASIST and more, Kerrie's commitment to professional development is evident. Her lectures at TAFE and Universities in Youth Work, Youth Justice, and Drug and Alcohol testify to her dedication to elevating service standards in the youth and community sectors.

Abstract for Oral Presentation

Title: Transforming Youth Workforces: Restorative Practices for Safe, Connected, and Award-Winning Cultures

Kerrie Sellen's presentation explores the transformative power of restorative practices in youth service organizations, highlighting her success in leading a non-profit youth organization to be recognized as Australia's 6th best workplace culture by Business Review Weekly in partnership with Great Places to Work Australia. This accolade, stemming from Australia's most vigorous workplace study, reflects the impact of a relationship-centered approach in creating safe, stable, and connected workforces. With over three decades of experience, Kerrie has pioneered innovative approaches in Youth Justice and community services.

This session aims to highlight the methodology behind restorative practices and their practical application. The explicit restorative practice framework involves a deliberate shift towards prioritizing relationships in every decision. This strategy has achieved profound outcomes, leading to

an engaged, motivated workforce capable of effectively supporting youth, including those in the youth justice system.

Attendees will gain insights into implementing restorative practices in their organizations or teams, understanding their impact on fostering a cohesive and resilient working environment. The presentation will include real-life stories and explicit examples from Kerrie's extensive work.

This presentation aligns seamlessly with the symposium's focus on building robust workforces, with the ultimate goal of supporting young people in the context of youth justice and community services.

Police-reported child-to-parent abuse: the role of situational factors

Dr Abigail Sheed^{1, 2}, Dr Natasha Maharaj, Dr Melanie Simmons, Dr Nina Papalia, Professor Troy McEwan

¹Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia,

²Victorian Children's Court Clinic, , Australia

Concurrent Session 1A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Dr Sheed is a postdoctoral research fellow funded through a collaborative research-industry partnership between Swinburne University's Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and the Victorian Children's Court Clinic. She is also a registered forensic psychologist with experience working with children, adolescents, and adults across general clinical and forensic mental health settings and is currently employed at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare). Dr Sheed conducts research focused on adolescent antisocial behaviour, youth family violence, child maltreatment, and risk assessment. She has particular research and clinical interests in understanding, assessing and treating problem behaviour among children and youth, and the application of research to policy and practice.

Situational factors are relevant to the initiation and maintenance of violent behaviour yet are infrequently examined in relation to family violence, particularly among young people. The failure to consider situational factors has been identified as one of the most significant errors in judgement that is made when assessing and managing violence risk with youth (Borum, 2000).

This presentation provides an overview of the characteristics and situational antecedents of police-reported child-to-parent abuse among Victorian young people. The results were derived from the analysis of police family violence narratives pertaining to young people (aged 10-24 years) who engaged in child-to-parent abuse (n = 82). Interpersonal conflict and parental limit-setting were the most common situational antecedents of child-to-parent abuse, with additional situational factors including use of weapons, role of third parties, mental health concerns, and substance abuse issues. Families experiencing child-to-parent abuse showed heightened levels of intrafamilial violence and neurodevelopmental conditions. Implications for risk assessment, management, and intervention will be discussed.

Characteristics of youth family violence across early adolescence, late adolescence, and young adulthood

Dr Abigail Sheed^{1, 2}, Professor Troy McEwan, Dr Melanie Simmons, Dr Benjamin Spivak, Dr Nina Papalia

¹Swinburne University, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Melbourne, Australia, ²Victorian Children's Court Clinic, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 1A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Dr Sheed is a postdoctoral research fellow funded through a collaborative research-industry partnership between Swinburne University's Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and the Victorian Children's Court Clinic. She is also a registered forensic psychologist with experience working with children, adolescents, and adults across general clinical and forensic mental health settings and is currently employed at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare). Dr Sheed conducts research focused on adolescent antisocial behaviour, youth family violence, child maltreatment, and risk assessment. She has particular research and clinical interests in understanding, assessing and treating problem behaviour among children and youth, and the application of research to policy and practice.

There is a lack of research examining differences in the characteristics of young people who use family violence between key developmental periods. This impacts our ability to provide developmentally sensitive assessment and intervention to young people who engage in family violence and their families.

This presentation provides an overview of the characteristics of all Victorian young people who came to police attention for using family violence in 2019 and explores how these characteristics differ between early adolescence (10-14 years), late adolescence (15-19 years), and young adulthood (20-24 years). Victorian young people who use family violence were typically found to be male, disproportionately from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and a significant minority experienced mental health issues. Substance abuse and unemployment/school truancy were higher among those in late adolescence and young adulthood, while accessibility needs, and childhood victimisation were highest among those in early adolescence. Child-to-parent abuse was highest among those in early- and late-adolescence, while intimate partner abuse was highest among those in young adulthood. The result suggests the presence of both similarities and differences in the characteristics of young family violence-users across three key developmental periods, with such information being relevant for informing assessment and intervention approaches for this cohort.

