

**Just Reinvest NSW  
Annual Report  
2016 – 2017**

**INC 9897458**  
C/O Aboriginal Legal Service,  
Suite 460, 311 - 315 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000  
[www.justreinvest.org.au](http://www.justreinvest.org.au)  
[info@justreinvest.org.au](mailto:info@justreinvest.org.au)

## **Executive Committee**

Chair: Sarah Hopkins  
Treasurer: Gino Vumbaca  
Secretary: Tiffany McComsey  
Ordinary Member: Jane Powles  
Ordinary Member: Joshua Roxburgh  
Ordinary Member: Andrew Meehan  
Ordinary Member: Alistair Ferguson (From March 2017)

## **Strategic Directions Committee**

In 2016/2017 the membership of this committee included: The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ ACT, Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative Limited, Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat, Aboriginal Education Council (NSW) Inc, Amnesty International, ANTaR, Ashurst, Australian Indigenous Alpine Sports Foundation, Community Legal Centres NSW, Gilbert + Tobin, Jenny Lovric, Kingsford Legal Centre, Red Cross, Save the Children, Shopfront Youth Legal Service, Show Me the Way, Uniting, Weave Youth and Community Services, Whitelion, Youth Action and the Youth Justice Coalition.

## **Staff**

### ***Just Reinvest NSW***

Coordinator: Nicole Mekler

### ***Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project***

*First major justice reinvestment project in Australia*

#### *Positions in 2016/17:*

Founder and Executive Director of Maranguka's JR Initiative: Alistair Ferguson

Project Officer: Vivianne Prince

Project Director: Sarah Hopkins (ALS in-kind)

Backbone Coordinator: Kristy Kennedy (commenced June 2016)

Community Data Manager: Skye Bullen (commenced August 2016)

## **Volunteers**

Thank you to the following individuals for volunteering on research and other Just Reinvest projects in 2016-17: Ned Cooper, Shirley Hall, Joseph Brophy, Yvette Hyman, Zev Mekler, Tess Porges, Kerry de Waal, Will de Waal, Nicola Colagiuri, John Dooley, Cecilia Ngu, Rachana Rajan, Emily Azar and Arielle Rutman

## **Pro Bono & In-kind Support**

The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT continued to provide valuable in-kind support to Just Reinvest NSW.

Just Reinvest NSW also continued to receive pro bono legal support from Ashurst Australia and Gilbert + Tobin.

## Chairperson Summary

This year has been a massive year, as justice reinvestment has been brought into the spotlight again and again, in NSW and right across Australia. The Just Reinvest NSW Team, Strategic Directions Committee and Maranguka have been non-stop in shaping policy and responding to the events of 2016-2017.

In 2016, the NSW government announced its plans to spend \$3.8 billion (\$2.2 billion capital and \$1.6 billion recurrent) over the next four years to increase prison capacity by approximately 7,000 prison beds.<sup>1</sup> Just Reinvest NSW has been advocating to redirect a portion of that spent into community based options and into a justice reinvestment framework. Several other members of the justice and legal community shared our concern and in November 2016, Just Reinvest NSW convened a roundtable to develop legislative and policy reforms to reduce the rising prison population in NSW, with a particular view to addressing the levels of Aboriginal overrepresentation.

A Policy Paper, Just Reinvest NSW Policy Paper #1 – Smarter Sentencing and Parole Law Reform, was developed and released in May of 2017. The paper was launched in August 2017 at a parliamentary forum hosted by the NSW Attorney General, the Honourable Mark Speakman SC MP.

The unacceptable rates of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the potential of justice reinvestment as a solution has remained on the national agenda, through: the 25 year anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody; PwC's report costing the over incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; the Australian Law Reform Commission's Inquiry into the Incarceration Rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People; and the Northern Territory Royal Commission into Youth Detention and Child Protection (with Just Reinvest NSW Champion Mick Gooda being appointed as a commissioner).

Further, the mainstream reach of *ABCs Four Corners*' report on Don Dale created an urgency to stop locking up young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children far outside of the traditional advocates. It had everyone looking for a different approach to the traditional "tough on crime" one. Four Corners' follow up on Bourke offered that and generated widespread support for a community-led, data driven approach to community safety. The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project and Just Reinvest NSW are very grateful for the overwhelmingly positive response to the program.

