

Court in the Act

A regular newsletter for the entire youth justice community

THE YOUTH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND | TE KOOTI TAIOHI O AOTEAROA



Nau mai Welcome

to the 66th edition of Court In the Act.

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Court In the Act is a national newsletter/broadsheet dealing with Youth Justice issues. It is coordinated by research counsel attached to the office of the Principal Youth Court Judge. It receives wide circulation and we are keen for the recipients to pass it on to anyone they feel might be interested.

We are open to any suggestions and improvements. We are also very happy to act as a clearing-house, to receive and disseminate local, national and international Youth Justice issues and events.

If you would like to contribute an article, report or link to current research, please email all contributions to sacha.norrle@justice.govt.nz

Editorial

It has been an exciting few months for Youth Justice in Aotearoa, New Zealand and there is much to celebrate.

Youth crime rates are at an historical low. Numbers of Police apprehensions for offending by children and young people, and subsequent Youth Court appearances, have continued to trend downwards. We have seen the launch of two new Rangatahi Courts in Christchurch and Huntly. The services provided to young people in our Youth Courts continue to expand. There are an additional two Education Officers servicing the Youth Court and in-Court forensic screening continues to expand. A lot of work has gone into the vitalisation of the use, coordination and training of Lay Advocates and we are excited to see more and more Lay Advocates in Court and Family Group Conferences, providing much needed support to the young person and their family, and valuable cultural advice to the Court.

While we can celebrate these successes we still have substantial challenges to confront.

An ongoing challenge to our system is the disproportionate overrepresentation of young Māori at every stage in the Youth Justice process. Of equal concern is that the rate of Māori representation in the Youth Court is steadily increasing.

At a recent conference, Youth Court Judges heard from Talking Trouble NZ – an organisation of speech language therapists – about the significant number of young people in the Youth Court who will have some form of Oral Language Competency issue. We need to be aware that Youth Court, and especially FGC, processes rely heavily on the oral language abilities (everyday talking and listening skills) of the young person, who needs to listen to complex and emotionally charged accounts of the victim's perspective, and then formulate their own ideas into a coherent narrative. They also need to be able to engage with the Judge and understand what is happening in Court. This may be an incredibly difficult, if not impossible, thing for a young person with speech or language issues to do. This edition of CIA contains a special feature on this research.

Another challenge for our system is the low rates of victim attendance at FGCs. Last year, victim participation in an FGC in some way (usually by written submission) was 72%. However, victim attendance at FGCs was roughly 21%. We need to ask ourselves if FGCs can achieve the effective restorative outcomes that they are intended to if there isn't a victim present.

These are complex challenges for us all, but I know that our team approach, both outside and inside the Courtroom, is well equipped to find innovative and fresh solutions.

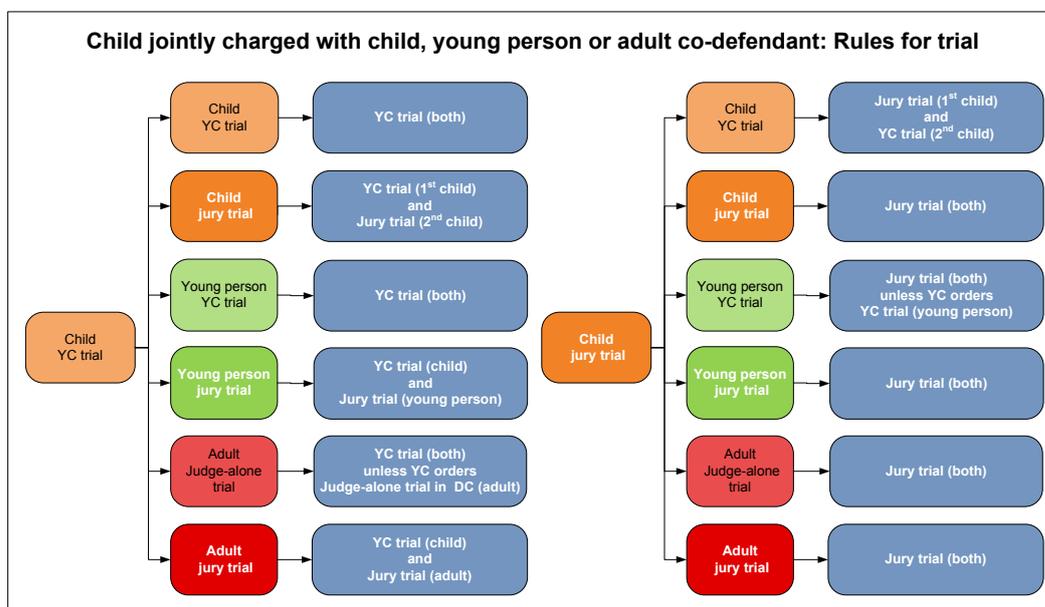
Judge John Walker
Acting Principal Youth Court Judge