Enhancing evidence-based practice: integrating research and clinical assessment at the Victorian Children's Court Clinic

Dr Abigail Sheed^{1,2}, Dr Lisa Forrester, Dr Nina Papalia, Mr Simon McDonald, Distinguished Professor James Ogloff

¹Swinburne University, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, , , Australia, ²Victorian Children's Court Clinic, , Australia

Concurrent Session 5C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Dr Sheed is a postdoctoral research fellow funded through a collaborative research-industry partnership between Swinburne University's Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and the Victorian Children's Court Clinic. She is also a registered forensic psychologist with experience working with children, adolescents, and adults across general clinical and forensic mental health settings and is currently employed at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare). Dr Sheed conducts research focused on adolescent antisocial behaviour, youth family violence, child maltreatment, and risk assessment. She has particular research and clinical interests in understanding, assessing and treating problem behaviour among children and youth, and the application of research to policy and practice.

The Victorian Children's Court Clinic (CCC) is an independent organisation which conducts psychological, neuropsychological, and psychiatric assessments of children and families for the criminal and family divisions of the Children's Court of Victoria. This presentation describes the lessons learned from implementing a research capability within the CCC including the creation of a research agenda, development of collaborative industry partnerships, the role of the postdoctoral research fellow, and the complexities of developing a clinic-informed research database. Emerging CCC research streams will also be discussed, including (1) examination of child maltreatment and family violence risk frameworks, and (2) problem behaviours among young people involved with the justice system. Research priorities and upcoming projects will be discussed.

Panel - Youth Justice and African-Australian Populations: Trends, Challenges and Strengths-Based Solutions

Dr Stephane Shepherd¹

¹Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia
Keynote Address - Stephane Shepherd, Olympic Room, April 18, 2024, 09:00 - 10:30

Biography:

Dr Stephane Shepherd is Professor of Forensic Psychology and Criminology at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University. He has developed an internationally recognised body of research and writing on the cultural, social and mental health needs of young people who have contact with the justice system. He has published over 100 articles and book chapters, and he has received over 5 million in research funding. In 2020, he was named one of ABCs top 5 researchers under 40, and he received the 2020 Victorian Government Multi-Cultural Award for Excellence in Justice. Dr. Shepherd also received the American Psychology-Law Society's Early Career Award in 2019, and he was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship in 2015. Dr. Shepherd is a member of the Victorian Youth Parole Board, the Victorian Government African Communities Committee and the Victorian Government's Expert Advisory Committee for Countering Violent Extremism.

There has been a significant overall drop in the numbers of young people in custody in Victoria over the past 10 years. However there has been a simultaneous increase in the number of young people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds entering the system, in particular those of African heritage. This keynote session canvasses the factors underpinning the over-representation of African-Australian young people and considers strengths-based community-led solutions to reduce justice system contact and improve the lives of young people and their families. The session will include additional presentations and a panel discussion featuring African-Australian researchers, young people with lived experience of the justice system, emerging community leaders, and not-for-profit sector professionals.

Through their eyes, with their voices – rehumanising children and young people who offend and reimagining youth justice.

Meena Singh

¹Commission for Children and Young People, Melbourne, Australia

Keynote Address - Meena Singh, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 09:45 - 10:45

Biography:

Meena Singh is the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in Victoria. She is a Yorta Yorta and Indian woman, born and living on the land of the Kulin Nations. Meena started her legal career with Victoria Legal Aid, where she practised in human rights and criminal law, and was also their inaugural Associate Director, Aboriginal Services. She has led legal services and programs at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and the Human Rights Law Centre, as well as consulting in training and organisational development across many organisations.

She has a passion for centering the voices of people with lived experience and service design that promotes inclusion, connection and ultimately achieve social justice and equitable outcomes.

From her role as Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, and past legal practice and policy roles, Meena Singh will share her insights into the youth justice system, including:

- Learnings from and impact of Our Youth Our Way: Inquiry into the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Victorian youth justice system.
- Oversight and monitoring of youth detention spaces.
- What do Aboriginal ways of being, knowing and doing tell us about designing a more compassionate, holistic, and child centred approach to youth justice.

