



Australian
**CRIME AND VIOLENCE
PREVENTION**
Awards 2017

Nomination form

In submitting your nomination, please refer to the information at www.aic.gov.au/acvpa. Advice for completing a quality nomination and other helpful documents are also available on our website.

In order to be considered for an award, please ensure that:

- every question is answered
- your nomination does not exceed seven pages in length (with a minimum Arial font size of 11 point), is produced in Microsoft Word and adheres to the 1,500 word limit
- your completed nomination is emailed as an attachment to acvpa@aic.gov.au.

1. Project details

Note: projects must have been fully operational at 1 February 2016. Projects that commenced after 1 February 2016 are not eligible for 2017 but may apply in 2018.

What is the name of the project?

The Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22 (Blueprint) was substantially developed during 2011-2012 and released in August 2012. In 2015, the Blueprint reached the end of its initial three-year action plan.

When did the project commence?

August 2012

How is this program funded? If there is more than one source of funding, please show the percentage of funds from each source.

Government-funded project

Project summary. Please briefly describe the project (in 100 words or less).

The Blueprint is a whole of government and community plan to reduce youth crime by better supporting young people. It recognises that by reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors, the ACT community will be better equipped to keep young people safe, strong and connected. In the long term, the Blueprint seeks to achieve a community where fewer children and young people are at risk or engaged in offending, and the ACT is a safer place to live.

2. Organisational details

Name of lead organisation.

Community Services Directorate, ACT Government

Address of lead organisation or individual responsible for the project.

Details removed

Contact person/s for the project (include phone and email).

Details removed

Names of all partners involved in the project.

The Blueprint was a whole-of-government and community initiative. Key contributors included the Community Services, Justice and Community Safety, Health, Education and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorates (ACT Government); and community organisations and peak bodies including the Youth Coalition of the ACT, the Police Community Youth Club Inc (PCYC), and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

3. Is this project led by a police organisation? Yes No

4. Has this project previously applied for an award in the ACVPA program? Yes No

If yes, what changes or new components to the project have been added since the previous nomination (if any)? Are there any additional components which have been in place for at least 12 months?

5. Is this a nomination for a project you are working on? Yes No

6. Description of project (800 words or less).

Include details on the following:

- How does the project work?
- What are its long-term goals?
- What have the tangible outcomes been, including any unanticipated outcomes?
- What group or groups does this project target?
- Specific geographic areas or population?
- Victims or potential victims of violence or other types of crime?
- Perpetrators or potential perpetrators of violence or other types of crime?
- Other significant people?
- What types of crime and behaviour does the project target?

The Blueprint was developed in consultation with a multidisciplinary Youth Justice Taskforce and Youth Advisory Panel consisting of representatives with expertise in child and adolescent psychology, trauma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement, youth justice, education and health.

In the long-term, the Blueprint seeks to achieve a community where fewer children and young people are engaged in or at risk of offending, and the ACT community is a safer and better place to live. This can be achieved by ensuring that children, young people and their families receive every possible opportunity to get back on track and live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives.

These outcomes will be realised when the following goals are achieved:

- Youth offending and re-offending is reduced.
- The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the youth justice system is reduced.
- Children and young people are diverted from the formal youth justice system.
- Detention rates are reduced.
- Children, young people and their families are helped early and provided with the supports and services they need.
- Children and young people are given every possible chance to be successfully reintegrated into the community upon leaving detention.

The Blueprint provides an evidence-based approach to improving outcomes for young people at risk. It aims to achieve this by pursuing seven strategies to support young people and their families that focus on early intervention, prevention and diversion:

1. Focussing on early intervention and prevention of contact with the youth justice system.
2. Diverting children and young people away from the formal youth justice system.
3. Engaging and encouraging the participation of children, young people and their families in discussions and decisions that affect them.
4. Providing intensive individualised support to children and young people.
5. Connecting and reintegrating children and young people into a home and community through effective through-care.
6. Creating an integrated whole-of-government and whole-of-community services system to support children and young people.
7. Building a strong and smart workforce.

A three-year action plan (2012/13 – 2015/16) was developed to give effect to these strategies in the initial period of the Blueprint. Key actions included development of:

- An After Hours Crisis Service (formerly the After Hours Bail Support Service) that aims to keep young people out of custody by providing alternative community-based options to being remanded in Bimberi, and assisting young people on justice orders to comply with the conditions of their order. In 2014-15, this service responded to over 1,411 client related matters and 16 young people who were in police custody were diverted away from remand in detention while awaiting their court appearance.
- Narrabundah House Indigenous Supervised Residential Facility providing short to medium term accommodation and intensive case management primarily for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men (15 to 18 years) who are on community-based justice orders, or need support transitioning from custody to community.
- Alcohol and other Drugs Diversion Program diverting young people away from the youth justice system, by referring to appropriate assessment and education programs, including:
 - Youth Alcohol Diversion for under-age drinkers who are intoxicated, in possession of, or consuming alcohol in a public place. In 2014-15, 46 young people were diverted to a health assessment and information session.
 - Illicit Drug Diversion for people who are found in possession of illicit drugs for personal use. In 2014-15, 77 young people were diverted to the program.
 - ACT Policing Crime Reduction Education and Diversion (CRED) offering

education and awareness programs about drug and alcohol in ACT secondary schools. In 2014-15, the CRED team delivered presentations to over 3,170 secondary school students across 16 schools.

