

Just Futures: Case studies

JUST REINVEST NSW

Just Reinvest NSW's story

Just Reinvest NSW supports Aboriginal communities to explore and establish justice reinvestment initiatives and advocates for systemic changes that build safer and stronger communities.

Their goal is to reduce Aboriginal incarceration in NSW. They work alongside Aboriginal communities to support place-based, community-led and data driven approaches to inform local solutions, such as devising local 'justice circuit-breakers'.



Pictured: Judy Duncan

"Young people have been overlooked for too long. We've been promised movie theatres, bowling alleys, it's still coming. There's not a youth centre in this community, everything's fenced up that the young people could have access to like tennis courts and free or affordable activities.

"A lot of our kids are on the streets, because, in some cases, it's not safe in all households in this community. They are vulnerable and are already overrepresented in the criminal justice system."

Judy Duncan, Community Engagement Lead,
Moree, Just Reinvest NSW

COMMUNITY NEED

Following the success of the program in Bourke NSW, Just Reinvest NSW wanted to expand their program to Mt Druitt and Moree.

Both Mt Druitt and Moree have high rates and risks of incarceration, particularly among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In Mt Druitt specifically, over-policing of Aboriginal people is a consistent narrative and high fines debt has become a significant issue. In Moree, socio-economic disadvantage is high, school attendance is low, and school suspensions are amongst the highest in NSW.

OUTCOME

The Paul Ramsay Foundation has provided a grant to Just Reinvest NSW (JRNSW) for:

- Site based justice reinvestment (supporting communities in youth leadership, capability building, data and governance AND ensuring local Aboriginal people lead community engagement and project administration)
- Sustaining a JRNSW supporting body
- Establishing a Justice Reinvestment National Network Coordinator
- External evaluation

PROGRAM FIT

Who will benefit?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities

What will the benefit be?

Preventing or reducing further contact with the justice system

How will the benefit be delivered?

Community-led prevention

MARANGUKA

Maranguka's story

Maranguka is a grassroots vision for improving outcomes and creating better coordinated support for vulnerable families and children through the true empowerment of the local Aboriginal community.



Pictured: Bourke Tribal Council

"Kids were being taken away. Too many of my community were being locked up. Families were being shattered, again and again."

"We developed Maranguka with a clear focus on creating better coordinated support to vulnerable families and children in Bourke and to build a new accountability framework which wouldn't let our kids slip through."

Alistair Ferguson, Executive Director Founder, Maranguka

PROGRAM FIT

Who will benefit?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities

What will the benefit be?

Preventing or reducing further contact with the justice system

How will the benefit be delivered?

Community-led prevention

COMMUNITY NEED

Since 2013, Maranguka has established strong foundations and structures that enable the community of Bourke to lead and bring partners alongside them to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

The first stage of Maranguka Justice Reinvestment focused on building trust between community and service providers, data collection, identifying community priorities and 'circuit breakers'.

Central to Maranguka's work is data access, sharing and storytelling underpinned by principles of indigenous data sovereignty.

Maranguka spent several years identifying high-level metrics that monitor change at the population level. While the data focus began here, Maranguka is looking at other ways that data can tell the story of change in the community.

OUTCOME

The Paul Ramsay Foundation has provided a grant to support a Senior Evaluation Lead for the Maranguka Project in Bourke.