



Department of Corrective Services
Government of Western Australia



A chance to set the
record straight; giving
victims a voice

Juvenile Justice



Teams



What's Inside?

What are Juvenile Justice Teams?	3
Who is involved in the teams?	3
How does it work?	4
Why does it work?	4
Making amends	5
Why you should get involved	5
Team locations	6

A large, close-up photograph of a woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a pink flower headband and a gold hoop earring, smiling warmly. The photo is framed with a white border.

a
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giving

What are Juvenile Justice Teams?

Juvenile Justice Teams are an alternative way to handle young people who have committed offences and may be in the early stages of offending.

The teams ask that young people take responsibility for their actions. They encourage young people to face up to problems and divert them from the courts.

Young people are sent to the teams by the police or the Children's Court. More serious offences are usually handled by the courts.

To be accepted by a Juvenile Justice Team, a young person must agree they have done something wrong and must be prepared to make amends (put things right).

Within the team process all participants work out a contract – known as an action plan – for the young person. If he or she does the right thing and follows the plan, they do not get a criminal record.

Who is involved in the teams?

The Juvenile Justice Teams are a multi-agency program. Professional team support comes from a juvenile justice staff member, a police officer and, where appropriate, cultural and ethnic group representatives and an education officer.

The Department of Corrective Services believes an important part of growing up is learning to become a responsible citizen by caring for others and the community.

Responsible citizenship grows in the family. Even when a young person comes into contact with the justice system, parents still have primary responsibility for their child and the way they grow up.

The teams involve the young person who committed the offence, their parents and the victim. Together they address the crime, and how it affects people, in a bid to get the young person back on track.

Parents, along with the victim, play an important role in the young person facing up to the consequences of their actions.

How does it work?

When a matter has been sent to a Juvenile Justice Team, contact is made with the young person who offended, their family and the victim of the crime.

The teams usually call a family meeting with the young person and his or her family, along with the victim.

The victim is given the opportunity of being involved, but they don't have to. If they do wish to be involved they may do so in person or by writing a letter making their views known. Victims can help decide how the young person can put things right and be involved in drawing up an action plan. This is a voluntary arrangement which must be agreed to by all participants at the family meeting.

The family meeting is properly organised but is not like a court. In addition to police and juvenile justice staff, other people may be involved – perhaps representatives from an Aboriginal community or school.

The family meeting can work out the best way to deal with the young person and the offence. But if the family meeting can't agree, the young person may be sent back to the referring source, i.e. police or Children's Court, for further action.

Why does it work?

The Juvenile Justice Teams' approach helps young people face the victims of their crimes and the consequences of their actions. It also allows the young person to look at the reasons for their offending behaviour and to do something about it.

It shows that crime harms people. For example, someone who has stolen DVDs, CDs or a computer from a house may come face-to-face with the people who live in the house and who have been hurt by the thefts. Part of this involves explaining the reasons for their behaviour and taking steps to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The process involves the young person's family, so parents can help their son or daughter not to reoffend. If parents are not available, then another responsible adult must be present and willing to participate in the team process.

The teams will want to talk to parents about ways they can stop their child from breaking the law and what help they may need. Families are involved in all decisions and, along with victims, have a right to be told what is happening.

A young person may choose to pull out of the team process at any time and ask to be sent back to the Children's Court or police. However, experience shows that the team process works well for most people.

The Juvenile Justice Teams will hold a young person accountable – in a very direct way – for what they have done.

Making amends and addressing problems

After talking about the offence, a young person can be asked to make amends to set things right. He or she may have to apologise, help repair or replace anything broken or lost, or provide some form of compensation to the victim.

The young person may be asked to work for the victim or for an organisation or community group.

The young person may also have conditions set by their own family, such as not mixing with certain people.

It is expected that the young person will address the issues contributing to their offending to reduce the possibility of reoffending.

If the young person doesn't do what has been agreed and has no acceptable reason, they will be sent back to the Children's Court to be dealt with.

Why you should get involved?

If you are a young person, then taking responsibility for your actions in a direct and supportive process can teach you some tough but valuable lessons, and save you from a formal criminal record.

