Value of a Justice Reinvestment Approach to Criminal Justice in Australia

Committee Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Justice Division

North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services
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   B. The economic and social costs of imprisonment.
   C. The over-representation of disadvantaged groups within Australian prisons, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people experiencing mental ill-health, cognitive disability, and hearing loss.
   D. The cost, availability and effectiveness of alternatives to imprisonment, including prevention, early intervention, diversionary and rehabilitation measures.
   E. The methodology and objectives of justice reinvestment.
   F. The implementation and effectiveness of justice reinvestment in other countries, including the United States of America.
   G. The benefits of, and challenges to, implementing a justice reinvestment approach in Australia.
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2. The scope for federal government action which would encourage the adoption of justice reinvestment policies by state and territory governments.
   Letters of support are attached.
Our conviction is:

A: The history of Justice Reinvestment in Mount Isa has been one that has had no co-ordination until our involvement in the approach to draw all parties together, so as to achieve better outcomes for the clients. It has been one where an efficient system of recycling clients has prevailed and which produced a lack of drive by clients to better their people and empower themselves to address issues affecting their lives.

B: Our local analysis is based on 130 clients who have successfully completed the programme in the first instance. This figure does not account for those who have returned through the system and have been offered more support. Some of these have been challenged to make changes before being resentenced and have responded positively. Others have reoffended in some other manner and have appeared before the Court system again. Our analysis of these 130 clients has provided the State Government a saving of $13 million over 5 years.

C: It is estimated that over 60% of clients in incarceration suffer from a mental illness. It is an indictment on our system that we offer so little appropriate support to clients with mental illness. The right to privacy is one of the most complex and soul destroying aspects of our work in this area as no information can be released to people working with mentally ill clients, yet we are dealing with these clients on a daily basis.

D: The costs associated with this ‘wrap around model’ would not be one tenth of the cost of an inmate in incarceration. In fact, if we had $10,000 per client, compared to the $100,000 for their cost in jail, we would be able to offer a care and treatment model of one client per worker. This would enable us to engage in much more personal and less rigid approaches to clients with more services offered to them.

E: The costs associated with this ‘wrap around model’ would not be one tenth of the cost of an inmate in incarceration.

F: Our activity is cost-effective given that it is based on an established programme that has been able to deliver a consistent and continuous service over many years. The Murri Men’s and Women’s programmes have built a solid reputation within the community. This reputation has extended to not only its Indigenous clients but also to other clients who have successfully completed the programme in the first instance.

G: We see the challenges to implementing this model to be the multiple and extreme barriers to bringing health, happiness, and hope to individuals who are affected by incarceration. These barriers include the lack of access to health care, employment, education, and housing. It is estimated that over 60% of clients in incarceration suffer from a mental illness. The right to privacy is one of the most complex and soul destroying aspects of our work in this area as no information can be released to people working with mentally ill clients, yet we are dealing with these clients on a daily basis.

H: Our activity is cost-effective given that it is based on an established programme that has been able to deliver a consistent and continuous service over many years. The Murri Men’s and Women’s programmes have built a solid reputation within the community. This reputation has extended to not only its Indigenous clients but also to other clients who have successfully completed the programme in the first instance.
The programme works with other stakeholders to efficiently reduce costs in terms of programme delivery. The other services accessed and programmes offered by NWQCSS, complement and support the delivery of the Restorative Justice programme. It is cost beneficial in terms of the savings gained from alternative sentencing options whilst addressing each client’s particular circumstances and their offending behaviour. It attempts to develop respectful relationships with and between clients and the various stakeholders within the Justice system. The programme works with other stakeholders to efficiently reduce costs in terms of programme delivery. The other services accessed and programmes offered by NWQCSS, complement and support the delivery of the Restorative Justice programme. It is cost beneficial in terms of the savings gained from alternative sentencing options whilst addressing each client’s particular circumstances and their offending behaviour. It attempts to develop respectful relationships with and between clients and the various stakeholders within the Justice system.
North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services (NWQICSS) is a non-profit entity established by Good Shepherd Parish Mount Isa. The organisation's aim is to provide direct relief and support to Indigenous people of the region, through innovative and sustainable programmes and activities. We are staffed by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. We work specifically with Indigenous people in disadvantaged situations by identifying needs and creating opportunities in response, where possible we aim for 80% of staff to be Indigenous. NWQICSS works closely with other local service providers in the area to provide a platform of engagement with other justice groups in this region. However, being case managed by NWQICSS will benefit from our established structure, policy and procedure being built on the strengths of the Indigenous people. NWQICSS through its work with Indigenous make an important contribution towards reducing the number of Indigenous deaths in custody. NWQICSS addresses the issues relating to Indigenous case management in Queensland, including the establishment of a soft entry point into case management by the establishment of the Yurru Ngartathati Murri Men’s Group and Yurru Marapai Murri Women’s Group. These provide Indigenous offenders with the opportunity of participating in an indigenous sentencing list since January 2013. NWQICSS works closely with the Department of Corrections to ensure that Indigenous offenders have the opportunity to participate in their indigenous sentencing list.

