



**Government
of South Australia**

Minister for Human Services

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Adelaide SA 5000
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Our ref: 18MCOR/0088
Your ref: 7128308

Ms Nat Cook
Member for Hurtle Vale
PO Box 158
WOODCROFT SA 5162

Sent by email: Tristan.rust@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Cook,

Freedom of information application

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), received by the Office of the Minister for Human Services on 12 October 2018 seeking access to:

Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding Ministerial agenda item "Justice Reinvestment South Australian Initiative" from 8 May 2018.

Unfortunately, a determination was unable to be made within the 30 days, therefore it is considered to be a 'deemed refusal' under section 19(2)(b) of the Act. However, our office has continued to process your application outside of this timeframe. Section 19(2)(a) of the Act provides that an agency can release documents outside of the thirty-day timeframe, and this is still taken to be a determination under the Act.

Three documents have been identified as falling within the scope of your application and I have determined to release the documents in full.

Please find enclosed a copy of the documents, and a document schedule containing a brief description of the documents.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may/will be published on the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Amanda Hockings, Office Manager, on telephone 8463 3388 or by email at amanda.hockings2@sa.gov.au. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your FOI application, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman SA. Please contact the Ombudsman directly on (08) 8226 8699.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Hockings', followed by a period.

Amanda Hockings
ACCREDITED FOI OFFICER

25 / 3 / 2019

5SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – MCOR/0088

Freedom of information application from the Ms Nat Cook seeking access to *Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding Ministerial agenda item "Justice Reinvestment South Australia Initiative" from 8 May 2018.*

No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description of document	Determination	Reason
1.			7/5/2018	Agenda Item – Justice Reinvestment SA, Port Adelaide	Released in Full	
2.				Attachment to Agenda Item – Letter from Senator Hon Nigel Scullion MP, dated 6 December 2017	Released in Full	
3.	Department of Human Services			Attachment to Agenda Item – Making an Impact summary paper 2018	Released in Full	



MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES MEETING		
AGENDA ITEM		
TITLE OF PAPER:	JUSTICE REINVESTMENT SA, PORT ADELAIDE	
MEETING DATE	07/05/2018	<div>NOTING <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>DISCUSSION <input type="checkbox"/></div>
KEY POINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. \$270,000 for the 2017-18 financial year has been provided to the Australian Red Cross (who partner with Justice Reinvestment South Australia (JRSA)) to build on earlier consultation work funded by the South Australian Attorney-General's Department.2. The funding agreement will expire in June 2018. The current project is on target to fulfil the service agreement with the Department of Human Services (DHS).3. JRSA has informed DHS that it will seek further funding from the South Australian Government to implement the five-year action plan currently under development for Port Adelaide.4. <i>Making an Impact: Northern Adelaide</i> is a placed-based, multi-agency initiative led by DHS to improve justice outcomes for Aboriginal young people.5. There is significant potential for the JRSA/Red Cross project and the <i>Making an Impact</i> initiative to collaborate to improve justice outcomes for Aboriginal young people living in the Northern and Western metropolitan regions of Adelaide.	

Minister's Comments:

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BACKGROUND

Justice Reinvestment (JR) is a data-driven approach, which aims to improve public safety, reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending and reinvest savings in strategies to prevent crime and strengthen communities.

Over the past five years, justice reinvestment and related justice reform policy and research have gained significant momentum through community, government and advocacy networks in Australia

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and internationally. While justice reinvestment policy has not been formally established in any Australian state or territory, there are notable examples of community-based investment and promising early outcomes in several Australian regional locations. The work being undertaken in Bourke (NSW) is arguably the most developed effort to date.

Senator, the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs wrote to the Hon Chris Picton MP, the then Minister for Correctional Services on 6 December 2017 in respect to the South Australian Government's progress with Justice Reinvestment trials. In his correspondence, Senator Scullion encouraged South Australia to commit to undertaking JR trials and was supportive of local communities working to drive down Aboriginal incarceration (Attachment 1).

In 2017, JRSA secured project funding through the Law Foundation of SA to implement the essential community engagement, community information/education and preliminary legal and data research to establish a justice reinvestment trial in Port Adelaide focused on outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 14-25 years, and their families.

DHS received South Australian Government funding of \$270,000 in the 2017-18 budget to further the work commenced in Port Adelaide and to scope a JR response in Murray Bridge. DHS entered into a Service Agreement with Australian Red Cross to undertake this work.