Responding to radicalisation and extremism risks for youth: An emerging practice issue for child protection and youth justice in Aotearoa

Dr Tony Stanley¹, Steve Barracosa²

¹Oranga Tamariki, , New Zealand, ²Youth Justice NSW, Parramatta, Australia

Concurrent Session 4A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Tony Stanley is a national practice design advisor for Oranga Tamariki in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Previously, he was the Chief Social Worker for Birmingham City Council. He was their professional lead for quality social work and improving practice, and chair of the West Midlands Teaching Partnership.

Recent publications include statutory responses for suspected radicalisation and terrorism risk, and organisational cultures shaping practice and social workers' constructions of 'family' in radicalisation risk cases.

An emerging practice issue for statutory social work in Aotearoa New Zealand is the rise of young people engaged in and with extremist and radicalised groups and behaviours. This paper explains this and offers practical practice methods and models to effect family-centred risk assessments and multidisciplinary case management. A youth justice response will be mandated for some, with others requiring a child protection response due to age responsibility and policy settings. A practice partnership that nurtures consultation avenues and support between Oranga Tamariki and Youth Justice NSW is now in place to ensure that shared practice knowledge and expertise promotes effective identification and intervention outcomes for young people engaged in extremism. A key message is for practitioners to 'pick up the phone' and use the supports, frameworks, tools and models on offer. We illustrate these through a case study.

The Oranga Tamariki practice framework supports a range of practice models, tools, and resources to guide and support practice. Oranga Tamariki also offers practice advisers and practice guidance. Working with complex young people in child protection and youth justice settings is confronting, emotive and anxiety provoking. It is therefore important to recognise these challenges and understand how demanding these cases can feel. The stakes are high and there is often a lot of scrutiny attached. Nevertheless, social workers are best placed and responsible for completing risk assessments and driving subsequent multi-disciplinary and multi-agency case management and intervention plans forward. We present the NSW Aotearoa practice collaboration and showcase social works contribution.

Animal Assisted Interventions for At-Risk Young People: Using Animals to Support Emotional Regulation and Engagement

Elisa Stannard¹

¹Lort Smith Animal Hospital, North Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 5C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Elisa Stannard coordinates Lort Smith's youth Pet Therapy and Youth Pathways programming. She specialises in brokering partnerships that enable meaningful engagement; strengthen community connection; facilitate collaborative practice, learning and improvement, and create positive social impact. She is a committed advocate of the importance of connection to nature, and of the transformative power of the human-animal bond.

Elisa was the project lead for Lort Smith's Pet Therapy for At-Risk Young People project and impact evaluation, and developed and facilitated its Animal Care Youth Pathways program trial.

Elisa feels incredibly privileged to lead Lort Smith's Pet Therapy youth program - championing dogs as agents of change; supporting passionate community volunteers; and centring the human-animal connection in young people's social and emotional learning, development, healing and recovery.

She lives in Naarm on Wurundjeri Country with her Hong Kong rescue cat Splinter, and her rescue camp dog Bilby.

Lort Smith partnered with youth justice and specialised youth services across Melbourne to facilitate volunteer-provided Animal Assisted Interventions (AAIs) for at-risk young people. The project explored the benefits in custodial, educational, therapeutic and rehabilitative settings, and how AAIs could be integrated into existing practices. Young people also participated in training and work experience that used AAI to structure and support learning, and which aimed to strengthen capability and increase educational and employment pathways.

We found that AAIs empowered young people and youth service staff in a range of ways:

- The presence of animals supported young people to feel safe, establish trust, and achieve emotional regulation.
- Young people experienced improved ability to connect, communicate, feel confident and capable.
- Staff experienced improved rapport, relationship and repair with young people.
- Positive interpersonal interactions and service engagement increased.
- The impacts were most profound for young people with especially complex needs who experienced the greatest barriers to engagement.

Our findings highlight the exciting potential that AAIs offer the youth justice sector. Given the crucial role that relationship plays in trauma-informed practice, AAIs provide a unique means of building trust and connection with young people, strengthening positive working relationships, and increasing engagement. AAIs offer opportunities to enhance and amplify specialised supports, and to explore new pathways to meeting the complex needs of young people.

This presentation will share key learnings from Lort Smith's Pet Therapy for At-Risk Young People project, and stories of transformative impact for young people and youth services.

Kicking Out Hate: Harnessing Community Sports to Empower and Safeguard At-Risk Youth Against Extremism

Tom Stewart^{1,2}, Ms Jamila Ahmadi^{1,2}

¹Youth Justice and Exceptional Needs Directorate, Department of Human Services (DHS), Adelaide, Australia, ²Living Safe Together Initiative - Department of Home Affairs, Canberra, Australia

Concurrent Session 1A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Tom Stewart is the Senior Training Officer for South Australia's Inclusion Support Program (ISP), part of the Youth Justice and Exceptional Needs Directorate, Department of Human Services (DHS). He is a qualified Teacher and spent a number of years as a Youth Mental Health Practitioner. Tom's expertise in the CVE sector extends to assessment, intervention, case planning, as well as staff training and development. His background also includes consulting for the Education sector on suicide response, safety planning and intervention and significant experience as a counsellor with headspace Woodville and Port Adelaide.