NWQICSS is a well-established service provider in the North West Queensland region, with existing programs and initiatives that address the needs of Indigenous people in the area. NWQICSS is closely associated with the Attorney General's Department and responds to issues relating to Indigenous death in custody. NWQICSS works closely with the Queensland Department of Corrections to ensure that Indigenous offenders have the opportunity to participate in their indigenous sentencing list. NWQICSS is well-versed in providing case management services to Indigenous people, and is committed to providing a platform of engagement with other local service providers in the area to address the needs of Indigenous people in the region.
NWQICSS believes that through initial and ongoing case management and through building trustful and respectful relationships with clients we can assist them to understand and challenge their lifestyle choices, behaviours and addictions, particularly those which lead to incarceration or violent behaviour.

NWQICSS, through the recent data collection and work with an external evaluation team from James Cook University, aims to gain greater insights into the underlying causes of Indigenous offending and recidivism and the success of our current responses.
Response to the Terms of Reference

Our Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, 'Value of a Justice Reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia' is really our narrative of what has happened in Mount Isa Courts since our dedicated involvement in the Justice System, our attempts to bring about greater justice for all involved and more meaningful outcomes for clients and those who make a living out of the justice system.

We have ensured to meet transparent criteria in Mount Isa, beyond keeping clients informed on sentence, and to accommodate concerns raised in the first instance, and the Government has not disputed this in a series of correspondence I have had with them over the closure of Murri Courts in Queensland at the end of 2012. This cost was derived from one third of the number of people supported by NWQICSS before the closure of Murri Courts. The savings were calculated from the Queensland Government of $1.3 million. This analysis is based on one third of clients, or 33 people, who have successfully completed a programme. NWQICSS has delivered over 130 clients to the prison system and the relevant work NWQICSS has delivered over the past five years when the programme was in full operation.

The economic and social costs of imprisonment

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It is a disgrace to me that this has resulted in such a waste of tax payer's money.

The over-representation of disadvantaged groups, including Indigenous Australians, people experiencing mental illness, cognitive disability and hearing loss.

It is estimated that around 40% of clients suffer from a mental illness.

'72.8% of males and 86.1% of females suffered from at least one mental health disorder in the previous 12 months' – 2008. (Page 39 MJA 197 (1) 2 July 2012). In most cases this is undiagnosed or mal-treated. In some cases a person is sentenced to jail as the only means of being assessed by a mental health team.

It is an indictment on our systems that offer so little support to groups trying to deal with these clients. It is also an indication that people having an absolute right to self-determination are no longer able to engage with appropriate health care for their mental health. Helping the client to engage with appropriate health care for their mental health is crucial to addressing their needs.

Our experience of working with very little funding, but with real passion for our clients, has shown excellent results. Outlined here is the approach we have offered. The perceived failure of Murri Courts, which I have had correspondence with the State Minister for Justice and Attorney-General about, centres on the Review of the Murri Courts that was undertaken in 2009/2010 (AIC Reports Technical and Background Review of the Murri Courts that was undertaken in 2009/2010). The Review of the Murri Courts was undertaken in 2009/2010 (AIC Reports Technical and Background Review of the Murri Courts that was undertaken in 2009/2010).

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Current activities that North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services (NWQICSS) provides to current clients in North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services (NWQICSS) are:

1. Engagement/Assessment

Support clients in North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services (NWQICSS) through our community-based model.

(J) The cost, availability and effectiveness of alternatives to imprisonment, including prevention, early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation measures

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The over-representation of disadvantaged groups, including Indigenous Australians, people experiencing mental health issues, and those experiencing significant discriminatory disadvantage, is a disgrace to me that this has resulted in such a waste of tax payer's money.
The Yuendumu Men’s Group and Marra Marra Women’s Group support clients (offenders) referred from the Mt Isa community (Northern Territory) and other North West Communities (Dommadgee, Mornington Island, Camooweal, Normanton, Boilina, Cloncurry, Dajarra) who are subject to sentence in this community. NWQICSS works closely with CEJ to deliver the ORSS (Offender Reintegration Support Service) to assist offenders readying for release from prison. NWQICSS provide training and share information and expertise on effective reintegration and service delivery. They are involved in the planning and delivery of many of our services. They have also developed protocols for information exchange and referrals. Men’s and Women’s Group meetings provide community stakeholders with a platform to meet with and engage with clients, ask questions and seek solutions to their issues.