With this funding, the project has employed a Project Manager to lead community engagement and education processes and to identify Aboriginal community leaders with a commitment to driving justice reinvestment in Port Adelaide. The project has established a strong presence within the Aboriginal community in Port Adelaide and the Port Adelaide Justice Reinvestment Aboriginal Leadership Group has now been established. This group, depending on securing future funding, will drive the next phase of the JR project in Port Adelaide.

DISCUSSION

DHS-Community Services is well positioned to bring together the efforts underway in Port Adelaide with the work being undertaken in Northern Adelaide.

Making an Impact: Northern Adelaide is a partnership approach to improving outcomes for Aboriginal young people, bringing together whole-of-government, the non-government sector and Aboriginal community members. *Making an Impact* uses data to target parts of the justice and service systems to achieve impact (see Attachment 2).

With an initial focus on Aboriginal young people and their families in the northern suburbs of Adelaide, a multi-agency, senior officer governance group (Northern Adelaide Steering Group) has been established to provide oversight of reform implementation, evaluation and reporting. At the local, operational level, a multi-agency Northern Adelaide Action Group is bringing together key service delivery partners and stakeholders to contribute to reform. Strong relationships are being built with Aboriginal community members to ensure that Aboriginal young people, families and community are integral to designing and implementing solutions.

All partners are contributing to the development of an Aboriginal Youth Justice Action Plan. This plan will prioritise system and service reform, based on comprehensive analysis of shared data from partner agencies and informed by community knowledge and expertise.

The JRSA and *Making an Impact: Northern Adelaide* initiatives both seek to:

- Focus on the needs of Aboriginal young people, and their families, in contact with the justice system
- Recognise that community led solutions, which sit alongside system and service reform, will achieve the most effective impact

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- Ensure a strong leadership/governance structure with the authority to drive change
- Apply data-based analysis to target reform strategies.

In addition, poor justice outcomes in Northern Adelaide and Port Adelaide are being experienced by families who are deeply connected across these locations and who are engaged with many of the same services, both government and non-government. There is significant potential and opportunity to collaborate across service systems.

There are some promising results from both initiatives and DHS will continue to build collaboration with the Port Adelaide initiative. However, further funding for the Port Adelaide initiative and highest-level commitment from partner agencies within Government will be necessary to sustain and improve on these early gains.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

JRSA are intending to seek a further funding commitment from the South Australian Government to continue the work in Port Adelaide. This would need to be considered as a budget bid in the upcoming budget process.

Division	Community Services		
Executive Director	Sue Wallace/...../.....	<i>signature</i>
Director, Office of the Chief Executive	Nancy Rogers/...../.....	<i>signature</i>
Chief Executive	Tony Harrison/...../.....	<i>signature</i>

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Senator Hon Nigel Scullion MP, dated 6 December 2017.
2. Making an Impact summary paper 2018

Contact Officer:	Miranda Roe, Director – Strategic Policy 841 54364 / Miranda.roe@sa.gov.au
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RECEIVED

15 DEC 2017



MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Reference: MS17-005276

The Hon Chris Picton
Minister for Correctional Services
GPO Box 668
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Rec'd	15/12/2017
Reg No.	MC517D0261
File No.	MC517/013
Action Officer	AM
Response Due By	

Dear Minister

I am writing to encourage you and the South Australian (SA) Government in your commitment to implement Justice Reinvestment (JR) trials in your state, to investigate the benefits for reducing recidivism and diverting offenders and those at risk of becoming offenders from the justice system.

I am aware of this and promising JR trials in other jurisdictions, and am pleased that communities, service providers, government, non-government organisations are working together consider these alternative approaches to particularly address Indigenous incarceration.

As the criminal justice system, including Corrections, is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments, the Commonwealth is unable to take the lead on a JR approach. However, in line with the Commonwealth's response to the 2013 Senate Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee inquiry into JR, I am keen to continue to support jurisdictions and local communities in their efforts to reduce Indigenous reoffending and incarceration, including through local JR and other collective impact, place-based approaches. I am also interested in how these key JR principles will inform future government investment decisions, including the use of data and evidence of what works to identify high risk communities and better target interventions to maximise impact.

I congratulate the SA Government on its efforts to date in taking a JR approach to improve community safety and reduce indigenous incarceration, and look forward to hearing about outcomes of your investigation of the benefits of this model.