It was a highlight to continue to work in partnership with Maranguka in Bourke NSW and see the incredible work of the Backbone team, the Working Groups, the Cross-Sector Leadership Group and community members. The progress made is outlined in Section 2 of this report.

KPMG released their preliminary Assessment of the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke, which generated substantial government interest in the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Justice, NSW Government, *NSW budget: New prisoner beds, record corrections funding*, 16 June 2016, <http://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/media-news/media-releases/2016/NSW-Budget-New-prisoner-beds-record-corrections-funding.aspx>

As reported last year, funding was secured for three years with support from the Dusseldorp Forum, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Cages Foundation, St Vincent de Paul, Matana Foundation and the Cameron Foundation. On behalf of Just Reinvest NSW, I would like to thank the Aboriginal community of Bourke for continuing to work with us on such an important initiative.

We have been guiding communities, government and organisations that have contacted us around justice reinvestment as much as possible, within both NSW and interstate. We are also continuing to build relationships with communities, organisations and governments that are working towards implementing justice reinvestment initiatives. We are part of a national justice reinvestment network that has developed from the workshop held in October 2015 by the University of New South Wales and the Human Rights Law Centre on *Practical Implementation of Justice Reinvestment Projects in Indigenous Communities*.

Throughout the year, once again, I was very grateful to be working with a group of highly knowledgeable and committed individuals and organisations that support the organisation in a voluntary capacity. I would like to especially thank my fellow Executive Committee members and those individuals and organisations in the Strategic Directions Subcommittee, as without their efforts and invaluable contributions, our achievements would have been limited.

We are grateful to have been joined by Teela Reed as a Just Reinvest Youth Ambassador. I have been impressed and inspired by the wisdom and dedication of all of our Youth Ambassadors, Keenan Mundine, Kaleesha Morris, Trei Stewart, Beau Foster and Kobie Duncan.

Andrew Morgan Jackomos PSM, the Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, has become a Just Reinvest Champion as well as a Patron of Maranguka. We also welcomed victim's advocate, Ken Marslew AM as a Just Reinvest Champion.

Finally, we are grateful for the ongoing support of the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT.

Sarah Hopkins  
Chairperson  
Just Reinvest NSW

## Treasurer Summary

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Just Reinvest NSW (JRNSW) membership I would like to thank the Aboriginal Legal Service ACT/NSW for continuing to auspice Just Reinvest NSW, including funding for the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of Felix Orcullo, Chief Financial Officer and Poonam Bajpai, Accountant. Both Felix and Poonam, and their staff (Evelyn Zhang) who have continued to assist us with very supportive diligence in maintaining our accounts and helping prepare our financial reports.

I am also pleased to report that the income sources and amounts for JRNSW expanded again this year with increased philanthropic support being complemented by donations and membership fees.

It is important to thank those organisations that contribute to the co-ordination and administrative costs of JRNSW. This is a vital part of any success JRNSW has, and while for obvious reasons it does not attract the level of attention that JRNSW on-ground services receives, it is with deep appreciation that we thank our philanthropic organisation supporters for recognising this issue.

The work undertaken in Bourke and the ongoing campaign for reform could simply not continue without the many philanthropic organisations that support JRNSW. The support of the Aboriginal Education Council, The University of NSW and much needed in-kind support from Government Departments also contributes significantly to the ability of JRNSW to again achieve so much this year.

Finally, it is important to individually recognise our philanthropic supporters:

- Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Dusseldorp Forum
- St Vincent de Paul
- Cages Foundation
- Matana Foundation
- Cameron Foundation

Their previous contributions towards the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project and their commitment to provide funding for the years to come give a real sense of stability and security for JRNSW staff and programs.

Our financial reports for 2016-17 are presented on the following 2 pages.

