



## Smart Justice for Young People (“SJ4YP”)

### About us

Established in 2011 by Youthlaw, with a grant from the Legal Services Board, Smart Justice for Young People, the youth specific arm of Smart Justice, brings together over 30 legal, youth, health, welfare and community organisations, many working with young people at risk. All have an interest in how vulnerable and disadvantaged young people are faring in the Victorian justice system.

### Our aims

- promote greater awareness and understanding by the public, key stakeholders and decision-makers about young people’s interactions with the justice system and youth offending,
- challenge justice policies and practices having negative long-term impacts on young people; and
- promote evidence-based youth justice approaches, informed by experiences of young people, that will benefit those young people and the community.

### Our campaign focuses

- **Policing:** promoting respectful interactions between young people and police.
- **Diversion:** ensuring children have access to diversion programs to steer them away from the criminal justice system.

### What we have been doing

Over this period SJ4YP has been building our reputation and influence with key Victorian justice stakeholders and decision-makers. Major work includes:

- Resourcing members on key youth justice issues via updates, meetings, factsheets and briefings.
- Strengthening the collective voice of group members on youth justice issues.
- Influencing media reporting through media releases and social media posts.
- Building a social media support base, with over 1000 followers on Twitter.
- Producing a SJ4YP submission to Government’s Diversion Discussion Paper *Practical Lessons Fair Consequences*.
- Arranging and presenting a briefing on Youth Diversion for Members of Parliament
- Producing and promoting the [Youth Diversion Works](#) factsheet and [Youth Diversion Works](#) video.
- Producing a submission in response to the Victoria Police Community Consultation on Field Contact Policy and Cross Cultural Training.
- Six group members participating on Victoria Police’s Young People Portfolio Reference Group. This will be a key forum for raising emerging policing issues young people are experiencing.
- Keeping the pressure on Government and opposition parties to include youth diversion in their state election policies and platforms.

### Who we are ...

Youthlaw, Jesuit Social Services, Whitelion & Open Family, Frontyard Youth Services, Melbourne City Mission, headspace, Youth Support & Advocacy Service (YSAS); Law Institute of Victoria; Centre for Multicultural Youth, Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (Y RIPP), Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, Federation of Community Legal Centres, Flemington Kensington Legal Centre, Human Rights Law Centre, Springvale Monash Legal Centre, Fitzroy Legal Service, Peninsula Community Legal Centre, Gippsland Community Legal Service, Inner Melbourne Community Legal, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Homeless Law, Sunshine Youth Legal Service, Berry Street, Youth Connect, Salvation Army, YMCA: The Bridge Project, Barwon Youth Service, Centre for Excellence in Child & Family Welfare, Victorian Council of Social Services, The Bridge of Hope, Taskforce, The Bridge Youth Services, Council to Homeless Persons, VICSEG, Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Associated Limited, African Communities Foundation Australia, Concern Australia, Anglicare, Oz Child, Vincent Care, Catholic Social Services Victoria, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Koorie Youth Council, Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC), St Luke’s Anglicare, Mission Australia, local government youth services and youth networks including Melbourne, Stonington, Knox, Hume, Casey, Darebin, Frankston, Geelong, Barwon Adolescent Taskforce, Shepparton Network of Services.