### 5. Integrated Case Management and Service Partnerships

NWQICSS, as the Community Justice Group co-ordinators, provides a variety of oral and written bail submissions as well as oral and written sentencing submissions (commonly called Cultural Reports). They have developed a partnership with CEA to deliver the ORSS (Offender Reintegration Support Service) to assist offenders returning to the community from long-term imprisonment. NWQICSS have developed a partnership with CEA to deliver the ORSS (Offender Reintegration Support Service) to assist offenders returning to the community. NWQICSS has developed records and case notes in relation to participants which may be shared with other stakeholders when needed to assist Magistrates, Court Co-ordinators, Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Legal Service representatives, Police Prosecutors and others for the purpose of supporting participants through the legal process.

### 4. Bail and Sentence Submissions

NWQICSS, in conjunction with Community Elders, have developed Murri Men’s and Women’s Groups, according to gender, to demonstrate that cultural norms have been accounted for in our service delivery. Traditionally from original Cultural Practices, men and women have gone to respective gender camps to discuss and settle issues. NWQICSS has developed a unified approach to the delivery of Court assessments of offenders eligible for the Murri Court bail programme. They have also developed an induction process that provides analysis of each client and enables clients to set goals to be achieved. This provides valuable information around the particular issues that need to be addressed.

Men’s Group attendance from January to August 2012 was 650 attendances at Men’s Group. This is an average of 25 men each Monday night. It has been over 30 each Monday night since then.
NWQICSS provides support to the Mount Isa Department of Community Safety by providing assistance with prisoner transition and general assistance with a range of clients. NWQICSS supports their work with the Department of Child Safety where children are in discussion about their life experiences and how it has shaped their behaviour.

7. Court Support

Magistrates and District Courts participants, especially those of lower risk, are often referred by visiting barristers and judges for supervision by legal representatives. These referrals are then discussed with the clients and the Department of Child Safety.

8. Post Sentence & Transitional Support

NWQICSS provides support to the Mount Isa Department of Community Safety and surrounding areas by providing support on a regular basis. Sourcing accommodation for clients in transit, providing transport and support, information to clients, and assisting in the coordination of clients and stakeholders is undertaken by NWQICSS.

9. Supervision/Community Service Orders

NWQICSS provides support to the Mount Isa Department of Community Safety by providing assistance with prisoner transition and general assistance with a range of clients. NWQICSS supports their work with the Department of Child Safety where children are in discussion about their life experiences and how it has shaped their behaviour.

Life Management Course is a course developed in the USA by Earning & liveness. It is designed to help clients understand the impact of past experiences on their current lives and to develop strategies for positive change. The course is delivered by trained facilitators and is designed to be accessible to people from a range of backgrounds.

Behavioural Video Therapy was developed by using a video camera to record and re-experience key moments in a client's life. This method is effective in helping clients to understand and transform their past experiences and to develop new skills and strategies for current and future situations.

Narrative Therapy was developed in Australia by David Smith and Brian molloy. It is a therapy that helps clients to make sense of their experiences and to develop new understandings and perspectives.

6. Individual Support Programme

Individual Support Programme is a programme that provides support to individuals who are experiencing difficulties in their personal or professional lives. The programme is designed to provide a safe and supportive environment for individuals to explore their experiences and to develop new understandings and strategies for positive change.

5. Supervision/Community Service Orders

Supervision by legal representatives is an important part of the support provided to the Mount Isa Department of Community Safety. This support includes providing information to clients, and assisting in the coordination of clients and stakeholders.

4. Life Management Course

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3. Behavioural Video Therapy

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2. Narrative Therapy

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1. Emergency Relief

Emergency Relief is provided to clients from January to June 2012, and ongoing support is provided to the Mount Isa Department of Community Safety by providing assistance with prisoner transition and general assistance with a range of clients. NWQICSS supports their work with the Department of Child Safety where children are in discussion about their life experiences and how it has shaped their behaviour.