Gino Vumbaca  
Treasurer  
Just Reinvest NSW

**Aboriginal Legal Service ( NSW/ACT) Ltd  
Justice Reinvest NSW**

**Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2017**

	<u>30/06/2017</u>	<u>30/06/2016</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash in bank	612,658	510,371
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>612,658</b>	<b>510,371</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
AGD and other receipts	2,968	13,781
Legal Aid	3,000	3,000
Vincent Fairfax/Dusseldorp	407,893	345,003
St Vincent De Paul	11,425	19,342
Cages Foundation	105,429	2,272
Mantana Foundation	50,000	101,282
Cameron Foundation	6,392	
AEC	5,000	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>592,107</b>	<b>484,680</b>
Annual Leave Provision	20,551	25,690
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>612,658</b>	<b>510,371</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		

Prepared by :  
Poonam Bajpai CPA

Accountant  
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Ltd  
Date : 30/10/2017

Approved by :  
Felix Orcullo FCPA

Chief Financial Officer  
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Ltd  
Date: 30/10/2017

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited acn 118 431 066

Justice Reinvestment Income & Expenditure Statement  
For the year ended 30th June 2017

*Details of program: provision of core support for the implementation phase of the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment project in Bourke. We thank sponsorship from Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation; Dusseldorp Forum; St Vincent de Paul; Cages Foundation; Cameron Foundation; Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal; and the Mantana Foundation.*

Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grant funding	30,000	
Sundry income	8,769	2,112
Donations	425,683	258,138
	<u>464,452</u>	<u>260,250</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Professional costs</b>		
Other resources	42,569	1,398
<b>Office expenses</b>		
Office supplies	570	2,149
Computer supplies	1,964	1,902
<b>Travel &amp; accommodation</b>		
Motor vehicle expenses	145	
Travel & accommodation	8,770	5,472
<b>Telecommunications</b>		
Telephone & internet	1,443	436
<b>General expenses</b>		
Administration	31,752	15,914
Board expenses	401	
Sundry expenses	49,398	12,015
Advertising & promotion		4,436
<b>Employment expenses</b>		
Salaries & wages	298,489	183,144
Employee entitlement provision	-5,113	13,304
Staff training	3,793	
Superannuation	28,271	18,020
Workers compensation	2,000	2,012
Recruitment advertising		48
	<u>464,452</u>	<u>260,250</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (-DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

*Extract from the Audited Accounts*

## 2016 – 2017 Activities

Below are some of the activities undertaken between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017.

### ***Advocating & campaigning for the adoption of justice reinvestment***

#### **Social Media and Campaign Engagement**

- Three newsletters were distributed to a subscriber list of approximately 850: in July 2016, December 2016, and March 2017. Four Updates were also distributed informing readers of: Mick Gooda's appointment to the NT Royal Commission; the Law Society Journal Article featuring Sarah Hopkins and Keenan Mundine; as well as two around ABC's Four Corner's episode, *Backing Bourke*. The open rate for the updates ranged from 33% to 23% open rate (the average open rate for non-profits is 22.6%).
- Statements from the campaign and updates on the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project and news items relevant to justice reinvestment were regularly posted and shared on Facebook and Twitter. Facebook page likes increased from 1,470 on 30 June 2016 to 1878 followers. Twitter followers rose from 1000 followers in June to 2016 to 1,400. With 172 new followers immediately after Four Corner's *Backing Bourke* aired.

#### **Political Engagement**

- In April, Sarah Hopkins and Andrew Meehan met with Minister Mitchell and her Policy Advisor, Peter Gibbs.
- In April, Sarah Hopkins, Gino Vumbaca and Nicole Mekler met with Julian Whealing, a Policy Officer from Treasury. Treasury also appointed Dr Vinita Deodhar as a champion within Treasury to work with Just Reinvest NSW, the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project and KPMG on the economic modelling of the Project.
- In May 2017, Sarah Hopkins and Alistair Ferguson met with Senator Dodson in Canberra.
- In May 2017, Sarah Hopkins and Alistair Ferguson met with Senator Scullion in Canberra.
- In April 2017, Sarah Hopkins, Jane Powles and Nicole Mekler met with the Premier's Senior Adviser, Corin Moffatt.
- In May 2017, Minister Wyatt had to reschedule a trip to Bourke.
- In June 2017, NSW Attorney General's Chief of Staff- Bran Black, briefed Sarah Hopkins and Nicole Mekler on proposed criminal justice reforms. Three policy officers from the Attorney General's office and one from Minister Elliot's office were involved in the briefing.
- In June 2017, Sarah Hopkins and Nicole Mekler met with Minister Hazzard.
- In June 2017, Minister Mitchell visited Bourke, as did the Deputy Premier to explore the Bourke Aboriginal Employment and Prosperity Strategy, which will support, train and up skill local workers as well as promote employment opportunities in Bourke.
- In June 2017, Sarah Hopkins, Jane Powles and Nicole Mekler met with the Advocate for Children and Young People for the second time.
- In July 2017, Sarah Hopkins and Nicole Mekler met with the Attorney General, the Honourable Mark Speakman SC MP.