Jamila Ahmadi is the Community Engagement Officer for South Australia's CVE intervention service, ISP, Youth Justice and Exceptional Needs Directorate, DHS. Her background in international relations and development, coupled with her role as current Board Member of the Middle Eastern Communities Council of South Australia, reflect her dedication to supporting multicultural communities. Jamila's involvement in initiatives like the 'Kick Out Hate' soccer tournament demonstrates her commitment to creating inclusive spaces for young people. Her career is marked by a strong devotion to community development, policy advocacy, and supporting diverse, at-risk youth populations.

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) of the Exceptional Needs Unit (ENU), Youth Justice and Exceptional Needs Directorate, Department of Human Services (DHS), delivers SA's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) interventions and builds networks to respond to challenges and threats from violent extremism and criminal violence.

Method:

In 2022/23, one ISP-led initiative designed to foster cultural connection, promote inclusion and social cohesion, and raise awareness about the risks of hate, racial violence and online radicalisation was the Kick Out Hate (KOH) tournament, delivered in partnership with One Culture Football (a not-for-profit), SEDA College, Adelaide United FC and the Australia Federal Police (AFP). The event was featured on Channel 7, ABC News, and local radio. The event provided some attendees their first opportunities to interact positively with law enforcement (SAPol and AFP), state and local leaders and media. The tournament will go on the road in 2024, reaching at-risk youth in rural and remote parts of SA.

Result:

202 participants from 35 diverse communities entered the tournament with 18 teams competing in organised games in 2023. Spectators included Hon Nat Cook, Chief Executive of DHS and current and former A-league stars. The success of KOH has led to expanded funding for related social cohesion, crime prevention and youth safety initiatives in the community.

Conclusion:

This oral presentation will explore ISP's journey with KOH and explore the value of using grassroots sport to connect young people with better services, better supports, and better mentors to reduce the associated risks of gang violence and violent extremism.

Collaboration and Partnerships to Address the Multiple Needs of Young People in Custody

Ms Sarah Sutton¹

¹Youth Justice, Department Of Human Services, Cavan, Australia

Concurrent Session 2A, Olympic Room, April 16, 2024, 13:35 - 15:25

Biography:

Sarah Sutton is a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist who has worked in the Justice sector for over two decades. Sarah is currently the Clinical Manager of the Enhanced Support Team, within Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre, in South Australia. The Enhanced Support Team are a small clinical team who support young people in custody, and the staff around them. Enhanced Support Team clients often have multiple needs including disability, mental health issues, drug and alcohol histories and trauma backgrounds.

In South Australia, The Kurlana Tapa (Aboriginal Kurna word meaning New Path) Youth Justice Centre Disability Screening Project (2019) highlighted the significant prevalence of unmet, co-occurring, mental health, speech and language, cognitive disability and other neurodiverse needs among young people. This led to the establishment of the Enhanced Support Team (EST) in 2021, a small, specialised clinical service operating within the custodial environment, aimed at reducing behaviours of concern of young people within the Centre, and improving their quality of life. This presentation will demonstrate how Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre, led by the EST, is supporting young people in custody through collaborative intra and interagency, family and community involvement. A de-identified case study will be shared to demonstrate how Kurlana Tapa supported this young person during their time in custody, the liaison and collaboration with internal and external services and stakeholders, through transition into the community, in order to address their significant, unmet support needs.

E fofo e le alamea le alamea – The solutions lie within our communities

Pacific forms of Restorative justice

Maria Tetini-Luatutu, [Autagavaia Siaupiu Autagavaia](#)¹, [Sepa Hausia-Schaumkel](#)¹, [Lisa Sepuloni](#)¹

¹Oranga Tamariki, , New Zealand

Concurrent Session 1D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

The Pacific population in NZ and Australia is diverse, complex and is increasing. Having alternative forms of restorative justice options that focus on 'For Pacific, by Pacific with Pacific' ensures that our families and communities have options as part of the wider Youth Justice network of support.

'E fofo e le alamea le alamea' is a Samoan proverb that places emphasis on how solutions lie within our communities. Oranga Tamariki recognises that communities are best placed to reduce the number of children and young people who offend along with a collective need to collaborate (across government sectors and within local communities) when looking at sustainable change and wider systems advocacy.