Legal Update: Joint Charges

The Criminal Procedure Act 2011 (CPA) has been in operation since 1 July 2013. Prior to the Criminal Procedure Act, a Youth Court Judge had the discretion to direct that the proceedings be heard in the Youth Court or elsewhere as the Judge thought fit (s 277(2) Children, Young Persons and their Families Act (“CYPFA”). The effect of the changes under the CPA is that now, except in the case of murder, manslaughter and some minor non-imprisonable traffic offences or offences under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013, the only three ways a case can leave the Youth Court are:

1. Where the child or young person elects a jury trial;
2. If, in the case of a young person, the Youth Court makes an order to convict and transfer to the District Court for sentence under s 283(o); or
3. When a co-defendant who is an adult or young person is to have a jury trial and the Youth Court is satisfied that it is not in the interests of justice for the young person to remain in the Youth Court (s 277).

This update will explain the procedure when a child or young person is jointly charged. In some instances a young person will be transferred from the Youth Court to the District or High Court for trial (as opposed to transfer to the adult jurisdiction for sentence) because they have been jointly charged with a co-defendant. These exceptions are detailed below.



Child Jointly Charged: Judge-alone Trial

Children who are to have a Judge-alone trial must be tried in the Youth Court, usually along with any co-defendant also not having a jury trial (s 277(2)). There is an exception to this rule when the co-defendant is an adult. The Youth Court may order, in the interests of justice, that the adult’s trial not be held in the Youth Court (s 277(6)(b)). In this case, there will be a Judge-alone trial for the child in the Youth Court and another Judge-alone trial for the adult in the District or High Court.

If a child is to have a Judge-alone trial but the co-defendants face jury trial, separate trials will be held as the child **must** be heard in the Youth Court (s 277(2)).

Child Jointly Charged: Jury Trial

Children who are to have a jury trial must be tried together with any co-defendant also to have a jury trial (s 277(3)) (NB: the somewhat clumsy phrasing here (“are to have a jury trial”) results from the fact that children may either elect jury trial, or be required to because they are charged with murder or manslaughter).

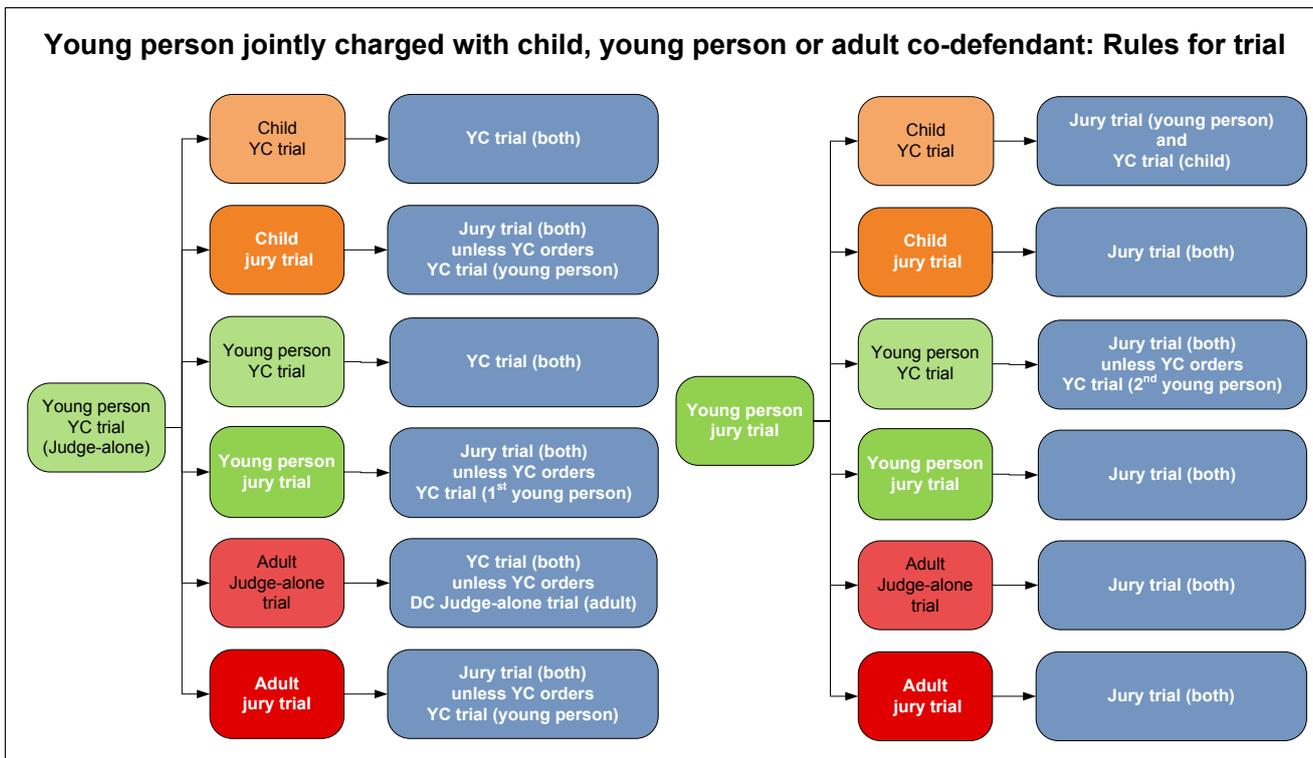
A co-defendant adult or young person who does not elect jury trial must nevertheless be tried before a jury if jointly charged with a child who is to have a jury trial (s 277 (4)(5) & (6(a)). An exception applies if the co-defendant is a young person not charged with murder or manslaughter and not electing jury trial so that the Youth Court has a discretion to order the young person, in the interests of justice, be tried in the Youth Court (s 277(5)).

