

# Justice reinvestment or lock-up

## *Is locking up our children government money well spent?*



### **Mass imprisonment of our children and their parents is a costly problem in Australia. Building more prisons does not address the problem of why communities are failing and crime is occurring.**

- Just Reinvest NSW is calling on the NSW government to implement a justice reinvestment policy as a matter of urgency.
- Justice reinvestment is a data-driven approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending, and reinvest savings in strategies that can reduce crime and strengthen communities.
- Justice reinvestment is a good investment – both socially and economically.
- When justice reinvestment is implemented, it improves outcomes for individuals and entire communities.

### **Justice reinvestment reduces crime, builds community capacity, increases individual and community safety, and saves taxpayer's money.**

- Jail has proven not to be a deterrent for children or adults, so the best way to deal with crime is to prevent it.
- Justice reinvestment involves shifting government spending away from detention and into prevention.
- Justice reinvestment diverts funds into early intervention, crime prevention and diversionary programs which address the underlying causes of crime while building community capacity, creating savings in the criminal justice system which can be tracked and reinvested.
- Justice reinvestment uses data to identify communities with a high concentration of offenders and to assess the particular problems facing those communities.

- Justice reinvestment reduces crime by addressing the underlying causes of why crime is occurring in communities, such as multiple and severe social and economic disadvantage, poverty and intergenerational trauma.
- Justice reinvestment benefits entire communities by injecting monies into services and programs that build community capacities.

### **Justice reinvestment helps more of our children get a quality education, helps more families rise up out of poverty, helps improve health outcomes, helps create housing opportunities, helps workers find jobs - and invests in whole communities to create safety, purpose and happiness.**

- Justice reinvestment recognises that meeting the complexity of the challenge requires a whole of community response through localised solutions that are supported by organisational and structural realignments.
- Justice reinvestment provides communities with the power and resources to support people tackling barriers and challenging circumstances through long-term measures tailored to local needs that address the underlying causes of crime.
- Justice reinvestment provides for the direct participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the design, development and implementation of strategies and programs affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
- Justice reinvestment supports prison and detention for dangerous and serious offenders. But imprisonment for many young offenders does not make good financial sense.
- Justice reinvestment is being successfully implemented in various states overseas in the UK, USA and Canada. There is a growing evidence base that justice reinvestment is the solution.