An approach that is applied by Pacific cultural advisors across Auckland (particularly in South Auckland) are cultural forms of restorative justice. An example of this is the Ifoga process during Youth Justice Family Group Conferences. The Ifoga process is a Samoan cultural ceremony of apology that involves both the victim, the offender, and both families. Either the victim or the offender (or both) is of Samoan ethnicity. Participation is voluntary and includes Police, Youth advocate, Youth Justice Social workers, and community leaders.

'E afua mai maunga manuia o nu'u' – From the mountains flow the blessings for the village. The wellbeing of families, communities and nations is dependent on its leaders. During the ifoga process, the grievance is held by the young person and their family in the hope that mana is restored. The pathway to reconciliation and forgiveness for the victim/s during this process is powerful, emotional, and transformative.

Measuring the Social Climate of Victoria's Youth Justice Precincts

Jemma Martin¹, Linsey Thomson¹

¹Youth Justice, Department Of Justice And Community Safety, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 4D, Yarra Park Room, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Linsey Thomson (she/her) leads a team of policy and project officers responsible for implementing custodial operational reform in Victoria. Linsey has worked across adult and youth custodial environments for over 16 years and is passionate about delivering best practice reform initiatives, to achieve positive outcomes for people engaged in the justice system. In her current role, Linsey leads the design of custodial operating models that are responsive to gender, developmental needs and prioritise rehabilitation and reintegration. She also works with her team to progress initiatives to support LGBTIQ+ young people and staff within the Youth Justice custodial system.

Kaitlyn is currently completing her Master of Analytics at the University of New South Wales, enhancing her analytical skills to bring a data-driven perspective to justice reforms and their evaluation.

Jemma Martin (she/her) is deeply committed to improving outcomes for people in contact with the justice system through reform projects and policy. Her operational experience has ignited her passion for policy and projects aimed at embedding and strengthening initiatives, programs and services that focus on treatment and rehabilitation. In her current role in Youth Justice, Jemma leads reform projects centred on early intervention, diversion and reintegration initiatives for young people entering the justice system.

Around the world, institutions are increasingly recognising the influence that socio-cultural conditions within custodial facilities have on wellbeing, rehabilitation, and overall outcomes of young people. The shift in focus from viewing custodial facilities merely as physical spaces to understanding them as intricate social ecosystems is crucial for creating environments that promote prosocial behaviour and successful reintegration into society.

The methods employed to measure this sentiment vary, but many institutions are turning to comprehensive tools. These include psychometric surveys and mixed-methods approaches, to capture both qualitative and quantitative data. Standardised measurement tools can help youth justice administrators obtain reliable data to support evidence-based decision-making and improve the social climate of custodial facilities.

In 2024, Victoria is introducing a new (anonymous) survey to assess the group climate of its Youth Justice Precincts. The survey adopts a structured approach, incorporating 33 questions that young people navigate on a psychometric likert scale. These questions explore perceptions and experiences across five key domains: staff-young people interactions, dignity and respect, safety and order, fairness and transparency and support and services.

This presentation will outline the intricacies of designing the survey, drawing on cross jurisdictional insights, psychology, and input from diverse stakeholders. We will spotlight the significance of participant considerations, emphasising ethics and ensuring the survey empowers young people to share their perspectives authentically.

Join us as we unravel the design process and unveil the thoughtful measures undertaken to create a robust tool that captures the unique social dynamics of Victoria's Youth Justice Precincts.

Attachment disruption as a responsivity factor affecting recidivism, order compliance and therapeutic alliance in offending youth

Mrs Sarah- Louise Tkaczyk¹, Dr Bruce Watt, Dr Douglas Angus

¹Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia, ²Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training, Brisbane, Australia

Concurrent Session 4A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Sarah-Louise Tkaczyk is a PhD Candidate at Bond University in Queensland. She has extensive experience working with adult and youth offenders in New Zealand and Australia, with the New Zealand Department of Corrections, Queensland Corrective Services, and Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Her research interest lies in understanding and addressing the impact of attachment dysfunction on offending trajectories, with a specific focus on therapeutic alliance, order compliance and recidivism. Sarah is particularly interested in offending trajectories of youth offenders who are also involved with child protection services.