For families and victims of young people who have offended, involvement in the teams can give you a voice and recognition of your roles beyond basic caregiver or crime statistic.

This process can sometimes help a victim express their anger and deal with the emotional strains of a crime. It allows them to have a say about the consequences of the act and a chance to find closure and put the matter behind them.

Similarly, it allows the young person to realise the consequences of their actions on real people – the victims and their families, and also on themselves and their own family.

The process gives all involved a chance to change the young person's future behaviour.



Juvenile Justice Teams administration

Manager, Juvenile Justice Teams

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Team locations – metropolitan

Armadale/Thornlie

Thornlie Community Centre

14 Glenbrook Road, Thornlie WA 6108

Tel: 9493 4233 Fax: 9493 4234

Fremantle

1 Quarry Street, Fremantle WA 6160

Tel: 9430 7170

Fax: 9430 7805

Midland

5 Brockman Street, Midland WA 6056

Tel: 9250 4088

Fax: 9250 4068

Perth

Unit 1, 88 Walters Drive, Osborne Park WA 6017

Tel: 9443 9055

Fax: 9443 9261

Rockingham

Rockingham Justice Complex, Whitfield Street,
Rockingham WA 6168

Tel: 9527 3411

Fax: 9527 4833

Victoria Park

4 Salford Street, Victoria Park, WA 6100

Tel: 9464 3188

Fax: 9472 4278

Wangara/Joondalup

Unit 3, 12-14 Baretta Road, Wangara, WA 6065

Tel: 9309 9466

Fax: 9309 9680

Team locations - regional

Albany: 346 Middleton Road, WA 9953

Tel: 9841 4811

Fax: 9841 9953

Broome: Cnr Frederick Street and Weld Street, WA 6725

Tel: 9158 3800

Fax: 9193 5750

Bunbury: 2nd Floor, Bunbury Court House

65 Wittenoom Street, WA 6230

Tel: 9791 0100

Fax: 9791 1404

Busselton sub-office: 12 Stanley St, Busselton WA 6280

Tel: 9754 9650

Fax: 9754 6300

Carnarvon: Suites 3 & 4, Carnarvon Business Centre,
Camel Lane, WA 6701

Tel: 9941 4209

Fax: 9941 3441

Esperance: Suite 10, Balmoral Square,
53 The Esplanade, WA 6530

Tel: 9071 4970

Fax: 9071 4637

Geraldton: 193 Marine Terrace, WA 6530

Tel: 9921 4266

Fax: 9964 2231

Halls Creek: 71 Thomas Street, WA 6770

Tel: 9168 6437

Fax: 9168 6423

Kalgoorlie: Suite 9, 35 Brookman St, WA 6430

Tel: 9091 0200

Fax: 9091 3939

Karratha: c/- Courthouse, 2 Bassett Road, WA 6714

Tel: 9144 4499

Fax: 9185 4419

Katanning sub-office: Annex (rear of courthouse)
Amherst St, Katanning 6317

Tel: 9821 2114

Fax: 9821 1868

Kununurra: Unit 17, 2252 Konkerberry Drive, WA 6743

Tel: 9169 1155

Fax: 9169 1145

Mandurah: 272 Pinjarra Rd, WA 6210

Tel: 9581 0800

Fax: 9586 1686

Meekatharra: Cnr Savage and Spencer Streets, WA 6642

Tel: 9980 1359

Fax: 9980 1364

Narrogin: Government Building, Park Street, WA 6312

Tel: 9881 6022

Fax: 9881 5293

Newman sub-office: Shop 8, Hilditch Ave, Newman 6753

Tel: 9175 1876

Fax: 9175 1318

Northam: McIver House, Fitzgerald Street, WA 6401

Tel: 9622 7530

Fax: 9622 7534

Pilbara area (Roebourne): Lot 26, Wellard St,
Roebourne 6718

Tel: 9182 1195

Fax: 9182 1329

South Hedland Justice Complex: Hawke Place, WA 6722

Tel: 9172 9350

Fax: 9172 9366

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