

Question on Notice

No. 790

Asked on 17 August 2022

MR T WATTS asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION

With reference to Youth Justice Programs in Toowoomba—

Will the Minister advise (a) between 2015 to now (reported separately by year) how many youth offenders have entered into a youth justice program, (b) between 2015 to now (reported separately by year) how many youth offenders have completed the youth justice program and (c) of those completed applicants (outlined in part (b)), 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-based programs delivered to meet the needs of young people.

Programs include Transition to Success, Family-Led Decision Making, Youth Offenders Support Services and Bail Support Services, and programs and interventions delivered by the Toowoomba Youth Justice Service Centre as part of a young person's individual case plan.

Additionally, a new initiative has recently commenced in the Toowoomba area, Community Helping Adolescents with New Growth and Endeavours (CHANGE), for which data is not yet available. This project brings together the capabilities of five experienced local organisations to deliver wrap-around interventions to support 12 to 17-year-olds who are at risk of becoming entrenched in the justice system. Young people will be assisted with housing, mentoring, education, skill-development, employment, sporting and cultural activities.

Comprehensive data on all of these 'programs' for every young person the department 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 young people who were supervised under a formal Youth Justice (YJ) Order, Restorative Justice (RJ) process and Conditional Bail Program (CBP) and the corresponding reoffending rates in the Toowoomba 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 31 March 2022						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Distinct young people who successfully completed RJ process	18	19	45	37	38	61	50
- Reoffending 12 months after completion	33%	47%	51%	59%	63%	64%	N/A
Distinct young people who completed a supervised YJ Order	66	75	77	91	74	63	62
- Reoffending 12 months after completion	77%	84%	82%	68%	80%	70%	N/A
Distinct young people who completed Conditional Bail Program	9	14	12	23	17	20	16
- Reoffending 12 months after completing Conditional Bail Program	89%	86%	100%	83%	100%	100%	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 Toowoomba LGA.