Attachment dysfunction is becoming increasingly recognised as a prominent responsivity factor affecting the engagement of youth offenders in risk mitigating programs and interventions. Believed to be prevalent among offending youth, particularly those also subject to child protection (dual-order youth), attachment dysfunction may manifest in behaviours that hinder the establishment and maintenance of a positive therapeutic alliance with Youth Justice Caseworkers, such as distrust, emotional dysregulation, and hostility. This in turn may lead to ineffective intervention engagement, heightened recidivism risk and non-compliance with court-imposed orders. There is, however, a noticeable gap in research focusing on attachment dysfunction in this population. By examining data provided by the Queensland Department of Youth Justice, this research determines the prevalence of attachment disruption in a large cohort of youth offenders and its association with recidivism rates, order compliance and completion, as well as the establishment and maintenance of effective therapeutic alliance. Findings are anticipated to influence policy and practice frameworks related to administering youth justice intervention to increase the likelihood of improved outcomes for those that come into contact with the youth justice system.

Workshop - Pūrākau: Using traditional stories, knowledges and experience to guide positive change within the Pacific community

Mr Jacob Tumanako¹

¹Youth Justice NSW, , Australia

Concurrent Session 1D, Yarra Park Room, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

Jacob Tumanako is a storyteller, sharing traditional stories from the Pacific. He uses those stories in a way that helps people make sense of the world they live in; creating opportunity to challenge dominant antisocial narratives and reauthor alternate stories. As a Māori man, with roots to both Tuhoe and Ngati Kahungunu in Aotearoa, Jacob carries a heavy cultural burden. This burden further enhanced as a result of living off country. However, he sees that burden as a privilege; to be in a position to share traditional knowledge and story can feel like a responsibility sometimes, but overall, he's grateful to be in a position to share something that has been tried and tested for millennia. Jacob's Youth Justice life has spanned over 15 years in Australia, starting as a Youth Officer in Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre, moving to a Caseworker role in Moree working in remote Aboriginal communities, Blacktown in Western Sydney's multicultural hub, and then the Central Coast of NSW. Then recently back to Blacktown as an Assistant Manager. Now working in projects, he is currently immersed in a project focused on making a difference within the Pacific community called Pūrākau: meaning story. Jacob is interested in narrative practice and how you can combine the use of ancient stories and traditional knowledge to help accelerate desistance. He's also a tragic All Blacks supporter.

This workshop aims to demonstrate the weaving of traditional stories from the Pacific and concepts of narrative therapy together, enabling a culturally responsive approach that counters the overrepresentation of Māori and Pacific young people within the Justice system, in Australia.

By sharing traditional stories, we can draw on the skills and knowledges of our ancestors; allowing their hopes and dreams to be heard.

We can then introduce the idea that those skills and knowledges have been passed down, and that they are accessible.

When working with people in this way, we decentre the positioning of the practitioner; disrupting power imbalances and making it possible to see the young person as already having the skills and knowledges that lead away from crime. What's left is an unusual position where we aren't the agents of change, but participants who are invited to walk alongside individuals.

This workshop involves traditional storytelling, with participants decentred, sitting around a fala (traditional woven mat). We'll apply a narrative lens to deconstruct story and develop new understandings. We then weave these understandings into our own story, creating resonance and opportunity to challenge the single-story narrative. By working in this way, we speak the language of the Pacific.

Jacob Tumanako will lead the workshop in collaboration with Regan Arthur (A/Project Officer) and Kelli Hannon (YJ Caseworker). The workshop will go for 60 minutes.

Integrating Trauma-Informed & Restorative Practice in Youth Justice

Alikki Vernon, David Moore

Concurrent Session 1C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

David B Moore PhD has been involved with the movement for restorative practice since the Australian group conferencing pilots of the early 1990s, and subsequent pilot programs in schools and workplaces. After working as an academic and government policy advisor, he trained group conference facilitators internationally. He continues to work as a facilitator and trainer, and in organisational change management. In recent years, David has focused on: integrating restorative practice and related non-adversarial justice approaches; implementing restorative engagement programs in redress schemes; and using restorative practices for relationship-based education, restorative just workplace cultures, and improved regional service delivery

Alikki Vernon PhD has worked in conflict management and restorative practices for over 25 years. Alikki coordinated the Conflict Resolution Programs at La Trobe University's School of Law for over a decade, and wrote her doctorate on the use of restorative processes in mental health systems. She now provides technical support for program development and service-delivery in justice, health, education, and community contexts, including clinical supervision for colleagues in government and community agencies that respond to institutional abuse and family violence. This work includes facilitating complex cases in redress schemes, in education and workplaces settings. Her capacity-building work focuses on Setting Relations Right with restorative practice facilitation skills, and coordinating Communities of Practice for the Australian Association for Restorative Justice.

Organisations working in youth justice can improve the way they (i) interact with young people and other community members and (ii) govern themselves by integrating restorative- and trauma-informed approaches to service-delivery and to industrial relations. Trauma-informed practice and restorative practice provide tested methods for learning from the past, promoting healing in the present, and increasing future wellbeing.