With the provision of Emergency Relief offered through the Parish agency and also from St Vincent de Paul, these hours for other special cases are able to meet immediate needs. The issues of travel for Court in the Paul office are again dealt with formally before Monday's, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Outside of these hours for other special cases we are also able to meet immediate needs.
or family in hospital in Brisbane or Townsville all require extended care. With "Food Rescue from Woolworths" and financial grants we are able to alleviate immediate needs. We estimate that with both direct financial support, supplying food packages and meals every day from our premises, we would offer well over $100,000 in direct relief to people. It is amazing how this direct support can be used to tide clients over immediate needs so that longer term or personal needs can be embraced. We can never underestimate how this Emergency Relief helps the process of those at risk. Of course, not all Emergency Relief is used for those at risk of incarceration.

12. Cell Visitor /Watch House

NWQICSS currently provides the Cell Visitor programme to the Mount Isa Watch House and daily provision of meals. As part of our "wrap around" service delivery model we are able to support offenders from the beginning of their contact with the Justice system through the courts, whilst on bail and post sentencing. The Cell Visitor provides the first point of contact with the Justice system for many of our programme participants. The costs associated with this model would not be one tenth of the costs of an inmate in incarceration. In fact we had $10,000 per client compared to the $100,000 as a cost of jail, we would be able to offer a case management model of ten clients per worker and an even more personal, in depth and targeted approach to clients.

Understanding Justice Reinvestment: existing approaches and experience

The methodology and objectives of justice reinvestment.

Justice reinvestment is a broad description of discovering ways to understand the cost in financial and other terms, such as the effects of lifestyle and community pressures on people who would normally be incarcerated for what is deemed crime. The usual aim of this reinvestment is to divert a significant proportion of the costs currently spent on served jail sentences to the pre-and post-sentencing of offenders, to realise a more just outcome that helps to address and support, in the long term, the issues in each person’s life. This normally entails community supports that help to rebuild a more ordered society and stable individuals.

The implementation and effectiveness of justice reinvestment in other countries, including the United States of America.

We have had little contact with other systems other than the occasional visitor to our area from overseas who has shared their experiences with us. There has also been the occasional use of resources such as D.V.D.s, programme – Life Management by Earnie Larsen) from overseas, in particular the United State of America.

Implementing a justice reinvestment approach in Australia

As well as this there does not seem to have been any real and effective means of sharing information within Australia by the building up of resources or networks. Most people/groups seem to be disconnected from others working in the same areas of justice reinvestment.

(A) The benefits of, and challenges to, implementing a justice reinvestment approach in Australia

A group of university researchers, Professor Elena Marchetti (University of Wollongong) and Dr Jacqui Huggins (consultant) are currently conducting research on the use of Indigenous sentencing courts for partner violence matters. The research commenced in 2009 and is funded by a five-year Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. The Indigenous sentencing courts that are being studied are the former Mount Isa and Rockhampton Murri Courts (now run as NWOCCS currently provides the Cell Visitor programme to the Mount Isa Watch House and daily provision of meals. As part of our "wrap around" service delivery model we are able to support offenders from the beginning of their contact with the Justice system through the courts, whilst on bail and post sentencing. The Cell Visitor provides the first point of contact with the Justice system for many of our programme participants. The costs associated with this model would not be one tenth of the costs of an inmate in incarceration. In fact we had $10,000 per client compared to the $100,000 as a cost of jail, we would be able to offer a case management model of ten clients per worker and an even more personal, in depth and targeted approach to clients.

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The research not only involves interviewing court staff, Elders and service providers, but also interviewing offenders who have been through the Indigenous sentencing court process, and their partners at the time of the offence. To date, more than 30 offenders and 25 victims have been interviewed for the study. Although the data collection is still ongoing and no official findings from the study have yet been released, Professor Marchetti has, in personal correspondence and discussions with NWQICSS, indicated that the data does appear to support a justice reinvestment approach to combating Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system.

The majority of改变ers attribute changes in their behaviour and attitude to having appeared before an Indigenous sentencing court, where, as a result of the therapeutic and restorative process, they have received more suitable sentencing outcomes. While mainstream courts, where the focus is on punishment and rehabilitation, do not have the same impact as Indigenous sentencing courts, where an offender receives the support of their community Elders and sentencing orders that require them to attend appropriate rehabilitation programmes such as anger management, alcohol and drug rehabilitation or family violence prevention programmes, they are not as effective at changing an offender’s behaviour and attitude. Although the data collection is still ongoing and no official findings from the study have yet been released, Professor Marchetti has, in personal correspondence and discussions with NWQICSS, indicated that the data does appear to support a justice reinvestment approach to combating Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system.