## Speaking Engagements

- In September 2016, Kristy Kennedy and Alistair Ferguson (Maranguka and Just Reinvest), Teya Dusseldorp (Dusseldorp) and Emily Fuller (Vincent Fairfax) presented at the Philanthropy Australia conference.
- In October 2016, Sarah Hopkins spoke at the Parramatta Koori Interagency meeting about justice reinvestment and the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project.
- In October 2016, Nicole Mekler spoke at the Amnesty Newtown Action Group meeting.
- In October 2016, Executive Committee Member Tiffany McComsey presented to the Law Society's Indigenous Issues Sub-committee.
- In November 2016, Sarah Hopkins and Just Reinvest NSW Youth Ambassador Kaleesha Morris spoke at ANTaR and Reconciliation NSW's *Reconciliation in Parliament* event at NSW Parliament House. The aim of the event was re-affirming the commitment of NSW politicians and parties to reconciliation and providing a space for voices of the community to be heard in a parliamentary setting.
- In December 2016, Treasurer of Just Reinvest NSW Gino Vumbaca spoke at the Corrective Services and Juvenile Justice Official Visitors Conference about justice reinvestment.
- In December 2016, Sarah Hopkins and Strategic Directions Committee member and Director of the Red Cross NSW, Jody Broun were on a panel for Indigenous Rights Night, alongside, Aunty Ann Weldon, Aboriginal elder and Community Leader; Gemma McKinnon, UNSW Law; Nathan Moran, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council; Mark Yettica-Paulson, Recognise; Nicole Watson, University of Sydney.
- From November 2016- June 2017, Nicole Mekler sat on the Reintegration Puzzle Conference Steering Committee.
- In November 2016, Nicole Mekler spoke at the Youth Justice Coalition Meeting.
- In November 2016, Just Reinvest NSW Champion Tom Calma spoke at the launch of #JustJustice
- In March 2017, Nicole Mekler spoke at the Migration Support Program's Team meeting alongside the Red Cross's Youth Joint Support Program.
- In March 2017, Sarah Hopkins spoke at the Race and Incarceration Conference at Sydney University.
- In March 2017, Sarah Hopkins spoke at Google Headquarters in Sydney.
- In March 2017, Strategic Directions Committee member Kerry Graham delivered a seminar in Melbourne on JR for organisations tendering for a grant to be specifically used for justice reinvestment.
- In June 2017, Sarah Hopkins spoke at UNSW to Nick Cowdery's Criminal Law class.
- In June 2017, Sarah Hopkins and Champions of Just Reinvest NSW, Keenan Mundine and Shane Phillips spoke at the Reintegration Puzzle Conference. Greg Moore, the Darling River Local Area Commander sent through a pre-recorded video to be shown as part of Sarah's presentation. The Conference, *Changing Systems From The Inside Out*, focused on how to change systems to enable people to successfully reintegrate into the community after prison.

## Youth Ambassadors

- In October 2016, Just Reinvest NSW Youth Ambassador Kaleesha Morris organised a Just Reinvest NSW Youth Forum in partnership with Kingsford Legal Centre, Kaleesha spoke alongside other Just Reinvest NSW Youth Ambassadors

including Keenan Mundine and Trei Stewart, with Kobie Duncan performing a new rap.

- Kaleesha Morris continued to represent Just Reinvest NSW at numerous speaking engagements throughout 2016-2017. Including at a meeting with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous people, Ms Victoria Tauli Corpuz as part of a discussion held at the Australian Human Rights Commission.
- Keenan Mundine also represented Just Reinvest NSW at numerous speaking engagements and maintained an active voice on social media boosting the profile of Just Reinvest NSW on facebook and twitter. Further, Keenan appeared in the Law Society Journal in August 2016 with Chair, Sarah Hopkins speaking on the need for justice reinvestment in Australia. Further, Keenan travelled to Bourke for a special screening of Prison Songs in 2017.
- Teela Reid became a Just Reinvest NSW Youth Ambassador, she is a proud Wiradjuri and Wailwan woman who grew up in Gilgandra western NSW and is currently a grad lawyer with Legal Aid. Teela is passionate about raising awareness of Indigenous over-incarceration, especially about the soaring rate at which Indigenous women are incarcerated.