Implementation of the three-year action plan has occurred under the supervision of the Youth Justice Blueprint Implementation Group (YJ BIG). YJ BIG consists of government and community representatives from the youth and justice sectors. Representatives have monitored action implementation, and ensured the whole-of-government and community commitment to driving youth justice reforms continues throughout the life of the Blueprint.

Of the 45 initiatives in the three-year action plan, 41 are complete, one is substantially complete and the remaining three actions are progressing.

Evidence from the Blueprint's commencement shows sustained reductions in the number of young people coming into contact with, or further involved in, the youth justice system. This suggests that crime is being prevented, the impact of crime is reduced and community safety is improved.

Notably, data from the first three years shows the number of:

- young people apprehended by ACT Policing decreased by 37per cent;
- young people under youth justice supervision decreased by 28per cent and by 35per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people;
- young people under community based supervision decreased by 29per cent;
- young people in detention decreased by 35per cent; and
- days young people spent in detention reduced by 60per cent.

The Blueprint's Annual Progress Report 2015 demonstrates the progress and achievements of the Blueprint over its first three years. The report is available at http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocys/the_blueprint_for_youth_justice_in_the_act/blueprint-annual-report-2015.

7. What is the annual cost of the project?

In the 2012-13 Budget, the ACT Government committed \$5.5 million over four-years to implement initiatives across the priority areas identified in the action plan of the Blueprint. An initial funding commitment of \$1.32 million was provided in 2012-13, which increased to \$1.427 million by 2015-16.

8. Do you make use of in-kind support?

The Blueprint does not require financial commitment outside of the \$5.5 million set aside over four-years by the ACT Government. Rather the Blueprint brings together all government and community youth justice initiatives to ensure they promote early intervention and diversion, and are consistent with its seven strategies.

9. Has the project been evaluated independently? Yes No

If yes, please provide a summary of the key evaluation findings. You may also want to provide an electronic copy of the evaluation report or a link if the report is available online.

If no, please outline how you know the program has successfully achieved its intended outcomes, including any supporting evidence you have available.

The Australian Institute of Criminology were engaged to develop an evaluation framework for the Blueprint.

10. What makes the project special or innovative? (500 words or less)

For example:

- Is it the only project of its kind?
- Does it help people who are at particular risk?
- Is it unique to your local area?
- How could it be adapted elsewhere?
- Has it raised community awareness of violence and other crime issues?

Collaborative practice:

As a 'Better Services' initiative, the Blueprint sets out to achieve government's vision of a single, cohesive and sustainable human service system. The Blueprint is innovative because it brings together all of government and community's youth justice initiatives under a single evidence-based framework. Community and government worked together to develop and deliver the Blueprint. The resulting strategies and actions work cohesively to achieve better outcomes for young people at risk, their families and the broader community.

Outcomes focus:

This approach is already paying dividends, particularly for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as we work together to pursue a key goal of the Blueprint: addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system. Following the launch of the Blueprint (2011-12) the ACT has seen reductions in the:

- number of young people under youth justice supervision by 35 per cent (2011-12 to 2013-14); and
- rates (per 10,000) of young people under youth justice supervision during the year by 41 per cent (2011-12 to 2013-14).

This is particularly significant because the number and rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system was increasing in the ACT prior to the implementation of the Blueprint. By working collaboratively with the community to embed cultural planning and tailor mainstream programs (e.g. Restorative Justice, the After Hours Crisis Service) to better suit the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, the ACT be providing more accessible and sustainable support for all members of the ACT community.

Evidence based:

The Blueprint is also achieving results due to its ongoing commitment to ensuring that the targeted interventions and supports it adopts are evidence-based and effective. Built on the 'what works' principles of risk-need-responsivity and a current understanding of child development theory, the Blueprint works by strengthening protective factors and reducing risk factors for young people, their supports and surrounding environment.

While robust annual data is critical in checking progress and trends, it tells only part of the story about understanding what aspects of the Blueprint are making a difference.

11. Referees.

Please supply the names, addresses, contact numbers and email addresses of two referees. These should be people who are familiar with the project and who would be in a position to provide feedback on its merits. The selection board will contact referees as required.

Details removed

12. How did you find out about the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards?

- Online or on social media
- Word of mouth
- Through my workplace
- I am on the Board
- Other (please specify)

Brochure

13. Would you like to be on an emailing list so you can be notified about future Awards? Yes No

If yes, please provide your email address.

Details removed

14. If the nominated project is selected for an award, our communication team may want to contact yourself, or an appropriate representative of the project organisation, regarding media and other promotional opportunities.

Please include contact details for the most appropriate person to be contacted in this regard.

Name

Details removed

Position

Details removed

Organisation

Details removed

Phone

Details removed

Email

Details removed

All supporting information must be submitted along with the nomination. The nomination will be evaluated based on the information provided.

The Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards program reserves the right to use details of award winners' project details and summaries to publicise and market the Awards program. Likewise, winners who wish to publicise their awards should fully acknowledge the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards program in any publicity material.

Appendices

If you wish to provide any supporting documentation, it should be provided as an email attachment wherever possible. Please keep the number and size of supporting documents to a reasonable limit.

Supporting documentation could include but is not limited to:

- Newspaper articles
- Posters, CDs, DVDs,
- Evaluations
- Letters of support

Please ensure letters of support are signed and that the signed copy is submitted electronically as a PDF.

If your supporting documents exceed file size limitations, please post them to:

Secretariat
2017 ACVPA
GPO Box 1936
Canberra City ACT 2601