

# Meeting summary

Youth Justice Redevelopment Project - Community Advisory Group

| Meeting details |
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| Meeting title: | Community Advisory Group | No: | 22 |
| Date: | Monday, 3 February 2020 | Time:  | 4pm to 5pm |
| Location: | WestJustice, 8 Watton St, Werribee  |
| Attendees |
| **Community Advisory Group members:**  Justin Giddings (Chair), Barbara McLure (Deputy Chair, community member), Marisa Berton (community member), Lisa Heinrichs (community member), Kim McAliney (Wyndham City Council), Walter Villagonzalo (Wyndham City Council), Natalie Walker (Wyndham City Council), James McCann (Director, Custodial Operations, Youth Justice), John Menegazzo (community member), Les Sanderson (community member), Peter Maynard (Councillor, Wyndham City Council), Acting Inspector Brett Kahan (Victoria Police), Corinne Cadilhac (CEO, Community Safety Building Authority), Stephanie McGregor (Executive Director, Community Safety Building Authority).**Other attendees**: James McCann (Director, Custodial Services, Youth Justice), Samantha Morgan (Senior Project Manager, CSBA), Peter Flaherty (Director, Public Affairs, DJSC), Andrew Heinrichs (Director, Safety, CSBA),  |
| **Apologies**: Justin Giddings, Corinne Cadilhac, Stephanie McGregor, Samantha Morgan, Walter Villagonzalo, Brett Kahn |
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| Meeting overview |
| **Opening**The Deputy Chair opened the meeting and thanked members for attending.**Previous meeting and minutes**Community Advisory Group (CAG) members endorsed the minutes and previous actions were reviewed.**Youth Justice programs** CAG members received a detailed briefing from Youth Justice in relation to its philosophy and approach to supervising young people in Victoria’s criminal justice system. Its five philosophy principles are:* Prevention and early intervention
* A differential approach to children and young people
* Taking accountability for behaviour and harm caused
* Rehabilitation, reducing re‑offending and ensuring community safety
* Community and family engagement and cultural safety.

CAG was told that:* The majority of children and young people involved in Youth Justice are supervised in the community. In 2018-19, the average daily number of young people under community-based supervision was **791.**
* Community Youth Justice Service operates from 25 locations across seven regions in Victoria.
* The Youth Justice custodial system is made up of two precincts - Parkville and Malmsbury.
* A very small proportion of young people are in Youth Justice custodial services on any given night. In 2018-19, the average daily number of young people in custody was **188.3.**

Youth Justice uses the Achieve Challenge Encourage (ACE) model to encourage young people to develop and display more positive behaviours in custody. The model uses a three-tiered approach to manage behaviour and young people are assessed based on their behaviour on a weekly basis. Young people can progress up through the levels if they display positive, pro social behaviour, but can also be moved down the level if they display poor behaviours. Examples of positive, pro-social behaviour include:* + Positive participation and involvement in education and programs.
	+ Respect for staff, teachers, clinicians, visitors and other young people.
	+ Self-care and cleaning of bedrooms and units.
	+ Positive role modelling in the unit and in the classroom.

The model provides incentives for good behaviour, giving young people the opportunity to budget and save towards the purchase of basic items that they can choose from a list of approved canteen items. CAG was also told that a range of community sector organisations (CSOs) were funded to deliver services to divert young people from further involvement with the justice system:* **Youth Support Service** funds 10 CSOs to assist up to 1165 young people to reduce their contact with the criminal justice system**.**
* **Youth Justice Group Conferencing** funds 7 CSOs to assist up to 305 young people to access Youth Justice Group Conferencing - a court-ordered intervention pre-sentence based on principles of restorative justice.
* **Youth Justice Community Support Service** funds 10 CSOs to assist up to 515 young people with support services such as drug and alcohol treatment, education, access to housing, employment and training.
* **Community- based Koori Youth Justice Program** funds 13 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and 1 CSO to provide diversion support and early intervention services to reduce Aboriginal overrepresentation in the Youth Justice system.

**Community feedback**A number of CAG members sought information relating to beautifying the facility’s perimeter and surrounding approaches. Members said past experience had shown it was difficult for trees to grow in the rocky soil and that perimeter planting should be undertaken as soon as possible.Members also felt areas along the Princes Freeway should also be considered for extensive planting. It was suggested VicRoads should be approached on this matter.**Action**: John Holland to provide information in relation to landscaping at CAG’s next meeting. CAG members sought information relating to CFA’s emergency management planning for the facility – both during construction and once operational. **Action**: the department to seek a CFA representative to attend. **Project update**John Holland advised that work was progressing well on key parts of the project:* The intersection coming off the Princes Freeway and into the site had been completed.
* Construction had begun on the facility support building.
* Construction had begun on the gatehouse building.
* Perimeter wall piers were being drilled.
* Piling work for the Health Building was continuing.

**Other business**It was agreed that all meetings should start at 3.45pm to provide further time for discussion.  |
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