### **New Champions:**

Just Reinvest NSW welcomed new Champions of justice reinvestment: Andrew Jackomos PSM and Ken Marslew.

- Andrew Jackomos PSM, the Victorian Aboriginal Children's Commissioner, came with the Just Reinvest NSW Team to visit the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in February of this year. Mr Jackomos was impressed by the project, he is now a patron of the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project and a Champion of Just Reinvest NSW. Andrew is a proud Yorta Yorta/Gunditjmara man and was appointed in July 2013 as the inaugural Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in Victoria.
- Ken Marslew AM became a Champion of Just Reinvest this year after endorsing the Just Reinvest NSW Policy Paper #1. He is the CEO and Founder of Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement Inc., a dedicated Victims Advocate and was named as a member of the Order of Australia for his work in social justice. Ken posed the question "What can we do to stop people from becoming victims in the first place?" This led to his work with youth at risk as an early intervention strategy, then on prisons. Ken Marslew AM now sits on the Just Reinvest NSW Strategic Directions Committee.

### **JR in the Media**

- Justice reinvestment was mentioned in the Australian news more than 65 times from June 30 2016 to July 1 2017 year, as well as eight Just Reinvest NSW specific mentions and more than 13 Maranguka mentions in the media.

### **Champion's advocating for justice reinvestment in the news**

- In July 2016, the NSW government announced a budget of \$3.8 Billion funding a further 3,000 prison beds. In response, Sarah Hopkins and Gino Vumbaca wrote a news article that appeared in the Huffington Post. They emphasised that prisons are the most expensive and least effective use of taxpayer money and highlighted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately imprisoned, over half for non-violent offences. Providing an outline of justice reinvestment, Sarah and Gino, spoke of the necessity for efficient funding frameworks and addressing community needs through consultation and community led solutions.
- In July 2016, Just Reinvest NSW Champion Nicholas Cowdery, former Director of Public Prosecutions in NSW responded to the government's

announcement of increased prison funding. “The government thinks it is safe to impose these financial burdens on us, because they think we are going to be accepting of it...But people who know about this area know that there are alternatives that won’t cost as much” published in the Sydney Morning Herald. Nicholas Cowdery highlighted rehabilitating offenders through programs such as community service orders, that more effective and less costly than relying on short prisons sentences.

- In August 2016, Sarah Hopkins and Youth Ambassador Keenan Mundine featured in the Law Society Journal. The article contrasted Keenan’s story and experience with the criminal justice system together with an alternative approach: justice reinvestment. The feature is focused on the idea that justice reinvestment is a solution that has been proven to work internationally and currently Just Reinvest NSW has formed an idea for the ‘Australianisation’ of justice reinvestment, particularly with a view to addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal people in prison and particularly Aboriginal children and young people.
- In September 2016, Just Reinvest Champion Professor Tom Calma AO wrote an article for The Australian highlighting the issues with the current justice system and the over-representation of Aboriginal people increasing despite a fall in violent crime rates. Professor Tom Calma AO also responded to the government’s announcement to spend \$3.8 billion on new prison beds diverting money away from investment into early intervention programs and community led solutions. As a long time Champion of Just Reinvest NSW, Professor Tom Calma AO gave an overview of justice reinvestment building stronger communities and spoke of his visit to Bourke as demonstrating the potential for the justice reinvestment process to be replicated nationally through communities working together with services providers using data-driven approach that find alternative pathways to incarceration.
- In February of 2017 Alistair Ferguson, the Executive Director of Maranguka and Sarah Hopkins, wrote an article for the Guardian, asking Australia to stop focusing on failure and have a look at something very promising, The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project. The article highlighted justice reinvestment bringing funding to communities not prisons, preventing crimes with data-driven, community led solutions.
- In March 2017, Sarah Hopkins, voiced concern over post code justice in an interview with the Sun Herald. Sarah highlighted that in regional and remote areas, diversionary options are not available so courts rely on prison; disproportionately impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people who live in these communities. Sarah shared that early intervention and therapeutic programs are shown to have a greater impact on reducing recidivism than short prison sentences.

