## Summary of Evaluations Youth Diversion Grants Programs 2001 to 2014

<table>
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<th>Evaluation &amp; Responsible Agency</th>
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| Menzies School of Health Research, *Pilot Study in Katherine & Tennant Creek of the coordinated approach to service provision for youth offenders; Dr Teresa Cunningham and Dr Kate Senior.* | Desktop evaluation of data and interviews January 2013 – June 2014 | • Funded as part of the Review of Youth Justice Recommendations 5 & 9 which noted “That all programs delivered for young people in, or at risk of entering, the youth justice system have built in evaluation processes.”
• In preparation for this study Dr Cunningham recently undertook a further evaluation of data regarding the outcomes of the full 11 years of the Youth Diversion Scheme. This latest YDS assessment confirmed that the youth diversion outcomes continue to be more effective than court. |
| Australian Institute of Criminology, in partnership with Australian Institute of Family Studies *Evaluation of Indigenous Youth Diversion Programs* | March 2011 – December 2012 | • Overall for those factors within their control, the TIYDDU was meeting its intended outcomes of diverting young people with low reoffending rates.
• Program met an important social and cultural need on the islands and program outcomes were in line with this.
• It noted that while there were problematic trends in the data this could not be attributed to TIYDDU who struggled with low resourcing and a lack of other youth focussed programs on the Tiwi Islands for other specific referrals. |
| *Review of the Northern Territory Youth Justice System, Ms Jodeen Carney Chair September 2011* | April to September 2011 | • Findings indicated that police diversion is working well with significantly reduced reoffending rates.
• Recommendations included increased investment in police diversion (YDUs in Katherine & Alice Springs now funded and operational), expansion of diversion eligibility.
• Community Youth Development Unit model was supported with recommendation that it be expanded. |
| *Solid Work you Mob are Doing Case Studies in Indigenous Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management in Australia Federal Court of Australia* | Report to the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council undertaken in 2009 | • The Tiwi-driven process draws on the local Skin Group kinship system and enables them to come together and resolve the tensions and fights which make up family and community life.
• It provides positive role models for Tiwi people dealing with conflict. Tiwi people access TYDDU knowing that the service employs members of all Skin Groups.
• The service works very well both formally and informally with local police who make regular referrals. |
| NT Police internal surveys for all Youth Justice Conference participants | Ongoing voluntary surveys reintroduced for all participants in January 2007 | • Findings indicate that the majority of respondents feel the process is fair (96% of victims, 91% of participants and 100% of offenders).
• In relation to the question regarding conference processes respondents (Victims 61%, participants 82% and offenders 96%) reported that the offender learnt something from the conference. (Note: This is reflected in international studies of restorative justice processes as opposed to the formal court system outcomes.)
• These surveys have assisted in the ongoing review and refinement of processes. |
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<td>Pre Court diversion in the Northern Territory: Impact on Juvenile Reoffending (Teresa Cunningham)</td>
<td>Australian Institute of Criminology Trends and Issues no. 339 June 2007</td>
<td>• Found (statistically significant) differences in reoffending rates between juveniles who attended court and those who were diverted, with those who were diverted reoffending less than those who attended court.</td>
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<td>Interagency Youth Team assessment, Department of Chief Minister, December 2006.</td>
<td>Internal NT Government multi-agency team assessment based on data obtained February to November 2006</td>
<td>• Estimated more than 80% of the CYDUs work targets Indigenous youth at risk or informal diversions and that the number of formal diversions would be significantly higher without these programs. • Play a central role of CYDUs in child and youth development, and community development generally. • Operational base provides an important focal point in the community for a wide range of development initiatives and ability to attract additional partnership funding. • Perform essential risk abatement work, identify and support educational and vocational pathways to youth at risk and conduct successful family interventions.</td>
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<td>Promising Performance Of A Juvenile Justice Diversion Program In Remote Aboriginal Communities, Northern Territory Australia. (Lee, K.S.K., Conigrave, K.M, Clough, article approved for publication in the forthcoming Australian Drug and Alcohol Review.)</td>
<td>2006-2007 – assessed the processes and outcomes of the GEMYDU diversion program in relation to substance abuse</td>
<td>• Assessed the processes and early outcomes of the GEMYDU diversion program in relation to substance abuse. • Commented on ‘the considerable difficulties of implementing and sustaining much-needed youth diversion programs in remote Indigenous communities. • Evidence that program is showing early signs of success in reducing youth crime. • Notes that the diversion component of the initiative appears to be achieving parallel successes.</td>
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<td>Tiwi Islands Youth Development and Diversion Unit, Tiwi Islands Local Government (TIYDDU) and the Indigenous Coordination Centre Strategic &amp; Operational Planning Interpretive Report Ambrose Business Solutions 2006</td>
<td>Comprehensive evaluation of TIYDDU programs, including preparation of a Three Year Strategic Plan 2006-2009</td>
<td>• Confirmed the positive outcomes of the TIYDDU programs over the previous 3 years • Skin Group process of managing family interventions, linked to night patrols provides a very effective cross cultural mediation framework. • Provides local solutions for youth crime and anti-social behaviours. • Recommended that the proposed Social Well being and Youth Development Shared Responsibility Agreement proceed. Subsequently 5 different Australian Govt. Agencies allocated $466,000 in 2007 for a range of programs and infrastructure.</td>
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• Programs had the capacity to reduce mental health and substance use problems, along with associated crime rates.  
• Determinants of GEMYDUs success was key staff, involvement of a respected Indigenous staff member, and community engagement.  
• Conclusion of the report was that community-driven preventive initiatives offer opportunities to enhance youth resilience and connectedness in remote Aboriginal communities and provide alternatives to substance use. |
| **Evaluation of the Northern Territory Agreement Urbis Keys Young 2004** | Formal evaluation of the Pre Court Juvenile Diversion Scheme, including CYDU programs 2003-2004 | • The holistic early intervention approach is important and appears to be leading to a reduction in offending.  
• Community development approach is effective and enables the development of particular strategies and programs that reflect local priorities and needs.  
• Promotion of inter-agency coordination provides a catalyst for various related funding programs of agencies working within remote communities.  
• Evaluation conducted for the Department of Attorney General, total cost $250,000. |
| **Menzies School of Health Pre Court Juvenile Diversion Scheme Conference Participants Surveys** | Surveys of all Victim Offender and Family Conference participants in 2001 | • 95% of conference participants (including victims) thought that the conferences agreement and decisions were fair.  
• 94% of offenders thought the decision to refer to a program was fair; that the program chosen was appropriate and that they had learnt something about the impact of their offending behaviour. |