Written by: Professor Elena Marchetti, Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong, Wollongong NSW 2522.
The collection, availability and sharing of data necessary to implement a justice reinvestment approach; I am concerned that, with the official closure of Murri Courts in Queensland, all available data, which is so precious at this stage of development, will be rendered ineffective or lost as the Court processes move on. The following by Professor Elena Marchetti, Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong, Wollongong NSW adds to my concerns.

"The findings of the quantitative component of the AIC evaluation referred to earlier (as with many quantitative evaluations of Indigenous sentencing courts), which considers the impact of the Murri Courts on imprisonment and re-offending rates, must be interpreted with caution due to the following reasons:

1. It is too early to make any claims about the impact of Indigenous sentencing courts on recidivism - the Murri Courts had only been operating for approximately 10 years (prior to their cessation last year) and it is unrealistic to expect that with such a short-lived history, one day in court would dramatically change an offender's behaviour without proper and sustained support post their appearance. Indeed, if recidivism is the only measure used to evaluate the success of Indigenous sentencing courts, it is likely that mainstream Magistrates'/Children's Courts will be seen as more effective.

2. The AIC evaluation admits that the control group used in their evaluation may not be representative of all offenders sentenced in the Murri Court. This is a common issue with studies that attempt to measure the impact of an Indigenous sentencing court process on recidivism. Indeed, if one carefully reads the conclusions reached by the AIC in relation to determining whether or not Murri Court participants were more or less likely to be sentenced to a term of imprisonment, you will find that the findings are far more nuanced than a simple comparison between two groups. It is unclear how much weight can be attributed to the differences in the results of the AIC evaluation.

3. A relative cost-benefit analysis was unable to be performed between the Murri Court and mainstream Magistrates'/Children's Courts, as well as the underlying reasons for the difference between these two types of courts. This is particularly concerning given that the AIC evaluation states that Indigenous sentencing courts are cost-effective compared to mainstream courts.

4. The AIC evaluation dismisses the importance of qualitative data on the validity and reliability of any findings on qualitative analyses of such data. This is obviously problematic, as qualitative data is often a common problem with evaluations that rely on objective measures of such data. The AIC evaluation suggests that the absence of meaningful court and offending history data limits the usefulness of the findings.

The AIC evaluation is therefore misleading. The following problems should be highlighted:

- The AIC evaluation does not consider the impact of Indigenous sentencing courts on recidivism.
- The AIC evaluation does not consider the impact of Indigenous sentencing courts on offending history data.
- The AIC evaluation does not consider the impact of Indigenous sentencing courts on qualitative data.
- The AIC evaluation does not consider the impact of Indigenous sentencing courts on cost-benefit analysis.
- The AIC evaluation does not consider the impact of Indigenous sentencing courts on procedural differences.
Lastly, the views of Elders and others involved in the Murri Court sentencing process may influence the sentences imposed in ways in which are not relevant for mainstream courts. “

Written by: Professor Elena Marchetti, Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong, Wollongong NSW 2522.

NWQICSS is a recognized Indigenous service already being utilized by the Mount Isa Court. The objective of NWQICSS through its data collection and work with an external evaluation team from James Cook University is to gain greater insights into the underlying causes of Indigenous offending and recidivism and to develop evidenced based programs that have built a reputation within the community that is based on an established program that has been able to deliver a cost effective and meaningful alternative sentencing options. It is envisaged that the James Cook University (Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health) evaluation will provide NWQICSS with the opportunity to address the significant needs of offenders and Elders and to develop programs that have built a reputation within the community that is based on an established program that has been able to deliver a cost effective and meaningful alternative sentencing options.


doctor a consistent and continuous service over years. The culture, values and programmes of NWQICSS is also the first contact point through Probation and Parole for offenders transitioning back to community. This process is value for money given that it is based on an established program that has been able to deliver a cost effective and meaningful alternative sentencing options.

The base location for the activity is Mount Isa, Queensland. However, this activity has benefits and impacts on other communities in the North West and Gulf Region of Queensland (including Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Burketown and Normanton) and the Northern Territory (close to the border and as far away as Tennant Creek and Alice Springs).