### ***Supporting place-based reform: the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke***

- In the beginning of July 2016 we welcomed two new staff members to the Backbone team at the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project team: Kristy Kennedy, the Backbone Coordinator and Skye Bullen, the Community Data Manager, who joined Alistair Ferguson (Founder and Executive Director) and Vivianne Prince (Project Officer) at Maranguka in Bourke.
- Funding for these positions and operational activities was provided by: the Dusseldorp Forum, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Cages Foundation, St Vincent de Paul, Matana Foundation, Cameron Foundation, the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, and Legal Aid NSW.

From 30 June 2016, the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project has facilitated the development and implementation of:

- evidence-based strategies to achieve community goals,
- a shared measurement system for partners (community members, government, non-government) to track their progress towards meeting their goals, and
- strategies for continuous communication and collaboration between partners.
- Initial discussions with KPMG and Treasury around economic modelling have taken place.

Activities undertaken in 2016-2017 by the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project are as follows:

#### **The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project Working Groups:**

- Strategic Working Groups have been established and developed from the priorities recognised in 'Growing our kids up safe, smart and strong'.
- The Working Groups comprise of government and non-government agencies, service providers and Bourke community members. The Strategic Working Groups are, Early Childhood and Parenting, 8-18 year olds and the Role of Men.
- The Working Groups have met nine times since the first time they met in June 2016.
- The Working Groups have attracted a large membership of the services in town, however still need to get more people on board.
- The Backbone team is also increasing community participation through the Bourke Tribal Council, Men of Bourke (MOB), Women's Group and the Maranguka Youth Advisory Council

#### **Early Childhood and Parenting Working Group**

##### **Successful initiatives:**

- 3 year old health and development checks
- Bourke Community Pregnancy, Baby and Child Expo - with up to 80 people attending it at the Bourke Public School

##### **Initiatives that are in progress:**

- First 2000 days of life: supporting children prenatal to 2 years
- The Mobile program through the Bourke and District Children's Services will commence a program at the Maranguka Hub
- Pooling funds for a child psychologist
- Seeking funding for a speech pathologist in Bourke

#### **8 – 18 yo Working Group**

##### **Initiatives:**

- The Maranguka Support Model for Young People- There are four components:
  - 1) School Based Component – Our Place
    - Our Place is an alternative learning environment for at-risk young people. It is centred around four components: mastery, independence, generosity, and belonging. The model is in part based on BackTrack, a program in Armidale developed by Bernie Shakeshaft. Bourke High School has taken a strong lead and partnered with Maranguka/SOS. Approximately 9 young men participate and school attendance has increased.

- 2) Family Component – Wrap around support for the whole family
    - Co-designed by working group with support from the Australian Centre for Social Innovation. It has taken months to develop this model.
  - 3) SOS Out Of School Hours (OOSH) Component – weekends/holidays.
    - It was identified there was a need for activities during the school holiday period. The aim was to have a range activities and places to go to keep young people engaged and in a routine.
  - 4) Return to community and acute cases (including suspension)
    - A strategy is being developed (between JJ/Police/Corrections and Maranguka) to address challenges of young people returning from custody on release or on bail at short notice (as this has resulted in spike in offending).
- The Save our Sisters/Save our Sons (SOS) Youth Coordinator plays a central role in each aspect of the Maranguka Youth Support model. The SOS initiative centres around supporting children and young people in Bourke who are at risk of disengaging with school and entering the criminal justice system. With the support of Alistair Ferguson, Birrang was successful in securing funding through PM&C for this initiative.

### **Role of Men Working Group**

#### **Successful initiatives:**

- **Men of Bourke**
  - Self-organising for 18 months
  - The men want to focus on healing
  - Service sector wants to focus on Domestic Violence and long term unemployment
- **Operation Solidarity**
  - Maranguka inspired Police strategy focusing on reducing the number of repeat domestic violence incidences – they visit the homes of victims
  - Reduction in the number of repeat offenders – for a 2 month period there was none

#### **Initiatives that are underway:**

- The new Family Violence Strategy
- The new Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy
- MERIT & EOMS

### **Continued Cross-Sector Collaboration to achieve shared goals**

- The Cross-Sector Executive Group has been meeting every two months.
- Cross Sector Leadership Group reports are sent to each member of the Cross-Sector Leadership group after every set of Working Group meetings in Bourke to keep them updated on progress.
- They have committed to working collaboratively and supporting their people working on the ground in Bourke who, through Working Groups are responsible for developing shared targets and strategies for change in their particular priority area.

