

Justice Reinvestment for NSW

Thinking differently for safer communities



NSW currently spends \$650 each day on every young person incarcerated, and costs are increasing.

We cannot afford to continue down this path. There is a better way to invest our resources.

NSW is in a unique position. We are the home state for two pilot sites for Justice Reinvestment, in Bourke and Cowra. These sites will offer the learning and experience essential for the government to embrace a Justice Reinvestment approach for the State.

A long-term, whole of government approach is needed now to address the disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people being caught in a system that fails to rehabilitate, fails to deter and fails to keep communities safer.

NSW has an opportunity to take the lead in Australia in redirecting spending away from imprisonment and towards early intervention and prevention in a fiscally and socially responsible way.

Just Reinvest NSW was formed by a coalition of more than twenty organisations and individuals from New South Wales to address the significant over-representation of Aboriginal young people in custody.

Aboriginal young people (aged 10 to 25) remain the most over-represented group in our prison population.

We cannot afford to lose another generation of Aboriginal young people to the criminal justice system.

It is time to implement an approach that would shift spending away from incarceration, towards early intervention, prevention and treatment for Aboriginal young people at risk.

Our key message to the government and the community is that there is a solution, a smarter approach that will reduce crime and create safer, stronger communities.

It is called Justice Reinvestment.