It is envisaged that the James Cook University (Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health) evaluation will provide NWQICSS with the opportunity to address the significant needs of offenders and Elders and to develop evidenced based programs that have built a reputation within the community that is based on an established program that has been able to deliver a cost effective and meaningful alternative sentencing options.
Federal funding by the Department of Justice and Attorney General from July 2013, we will be able to be involved in a more substantive research project with James Cook University. This will involve:

1. Offenders involved in family or domestic violence, addictive behaviours or substance misuse and at risk of offending.
2. Offenders referred from Corrective Services or Offender Reintegration Support Service (ORSS) on Parole or Probationary orders at risk of reoffending.
3. Participants of the Yurru Ngartathati Men’s Group and Yurru Marapai Women’s Group referred via Indigenous Sentencing List - adult offenders or those at risk of offending, and those returning from incarceration. NWQICSS works with the Salvation Army Recovery Service in support of clients undertaking drug/alcohol rehabilitation programmes and with North West Queensland Domestic Violence Service in support of programmes and mutual referrals. NWQICSS works closely with Queensland Health Services /ATODS and in particular Mental Health and the local Indigenous Medical Centre - Gidgee Healing. NWQICSS works with Topsy Harry Centre, Arthur Petersen Diversionary Centre, Department of Housing and OzCare Mount Isa to address homelessness issues of offenders and to support a justice reinvestment approach.

The Queensland Government has indicated to NWQICSS that they are not currently in a position to support diversionary programmes, client case management or any supports around offending issues. Local staff of the Court House have been directed by the current Minister Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, Attorney General and Minister for Justice, (Copy of Letter Appendix 1.1 from the Minister is attached to this document) to help us apply for ongoing support from the Federal Attorney General’s Department for this project.

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Best practice will benefit through a deeper understanding and analysis from the James Cook University evaluations of the causes and solutions to offending or recidivist behaviours and suggested methodology.

Any reduction in the levels of offending/recidivism and greater community awareness of issues will be a huge benefit.

1. Personal benefits for clients come from a greater understanding of the required education of clients and to address their needs of a lifestyle change.
2. Increased community support for referral of clients to evaluation and development of skills that address the underlying causes of crime.
3. Integrated community based approaches amongst stakeholders to addressing the needs of a stage change base of clients to be involved.
4. Stronger and safer family and community environments.

Federal funding by the Department of Justice and Attorney General from July 2013, we will be able to be involved in a more substantive research project with James Cook University.
Five support letters are attached from:
1. Mr. Craig Casey, DJAG Regional Justice Coordinator Mount Isa;
2. Mr Michael Reidel, Regional Manager of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd;
3. Ms Lucy Rockett, A/District Manager Mount Isa and Lower Gulf District Probation and Parole Service;
4. Mr Vincent Byrne, Regional Manager Salvation Army Mount Isa Recovery Services; and

The Traditional Owners, the Kalkadoon People, have been consulted and have offered their support through the use and access to Traditional Land for the conduct of Bush Healing and other associated cultural activities.

An external evaluation of the programme’s success in achieving these goals by James Cook University will

Suggested areas of difficulty encountered by us are:

1) Transport is a particular problem in Mount Isa, as there is no public transport in Mount Isa

12) Domestic violence cases usually judge one party is right and one is wrong and not leading both to

outcome.

1) Improving the use and access to Traditional Land for the conduct of Bush Healing and other associated

activities.

10) Securing adequate and long term funding to implement case management of clients accessing the

health and clinical support levels.

9) Difficulty in quantifying financial support to cultural knowledge.

8) Impacts of community business and sorry business on clients and staff.

7) Lack of support from other key agencies through continuous changes in staffing at both management

and clinical support levels.

6) Lack of understanding of the breadth of processes involved by wider community.

5) Ensure staff to carry out the breadth of the programme.

4) Providing on-going professional development and training to programme staff and then have them

undertake one on one case management and in addition to attract sufficient funding to employ

additional staff.

3) Staff are offered alternative employment for higher wages by another employer (e.g. a good number

of Mines are in proximity to our community).

2) Slight changes within the organisation

1) Slight changes within the organisation

"Data is collected upon entry and into the programme in the form of initial assessments, bail conditions,

management of previous stages of their journey.

measurement of previous stages of their journey.

Feedback from existing Criminal Justice

induction forms, case notes, case management plans, cultural reports, pre-sentence reports, attendance

sample reports and feedback from clients.

feedback from clients.

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The scope for federal government action which would encourage the adoption of justice reinvestment policies by state and territory governments; targeted approaches to enable agencies in different areas to work together or learn from each other, without taking up too much time, is important. This should lead to an integrated community by strengthening the roles of local stakeholders such as the Magistrates' Court, Probation & Parole, James Cook University and other local stakeholders to deliver an evidence based approach to our main goal, which is to work with local Community Elders/Traditional Owner groups and other stakeholders.

Research, including the Management of clients primarily to address the significant needs of offenders or those at risk of reoffending.

Successful delivery of the program/activity: new, integrated and evidence-based methods, which can be implemented in other jurisdictions or considered in another place at least will be most effective if they are tailored to all involved - stronger and safer family and community environments. Any models of best practice that can be implemented in other locations or considered in another place at least will be most effective if they are tailored to all involved - stronger and safer family and community environments. Any models of best practice that can be implemented in other locations or considered in another place at least will be most effective if they are tailored to all involved - stronger and safer family and community environments.