### **Engaging with government**

- In 2016 Premier Berejiklian re-appointed Minister Hazzard as Minister for Health as Cross-Government Champion for the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project. Minister Hazzard has been a key supporter of the Project since visiting Bourke in 2014 in his capacity as Attorney General.

- As outlined above, government departments are engaged through the Cross Sector Leadership Group and Working Groups.

### **Other Key Events in Bourke**

- In September 2016, KPMG published a report titled **Unlocking the Future: a preliminary assessment of the Maranguka justice reinvestment project in Bourke.** The report highlighted the strengths in the approach in Bourke by the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in reducing incarceration rates for Aboriginal young people. The report provides new stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of activities undertaken during the first two years of justice reinvestment in Bourke up to June 2016. It also notes the Aboriginal community governance model used in the Project strategically aligns with New South Wales and Australian Government aspirations for improving economic and social conditions in Aboriginal communities and realising community priorities.
- On September 19th, The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project featured on **ABC Four Corners. Backing Bourke** showed the story of the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project as a demonstration of how justice reinvestment can work in Australia and its appearance on *Four Corners* provided a timely opportunity to raise awareness of the advantages of a justice reinvestment approach.
- The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project and Just Reinvest NSW received a lot of attention, and offers of support surrounding the release of the show.
- In November 2016, the Maranguka Community Hub in Bourke NSW was announced as a finalist in the Australian Human Rights Commission Awards. The Maranguka Community Hub was nominated in the Community Organisation Award category, recognising the outstanding contribution of organisations in promoting and protecting human rights and freedoms.
- On the 9th of December, the Bourke community gathered to celebrate all the work they have achieved through the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project. An awards ceremony was held to thank everyone in the Bourke community contributing to the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project. The celebrations highlighted Bourke's safe, smart & strong kids and continued at Davidson oval with over 100 members of the community in attendance enjoying a BBQ, a giant water slides and arts and crafts.
- In March 2017, The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke had the opportunity to share the Story of Maranguka as the first justice reinvestment project in Australia through Digital Story Tellers, [watch here](#).

### **Young People in Bourke**

- In September 2016, Young people in Bourke NSW produced three short films with strong messages as part of the ALS Talking FactSheet Project. The films reflect life in Bourke and were crafted, filmed and directed by the young people. Each film tells a story about how to stay out of trouble and making the right choices. The Talking FactSheet Project aims to provide young Aboriginal people with the skills to create short films while learning about the law and rights and responsibilities.
- In April 2016, Desert Pea Media came to Bourke and worked with a group of young Aboriginal people enrolled at Bourke High School. The project was released in September 2016 and came about through a partnership between Desert Pea Media, Bourke High School and Outback Division of General Practice. B-Town Warriors – 'People of the Red Sunset' was number 1 on the Triple J Unearthed Hip Hop Charts and hit 26 on the overall charts. The song is a celebration of survival, resilience, culture and pride. A second song,

'Dreams' was released in May of this year, and two further songs have now been released.

- **Maranguka Youth Advisory Council (MYAC)**- The MYAC has met 8 times now at the Maranguka Community Hub. The Youth Council is a way for young people in Bourke to take ownership of the change they want in Bourke and have a strong voice in the community. The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project is informed by young people in Bourke and will work with the Youth Council to make sure that young people know that we are listening and can take action.

