



SJ4YP key messages & asks – Victorian State Election 2014

Youth Diversion Works campaign

KEY MESSAGES

- **Prevent crime in the first place.** Reduce crime by reallocating funds from the prison system to community services and diversion programs which aim to prevent crime. (“Justice Reinvestment”)
- **Diversion makes the community safer.** Diversion makes it less likely young people will re-offend.
[Youth Diversion Works factsheet](#) - compare the rate of NOT re-offending (after two years)
- **Diversion is tough on the causes of crime.** Diversion is not a soft option. It involves consequences for the young person and often involves them acknowledging and working on the issues behind their offending.
- **Diversion sets a young person up for life rather than a life of crime.** Diversion offers young people a positive alternative path to that of the criminal justice system.
- **Diversion is cost effective.** It saves public spending by Government on police, court processes and justice supervision or detention.
[Youth Diversion Works factsheet](#): compare the cost per young person (for 3 months)

KEY ASKS

There are two obvious gaps that need urgent Government attention:

- **Legislated diversion for all young people.**
Diversion is already legislated for in the adult system requiring adults to be diverted for assessment and to services. However there is currently no requirement that courts refer young people to diversion.
- **Invest substantially stat-wide in flexible, tailored and culturally relevant diversion programs for vulnerable young people requiring them.** Existing diversion programs are very limited in number, scope, and locality and are insecurely funding. Many young people cannot access diversion programs and support.

Additionally

- **Pilot a Justice Reinvestment project in Victoria** targeting children and young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
- **Reduce the number of young people on remand by expanding bail support services.**

RESOURCES

[Youth Diversion Works](#) factsheet which includes evaluation results & the cost-analysis of diversion

[Youth Diversion Works](#) video profiles two young people who successfully completed youth diversion programs and turned their lives around.