Nurturing a shared sense of responsibility for justice, and an understanding of the importance of supporting and empowering communities to take ownership of their own future.

We are happy to provide access to NWQICSS’s integrated diversionary program and internal supports at the heart of any reform.

Instituting Community Elders/Traditional Owner groups and other stakeholders.

Achievement of a safer and supportive community.

Obtaining clear understandings of the underlying causes and successful solutions to offending and the reoffending, including life management workshops and narrative therapy with video.

Maintaining good working relationships with local Community Elders/Traditional Owner groups and other stakeholders.

The alignment of our goals with other local stakeholders such as the Magistrates’ Court, Probation & Parole, James Cook University and other local stakeholders to deliver an evidence based approach to our main goal.

Successful delivery of the program/activity: new, integrated and evidence-based methods, which can be implemented in other locations or considered in another place at least will be most effective if they are tailored to all involved - stronger and safer family and community environments.
Appendix Description

1.1 Letter of Response from Qld Attorney General and Minister for Justice

2.1 Letter of Support – DJAG Mount Isa

2.2 Letter of Support – ATSILS (North West Region)

2.3 Letter of Support – Salvation Army Mount Isa Recovery Centre

2.4 Letter of Support – North West Queensland Domestic Violence Service

2.5 Letter of Support – Department of Community Safety (Probation/P parole)

2.6 Australia Day Award 2013 (Contribution to Community Safety)

2.7 Letter JCU (Centre for Rural and Remote Health) – Evaluation Support Letter

List of Appendices

Supporting documentation
Dear Father Lowcock

Thank you for your further letter dated 18 November 2012 regarding the Mt Isa Muli Court.

I understand that my Criag Casey, Indigenous Justice Officer, Courts Innovation Program, not stopped or revised in the short term.

The decision to cease funding the Muli Court program was based on evidence in the

I apologise for the delay in responding.

I refer to an earlier letter dated 17 July 2012. I note comments that relate to your experience of the

The decision to cease funding the Muli Court program was based on evidence in the

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Father Michael Lowcock

Mount Isa CQLD 4825
PO Box 324
North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services

08 Jan 2013

In reply please quote: 547206/1.2067756

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

The Hon Barton Bigge MP
Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

<i>Dear [Recipient],</i>

[Body of the letter discussing the role of Mr. Casey as the Justice Officer for the Ml ISA region and the need for Indigenous support and funding.]
Regional Justice Program Coordinator, Mount Isa

Craig Casey

Yours faithfully,

I strongly support the work currently being undertaken by the Men's and Women's Groups. They are uniquely providing culturally appropriate, holistic, restorative programs to identify and address current and historical issues.

provide key court-based support to the indigenous sentencing initiative. As a result, they are strongly

meeting all associated financial and performance reporting requirements pertaining to Court

based, client support programs.

In conjunction with the local Indigenous Justice Group, the Men's and Women's Groups are

clients.

The Men's and Women's Groups meet regularly as guest speakers, providing support information to

attend government meetings and indigenous forum meetings. Various agencies regularly

attending forums with government and non-government agencies. Each has a range of

and positive contacts. Coalitions have increased with both groups. Each has a range of

and non-government agencies. A coal based example include training to

on non-government agencies and general training. Targeted outcomes include enablers on the

management skills, substance misuse education, health needs with other government and

A suite of program assistance is provided through narrative therapy, behaviour, and

causes influencing offending and recidivism behaviours.

includes training on mental health, drug education, and addressing underlying issues of

the Men's or Women's Groups. Time is spent discussing and addressing underlying issues of

include therapeutic practices and peer support. Supportive release programs include

supportive release programs and post sentence engagement. A range of issues including

a body of work spanning pre and post sentence engagement. Two major issues being

both provide

Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services (MICCSS),

Means Group and Mapaap Narragai (Women's Group) which are facilitated by North West

I write in support of the Mount Isa Women's and Men's Groups (Tjuna Narragai Men's

To whom it may concern

Justice and Attorney-General

Queensland Government

17 January 2013
Re: North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services

ABN 111 634 562

Friday, 25 January 2013

To whom it may concern,

I am happy to provide my support to the group and the invaluable assistance provided by the assistance sought.

When considering the group for assistance in attaining our clients in need, we have overcome many hurdles that the vast majority of them have a very high regard for the staff of the group, their being culturally appropriate and the assistance that the group has afforded them.