Principles of restorative practice and of trauma-informed practice both indicate: (i) what to avoid, (ii) how to work, and (iii) what to work towards. This session provides an overview of the practical theory outlined in the recently published *Setting Relations Right in Restorative Practice: Broadening Mindsets and Skill Sets*, the first book in Routledge's new series contemporary issues in restorative practice.

Setting Relations Right provides practical theory on:

- restorative processes for managing different types of challenging situation,
- the facilitation skills used in all those processes;
- dealing with complex cases and reforming regional service delivery;
- implementing programs in systems of justice, education, and industrial relations; and
- managing the politics of restorative practice.

The session will include examples of evaluated programs that have achieved impressively effective results.

Children Dually Involved with Statutory Child Protection and Juvenile Justice in Australia: A Scoping Review.

Jordan White¹, Dr Phillipa Evans¹, Prof. Ilan Katz¹

¹University Of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Concurrent Session 4A, Olympic Room, April 17, 2024, 13:30 - 15:30

Biography:

Jordan is a PhD Candidate at the University of New South Wales, exploring 'A Critical Systems Perspective of Young People's Experiences of Pathways between Care and Custody'. Jordan's interests focus on the intersection of complex systems, particularly the Criminal Justice System, and Welfare systems, including Child Protection and Out-of-Home Care. Jordan has an undergraduate degree in psychology with an Honours in psychological science, an undergraduate degree in Criminology and a Master of Development Studies at UNSW.

Jordan's career has developed within the relevant statutory systems she has an interest in with front line casework experience across Child Protection and Out-of-Home Care, and with Youth Justice clients. Jordan also has experienced working within Ministerial offices across DCJ relevant portfolios, including Child Protection & Permanency and Youth Justice. Currently, Jordan works as a Project Officer with Youth Justice, in the Practice and Implementation team, focusing on developing and delivering evidence-based practice initiatives and resources that aim to reduce re-offending, and support young people towards desistance from crime.

Children dually involved with child protection (CP) and youth justice (YJ) statutory systems have poor life outcomes attributable to higher levels of disadvantage and more complex needs compared to single system involved children. Limited literature exists regarding the Australian context and there is a lack of evaluated responses that support this highly vulnerable cohort towards increased long-term positive outcomes within Australia. The current review systematically scopes the Australian cohort data. Twenty-five cohort studies were included that investigated the characteristics of dually involved children in Australia. Latent thematic analysis was carried out identifying the individual, familial, environmental, and systemic factors that contribute to the likelihood of children becoming involved in CP and YJ within Australia. Six thematic factors emerged that characterise the trajectories of dually involved children: cumulative and destabilising adversity; maltreatment timing and type; offending onset and context; educational disadvantage and disengagement; co-occurring challenges; and First Nations overrepresentation. Findings demonstrate that Australian cohorts have a range of complex needs; and the relationships between risk factors and offending trajectories are context specific, particularly for First Nations children. Policy and practice should focus on delivering timely and culturally appropriate interventions that are specific to cohort needs; namely, diversion strategies that promote behavioural de-escalation and educational engagement.

Ethics and Participatory Research in Mandated Settings

Jordan White¹

¹University Of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Concurrent Session 5C, Jimmy Stynes Room B, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Jordan is a PhD Candidate at the University of New South Wales, exploring 'A Critical Systems Perspective of Young People's Experiences of Pathways between Care and Custody'. Jordan's interests focus on the intersection of complex systems, particularly the Criminal Justice System, and Welfare systems, including Child Protection and Out-of-Home Care. Jordan has an undergraduate degree in psychology with an Honours in psychological science, an undergraduate degree in Criminology and a Master of Development Studies at UNSW.

Jordan's career has developed within the relevant statutory systems she has an interest in with front line casework experience across Child Protection and Out-of-Home Care, and with Youth Justice clients. Jordan also has experienced working within Ministerial offices across DCJ relevant portfolios, including Child Protection & Permanency and Youth Justice. Currently, Jordan works as a Project Officer with Youth Justice, in the Practice and Implementation team, focusing on developing and delivering evidence-based practice initiatives and resources that aim to reduce re-offending, and support young people towards desistance from crime.

The authors PhD research aims to explore young people's experiences of dual intervention by statutory child protection (CP) and youth justice (YJ) systems. A Foucauldian strand of Critical Systems Thinking (CST) is applied to the research problem, and a complimentary participatory methodology is applied throughout the research process, whereby power is positioned with those who experience the research problem: exploring how young people define their own experiences and perspectives of the impact of care and custody pathways on offending trajectories. There is inherent power difference between adult researchers and child participants, presenting serious ethical challenges for researchers; however, these power differentials are exacerbated when exploring the lived experience of young people who offend. Acknowledging power potentially subjects it to mechanisms of democratic control; power that is denied can become unlimited and capricious. It is thus the authors responsibility to acknowledge and mitigate inherent power imbalances between participants and her, throughout the research process, where possible. This presentation will explore the ethics of participatory research in mandated settings; how we might reposition power to amplify, rather than give, voice; and critically reflective practice in research.

