

## Question on Notice

No. 1037

Asked on 13 October 2022

**MRS L GERBER** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)—

### QUESTION

With reference to Youth Justice Programs in the Gold Coast Police District—

Will the Minister advise (a) what programs are offered and the criteria of these programs, (b) between 2015 and now (reported separately by year) how many youth offenders have entered into each youth justice program, (c) between 2015 and now (reported separately by year) how many youth offenders have completed each youth justice program and (d) of those completed applications (outlined in (c)), how many have then reoffended?

### ANSWER

The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs' (DCYJMA) definition of a 'program' includes programs delivered by Youth Justice and/or led by non-government agencies as part of court-ordered supervision and local and place base programs delivered to meet the needs of young people.

Programs include Transition 2 Success, Queensland Youth Partnership Initiative, Intensive Bail Initiative, Specialised Multi Agency Collaborative Panels, Project StreetCred and additional programs and interventions delivered by the Gold Coast Youth Justice Service Centre as part of a young person's individual case plan.

Additionally, a new initiative recently commenced on the Gold Coast. The Youth Advocate Program delivered through Life Without Barriers provides an evidence-informed intervention that has demonstrated successful outcomes and oversees young people with a high risk of offending. This is the first trial in Queensland and young people will be supported by a youth advocate 15 hours per week to learn skills to change behaviours, learn independence and restore positive relationships.

Access or referral into programs is based on a Youth Justice Case Worker's assessment of an individual's specific risks, needs and responsivity factors. DCYJMA applies a mix of evidence-based or evidence-informed programming, paired with suitable supports to reduce a young person's risk of re-offending. Internal programs generally involve a brief referral note detailing the young person's specific risks, offences and case-plan goals for the program facilitator's awareness and consideration.

Comprehensive data on all of these 'programs' for every young person DCYJMA has engaged with between 2015 – 2022 would require a manual review of each young person's profile and analysis of the individual case notes of each young person. Such a review would be extremely labour intensive and result in redirecting significant resources away from frontline service delivery.

DCYJMA can, however, readily provide information relating to the distinct number of youth offenders who entered into a Youth Justice Order or were referred to a Restorative Justice process and the corresponding reoffending rates in the Gold Coast Local Government Area (LGA). The below table includes data on the proportion of young people who were charged with a subsequent offence within 12 months of successfully or unsuccessfully completing the programs.

Measure	12 months ending 30 June 2022						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Distinct young people who successfully completed Restorative Justice process	72	105	204	173	158	184	121
- Reoffending 12 months after completion	29.2%	46.7%	49.0%	42.2%	44.3%	56.0%	N/A
Distinct young people who completed a supervised Youth Justice Order. (Case plans delivered as part of Youth Justice Orders may include the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing Habits and Reaching Targets</li> <li>• Emotional Regulation and Impulse Control</li> <li>• Employee Readiness Program</li> <li>• Fitness Intervention Training</li> <li>• Girls With a Purpose</li> <li>• Intensive Case Management</li> <li>• Love BiTES</li> <li>• Prep L</li> <li>• Re-Navigating Anger and Guilty Emotions</li> <li>• Re-Thinking our Attitude to Driving</li> <li>• Signals for Safety)</li> </ul>	115	95	107	114	101	110	112
- Reoffending 12 months after completion	69.6%	70.5%	67.3%	71.9%	66.3%	68.2%	N/A

Source: Performance Reporting and Analytics - Youth Justice; Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

**Notes:**

A young person was determined to have 'reoffended', if, during the 12 months that followed their completed program, order or process, they were alleged to have committed another offence that was subsequently heard in court or referred to a Restorative Justice Process. Alleged offences that are heard in court may be subsequently proven, unproven, or dismissed, hence the actual reoffending rate is lower than the figures provided. The alleged re-offending may have occurred within or outside of the Gold Coast LGA.