When speaking with our clients in relation to their dealings with NWQCSS.

NWQCSS has not materially diminished due to no small part of the involvement of Indigenous Sentencing List, the level of attention given to our mutual clients.

Achieved through the assistance from the Multi-Court System to the new most susceptible clients has fallen significantly. I am also very happy to say most of our clients are very satisfied with the level of redress of our clients.

We have found that due to the support and assistance that NWQCSS provides to the Mens and Womens groups that the level of redress of our clients.

In the course of our interactions with NWQCSS we have found them to be

Mount Isa Multi Mens Group (Yurrn Narrangna) and the Mount Isa Wife

Mount Isa Wife (Wende Narrangna) has been outstanding during the period

I write this letter in support of the above mentioned group. Their support of the

Regional Manager

Michael Reid

Regard,

That they provide without reservation.

Michael Reid

Regard,

They have been very quick to respond and
custody, we have found that they have been very quick to respond and

When considering the group for assistance in attaining our clients in need, we have overcome many hurdles that the vast majority of them have a very high regard for the staff of the group, their being culturally appropriate and the assistance that the group has afforded them.

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Mount Isa Wife (Wende Narrangna) has been outstanding during the period

I write this letter in support of the above mentioned group. Their support of the

Regional Manager

Michael Reid

Regard,

They have been very quick to respond and
Program Director

Vivian Yem

Welcome from Vivian

We are pleased to offer the PMGS and the Information Sharing and Support Tool (ISST) programs. The PMGS provides a great deal of information in and out of the NMS network, and we are proud to be a part of it. We believe that the NMS network is a vital component of our mission to support the needs of the military and the community. We are committed to providing a quality service and support to our users.

We are excited to introduce a new feature to the PMGS network, the weekly update newsletter. The newsletter will provide users with the latest updates on the NMS network and its features. We hope this newsletter will be a valuable resource for our users.

Contact us at info@pmgs.com for more information on how to subscribe to the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Vivian Yem
Program Director
Great reputation and great clients to a range of services. Depending on the needs of the individuals, both groups assist those and help those individuals to get their lives back on track. NQIASS has a

Get their lives back on track and also teaches them to have a better way of life.

Women's groups have a voice to the individuals, supports the individuals and encourages them to address issues like housing, unemployment, and children's protection. NQIASS has awareness that can have a family setting.

North Old Domestic Violence Resource Service provides community education, resources and support on Domestic Violence and also runs two programs called My Mentor and also Go Far.

This is advice that North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource ServiceMount Isa supports.

To Whom It May Concern

17th February 2013
SENIOR WORKER
SHIRLEY SLOAN

Yours sincerely

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

and compassion and the know how to work with those in need.

Father Mick Lowcock and Dr Mary McKernan and staff employed by NWVICS have undertaken

assistance, education, knowledge they need to make the right decisions and choices in their lives.

Futher funding provided to NWVICS is imperative in enabling them to grow and develop the

number of clients to Multi-Mums and Multi-Women's Groups provided by NWVICS for assistance.

offered by NWVICS quite often attend programs offered by NADIRS. NADIRS also refers a

NWVICS and appreciates the assistance offered by NWVICS. Attendees attending programs with

North Old Domestic Violence Resource Service works in collaboration and partnering with

protection issues as well. a high rate of homicide as compared to the rest of Australia.

There have been a number of success stories from individuals attending NWVICS and this service

support of assistance that is needed.
Women's Group and the Reunited Group.

I look forward to a continued working relationship with the NWQCSS team, the Reunited Group.

This reduces the number of warrants issued.

Furthermore, your work has been a key role in assisting Mount Isa and surrounding communities.

On behalf of Corrections Services, I would like to express our gratitude for the ongoing support on the part of Corrections Services.

Dear Father Mick,

Queensland, 4825
Mount Isa
17 Station Street
NWQCSS

1 February 2012
Certificate of Appreciation

North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services

presented to

by

Australia Day

Re: Funding Application to the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department

Dear Fr Mick

North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services
PO Box 324
Mount Isa QLD 4825

In 2012, Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (MICRRH) was pleased to be offered the opportunity to work collaboratively with NWQICSS to develop a systematic method for collecting, analyzing, and using program logic model to articulate a program's evaluation needs. We are currently working with NWQICSS to continue this on-going role with the organisation.

We believe we will be able to significantly contribute to the program proposed by NWQICSS and the Indigenous communities.

Warm regards

Associate Professor Louise Roufeil PhD, FAPS, MAICD
Head of Research/Mental Health Academic