### ***Supporting the development of the justice reinvestment sector***

- A Snapshot of Life for Aboriginal Children & Young People in Bourke (Data Snapshot) is a piece of work that has captured the attention of other communities, the government, and non-government agencies. The process we have undertaken in Bourke is becoming a best-practice example for other communities, especially those interested in justice reinvestment. We have emptied the Data Snapshot to make it a template for interested communities to use. Thank you to Cath Leach from Catfish Design for her pro bono work on this and to Rachel at Dusseldorp forum for finalising the template.
- During 2016-2017, Just Reinvest NSW received inquiries about justice reinvestment from North Queensland, Bowraville, Townsville, Katherine, Central Coast, Narromine, Grafton, Moree, Lithgow, Wagga Wagga, Lake Macquarie, Cowra, South Australia, Townsville, Blacktown and many other communities.
- Due to the number of community inquiries, we are currently developing a Justice Reinvestment Community Toolkit and supporting resources. This Toolkit is for communities interested in using a justice reinvestment framework to help address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system in their communities. We want to assist communities to decide if a justice reinvestment approach is right for them and if it is, to help communities to become justice reinvestment ready through this Toolkit.
- In late 2016, a national justice reinvestment teleconference group was set up. The membership of this group largely came out of the Practical Implementation of Justice Reinvestment Projects in Indigenous Communities Workshop hosted by the Australian Justice Reinvestment Project at UNSW and the Human Rights Law Centre in 2015. The teleconference group brings together other communities, organisations and government working towards justice reinvestment. The group has formed an informal justice reinvestment national network and has had four meetings.
- In November 2016, Change the Record coordinated a link-up of state based campaigns advocating for justice reinvestment. Each campaign sent a letter to their state Premier requesting that justice reinvestment be put on the next COAG agenda.

### ***Influencing the research agenda & contributing to policy development***

- In 2016-17 Just Reinvest NSW made written submissions to the following inquiries: The Northern Territory Royal Commission into Youth Detention and Child Protection and the Independent Review of Youth Detention.

- In November 2016, Sarah appeared before the Senate's Standing Committee on Community Affairs' Inquiry into the indefinite detention of people with cognitive and psychiatric impairment in Australia.
- In March 2017, 200 DSS staff from front line workers to Executive leadership participated in a full day of briefings and workshops with the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment team, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and Dusseldorp Forum to examine the newly released DSS policy on place-based approaches to disadvantage and how government can best support place-based work into the future.
- In April 2017, Just Reinvest NSW Youth Ambassador Kaleesha Morris and Executive Committee Member Jane Powles met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous people, Ms Victoria Tauli Corpuz, as part of a discussion held at the Australian Human Rights Commission.
- In June 2017, Alistair Ferguson, Executive Director of Maranguka and Executive Committee Member gave evidence about justice reinvestment before the Northern Territory Royal Commission into Youth Detention and Child Protection.
- From March 2017 onwards Sarah Hopkins has been meeting and communicating with the Australian Law Reform Commission around the Inquiry into the Incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- In June 2017, Sarah Hopkins attended a roundtable held by the Attorney General's Office surrounding the proposed criminal reform package. Just Reinvest NSW made two submissions around the proposed criminal reform package.

#### **Just Reinvest NSW Policy Paper #1 – Smarter Sentencing and Parole Law Reform**

- In November 2016, Just Reinvest NSW convened a roundtable to develop legislative and policy reforms to reduce the rising prison population in NSW, with a particular view to addressing the levels of Aboriginal overrepresentation.
- The paper was developed following a roundtable discussion with representatives from the Law Society of NSW, the NSW Bar Association, the Law Council of Australia, the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT, Legal Aid NSW, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, the University of NSW, the University of Technology Sydney, the Public Defenders office, and other prominent members of the NSW legal and justice communities. It has been the subject of consultation with peak NSW Aboriginal organisations and other key organisations and agencies.
- The paper was released in May of 2017.
- The paper was launched in August 2017 at a parliamentary forum hosted by the NSW Attorney General, the Honourable Mark Speakman SC MP.
- The Policy Paper involved engagement with and received endorsement from Change the Record, NCOSS, The Council for Civil Liberties, USYD, Enough is Enough, National Indigenous Substance Misuse Council, Mental Health Coordinating Council, as well as members of the SDC and roundtable group.

#### ***Ensuring effective and transparent governance & management***

- The Executive Committee met eight times between 1 July 16 and 30 June 17.

- Alistair Ferguson has joined the Just Reinvest NSW Executive Committee as Executive Director, bringing his experience and insights surrounding justice reinvestment and community led approaches.
- Secretariat Reports are now compiled monthly
- The Strategic Directions Committee met four times between 1 July 16 and 30 June 17.
- Sub-group for Out of Home Care held a meeting, TOR is in draft.