Programs and interventions referenced to above, funded by DCYJMA and delivered by the Gold Coast Youth Justice Service Centre as part of a young person's individual case plan include:

- Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) - an intervention program where youth justice case workers work with young people to change behaviours. It is aimed at young people with moderate to high risk of re-offending, and focuses on areas such as lifestyle balance, relapse prevention, problem solving and motivation to change.
- Emotional Regulation and Impulse Control (ERIC) - a psychological skills program that promotes healthy social emotional development in adolescents and young adults by building emotion regulation and impulse control skills.
- Employee Readiness Program - designed to prepare young people to enter the workforce. Delivered over six individual sessions, a youth justice worker will work through program content with the young person covering presentation skills, communication skills, resume building, work ethics, interview skills and job seeking.
- Fitness Intervention Training (FIT) - aims to increase a young person's motivation to change through health and fitness, teamwork and skills building activities. Over 10 weeks young people are challenged through fitness and values-based activities, building the capacity of the team, and engage in key targeted interventions including goal setting,

values identification, mindfulness, self-awareness for example. At the conclusion of the program Youth Justice will work with the young people to continue to build on their identified goals, directing them towards positive life outcomes away from offending.

- Girls With a Purpose - is based on research that indicates that positive growth is fostered in young people when they experience a feeling of connectedness to others and the community. The program is delivered over 10 group sessions and is based on the 40 developmental assets for adolescents identified by Search Institute that suggests that the more assets a young person gains the less likely they are to engage in high-risk behaviours.
- Intensive Case Management (ICM) - an evidenced informed intensive program that is effective in reducing youth offending. The program involves providing specialised case managers for a small number of high-risk young offenders and their families to reduce offending, promote community safety, support reintegration into the community, and hold young people responsible for their actions.
- Love BiTES - a school-based domestic and family violence and sexual assault prevention program. It aims to provide young people with a safe environment to examine, discuss and explore respectful relationships. It is focused on three critical areas for learning: knowledge – youth led collaborative learning; attitudes – critical thinking and decision-making; and behaviours – problem solving and communication skills.
- Prep L (Learning to drive safely) - is a program promoting safe driving for young people at the stage of applying for their Learners' driver's licence. Youth workers will educate around road safety prior to young people completing their online learning and assessment tool. Young people must complete the program before being eligible to apply for a C Class Learner Licence. With the minimum age of 15 years and 11 months old the Prep L is a self-paced online program to ensure young people are eligible to obtain their learner licence. Prep L takes approximately 4-6 hours to complete depending on capacity need. The tool consists of assessment components split into three categories: Driving Attitude, Signs and Rules and Sharing the Road with others.
- Re-Navigating Anger and Guilty Emotions (RAGE) - a six-week anger management course aimed at young people who want help dealing with anger or violence. It provides support to those that have been suspended from school or are in trouble for anger and those that want to improve relationships with family or friends. The program explores the four anger styles and physiological symptoms, the anger cycle, the healthy expressions of anger, dealing with the guilt and anger and the importance of relaxation, exercise and diet.
- Re-Thinking Our Attitude to Driving (ROAD) - a program, where young people convicted of motor vehicle offences, and those who have motor vehicle-related matters before the courts are provided with a six-week cognitive based intervention program. The project aims to educate young people on the impact motor vehicle offences have on communities and families. The program seeks to target peer relations, personality/behaviour and attitudes/orientation, which are risk factors for re-offending, and support the development of positive strategies for avoiding future offending.
- Signals for Safety - was developed by the Griffith Youth Forensic Service. Using a multi-component psychoeducation base, Signals for Safety undertakes a narrative approach between the youth worker and young person for shared conversation in regard to trauma, the identification of risks in the young person's environment and safety planning. 10 core intervention topics, and young people may also participate in optional intervention topics that include self-regulation strategies, peer pressure, and substance use and safety. Ideal for young people who are often in vulnerable/at risk situations.