Lessons learned from Countering Violent Extremism Intervention with young people.

Mr John Young^{1,2}, Dr. Lauren Moulds^{1,3,4}

¹SA Department Of Human Services, ADELAIDE, Australia, ²University of Queensland, St. Lucia, AUSTRALIA, ³Deakin University, Burwood, Australia, ⁴University of Adelaide, Adelaide, 5000

Concurrent Session 1B, Jimmy Stynes Room A, April 16, 2024, 11:05 - 12:55

Biography:

John has a Bachelor of Arts with honours in History (American History) and a Graduate Diploma in Education. He is also a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, studying the intersection of right-wing extremism and masculinity. John is the Manager of the Inclusion Support Program, Department of Human Services and the South Australian Countering Violent Extremism Intervention Coordinator. John's experience includes: research into how disadvantaged people experience education; being a remote teacher at Indulkana Anangu School; and working as a clinician and program designer with terrorist offenders - a position he has contributed to for the past 6 years. After trying his hand at a number of pursuits, such as a scuba instructor, pizza chef, academic and crossfit coach, John has unfortunately found his calling as a bureaucrat.

The South Australian Inclusion Support Program (ISP) is a Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) intervention program, sitting within the state government's Exceptional Needs Unit (ENU) in the Department of Human Services. The ENU works to help navigate systems to assist those who may be stuck or are confronted by barriers in accessing appropriate supports.

The ISP considers radicalisation to violent extremism as a behaviour of concern that is able to be addressed without specialist services (what would commonly be referred to as 'de-radicalisation'), but instead with collaboration and the brokering of wrap-around supports, led by a specialist team.

The ISP has learned many lessons along the way after 6 years of working closely with Police, Youth Justice and Corrections. A key lesson we have learnt is that complex behaviours, such as radicalisation to violent extremism, are often hard to detect in the early stages, or perceived to be too risky to treat once they present. The ISP has developed its practice to focus on building capability and confidence to provide services to these individuals, and to contextualise their expertise to the national security landscape. It's helpful to consider the responsivity issues posed by such behaviours, and not just the risks and needs in isolation.

In adopting this approach, the ISP has found that its model of service could be applied to other types of complex offending (such as gang membership, homicidal ideation and threats of mass violence), and have valuable implications if the age of criminal responsibility is to be raised.

'What are your pronouns?': Beyond LGBTIQ+ 'safety' in Victorian Youth Justice Precincts.

Julie Youssef¹

¹Department of Justice and Community Safety, Youth Justice, Melbourne, Australia

Concurrent Session 5A, Olympic Room, April 18, 2024, 10:50 - 12:50

Biography:

Julie Youssef (she/her) is a queer Egyptian woman leading the implementation of the LGBTIQ+ commitments in Youth Justice operations. She works to develop and support the implementation of operational policies, procedures and initiatives to meet the needs of LGBTIQ+ young people and staff within Youth Justice. Julie is passionate about creative solutions to make space for queer inclusion and gender diversity within the custodial gender binary.

In the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2030, the Department of Justice and Community Safety has committed to ensuring that LGBTIQ+ young people feel comfortable, safe and supported. Existing research has suggested that very few young people will 'feel safe' in a custodial environment, as will even fewer LGBTIQ+ young people.

In acknowledgement of this, Youth Justice Victoria is reconsidering inclusion beyond safety. In a custodial environment operating in a gender binary, we ask: how can Youth Justice precincts embed LGBTIQ+ inclusive practice and move towards a system that understands, affirms and celebrates LGBTIQ+ young people in its care?

Reflecting on the Victorian experience to date, this presentation will discuss the adaptation of LGBTIQ+ inclusion within the existing custodial environment. We will interrogate how 'safety' may look for an LGBTIQ+ young person and how Youth Justice precincts can support people to feel brave, using a strengths-based, intersectional approach.

Youth Justice Victoria is committed to creatively responding to emerging challenges posed by the custodial gender binary. With the support of an expert advisory group, the Youth Justice LEAG (LGBTIQ+ Expert Advisory Group), we are working to meaningfully support LGBTIQ+ young people and minimise harm.

Challenges, solutions and future directions as they relate to the needs and experiences of LGBTIQ+ young people in custody will also be open for discussion.