Yours sincerely

NIGEL SCULLION

6/12/2017

Making an Impact

Working together to improve justice and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal young people

Over-representation of Aboriginal people in the youth justice system has reached levels that demand a coordinated, targeted response. There is a broad consensus that improvement will require the integrated efforts of government, non-government sector and Aboriginal community.

Overall numbers of young people in Australian justice systems have decreased by around 20% over the past five years, but the decrease is far greater for non-Aboriginal young people than Aboriginal young people, who are increasingly overrepresented. What is working for non-Aboriginal young people to reduce their contact with justice systems is not working for Aboriginal young people.

Aboriginal over-representation on an average day (10-17 year olds)

South Australia	2011-12	2015-16
Community supervision	11 times as likely as non-Aboriginal young people	20 times as likely
Adelaide Youth Training Centre	21 times as likely	30 times as likely
Total supervision	12 times as likely	22 times as likely

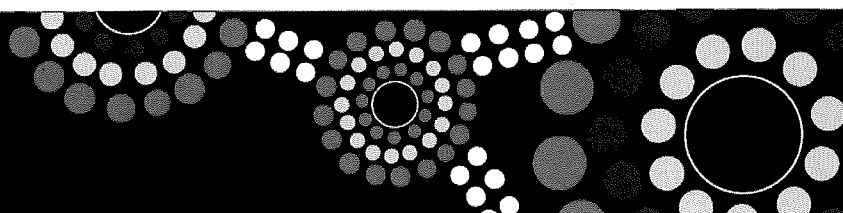
Source: AIHW Youth Justice in Australia 2015-16, supplementary tables

To address over-representation, we must:

- Work with place-based communities to find solutions and build community capacity
- Optimise and reform current policy, legislation and systems, including the justice system
- Design and coordinate effective interventions across the continuum from prevention through early intervention, diversion, detention and rehabilitation
- Ensure that young people under supervision and transitioning out of supervision receive services that are culturally appropriate, support positive engagement and support Aboriginal young people to maintain connection to education, their family, culture and community.

What is the Making an Impact initiative?

Making an Impact is a partnership approach, bringing together whole-of-government, the non-government sector and Aboriginal community members. *Making an Impact* uses data to target the parts of the system where we can achieve results.



The three obsessions of the Making an Impact initiative:

1. Decrease the number of Aboriginal young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system.
2. Increase the engagement of Aboriginal young people in diversion options.
3. Improve engagement of Aboriginal young people in positive participation (meaningful activity, training and employment, school attendance).

Progress to date

With an initial focus on Aboriginal young people and their families in the northern suburbs of Adelaide, we have established a **multi-agency governance structure** (Northern Adelaide Steering Group¹) to drive reform and provide oversight for implementation, evaluation and reporting, and a **multi-agency Northern Adelaide Action Group**, which brings key service delivery partners and stakeholders together to contribute to better outcomes at the local level. We are establishing **strong relationships with Aboriginal community members** to ensure that Aboriginal young people, families and community are integral to designing and implementing solutions. All partners are contributing to the development of an **Aboriginal Youth Justice Action Plan**. This plan will prioritise system and service reform, based on **comprehensive analysis of shared data** from partner agencies, and informed by **community knowledge and expertise**.

What we ask of partners

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has responsibilities for Youth Justice and the *Making an Impact* initiative, supported by its Community Services Division. It is thus uniquely placed to lead a sustained, coordinated and collaborative approach to address overrepresentation.

Sustained **executive-level commitment** from all agency partners is needed to harness the collective impact potential of the *Making an Impact* initiative. Partner agencies have committed to:

- ✓ Active engagement in the *Making an Impact* executive governance structure as a member of the multi-agency Northern Adelaide Steering Group
- ✓ Accepting joint responsibility for development and delivery of an Aboriginal Youth Justice Action Plan, initially focused in northern Adelaide
- ✓ Aligning their agency's priority planning with this shared agenda for collective impact
- ✓ Problem-solve real-time systems issues for highly vulnerable Aboriginal families
- ✓ Willingness to understand the ways current systems (statutory, non-statutory, non-government and community) work to make no impact or negative impact
- ✓ Collaborative information and data sharing in ways that drive system and service improvement
- ✓ Contributing resources to rapid, small scale and agile prototyping of potential solutions for wider application.

¹ NASG member agencies: SA Police, Courts Administration Authority, Departments of Education & Child Development, Child Protection, Communities & Social Inclusion, Mental Health, Health-Drug & Alcohol Services SA.