Section 277 does not limit the child’s right to withdraw the election of jury trial pursuant to s 276. A child or young person can withdraw an election of jury trial at any time before the proceeding is transferred for trial callover (s 276(2)).

Further, and prior to adjourning for trial callover, the Youth Court must give a child or young person who elected jury trial the right to forego the election and remain in the Youth Court (s 276(3)).

This opportunity must also be given to a child or young person who indicates he or she wishes to plead guilty having first elected a jury trial.

Legal Update: Joint Charges



Young Person Jointly Charged: Judge-alone Trial

If a young person facing a Judge-alone trial is charged with a child, adult or other young person also facing a Judge-alone trial, the co-defendants will be tried in the Youth Court (s 277(7)) unless the co-defendant is an adult and the Youth Court in the interests of justice orders that the adult's Judge-alone trial should not be in the Youth Court (s 277(6)(a)).

If a young person facing a Judge-alone trial is jointly charged with any co-defendant having a jury trial, the young person must also have a jury trial unless the Youth Court in the interests of justice orders otherwise (s 277(4) and (5)). If such an order is made, there will be two trials, a jury trial in the District or High Court and a Judge-alone trial in the Youth Court.

Young Person Jointly Charged: Jury Trial

If a young person facing a jury trial is charged with a child, adult or other young person also facing a jury trial, the young person must be tried with co-defendants, and by the same court that is to try the co-defendants, unless in the interests of justice the Court orders otherwise (s 277(5)).

If a young person facing a jury trial is charged jointly with a child facing a Judge-alone trial, the child and young person would be heard separately (as the child must be heard in the Youth Court). If a young person facing a jury trial is charged jointly with co-defendants who are other young people or adults facing a Judge-alone trial, the co-defendants would be tried with the young person, unless the Youth Court, in the interests of justice, orders otherwise (s 277(4) and (5)).

As with children, s 277 does not limit the young person's right to withdraw the election of jury trial pursuant to s 276. A child or young person can withdraw an election of jury trial at any time before the proceeding is transferred for trial callover (s 276(2)). Further, and prior to adjourning for trial callover, the Youth Court must give a child or young person who elected jury trial the right to forego the election and remain in the Youth Court (s 276(3)). This opportunity must also be given to a child or young person who indicates he or she wishes to plead guilty having first elected a jury trial.

It is important to note that if a young person faces a jury trial, under s 275, all applicable pre-trial processes must

take place before a Youth Court, up to and including:

- in the case of a charge relating to a category 3 offence or category 4 offence (other than murder or manslaughter), transferring to the trial callover in accordance with section 57(3)(b) of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011; and
- in the case of a charge of murder or manslaughter, transferring the proceeding to the High Court in accordance with section 36(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011.

During the pre-trial processes, the Youth Court has all the powers of the District Court, and must be presided over by a Youth Court Judge or, in the absence of a Youth Court Judge, by a District Court Judge (s 275(3)).

This content is attributed to the New Zealand Law Society Webinar:
The Youth Court and the Impact of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011 (July 2013)

Authors: Judge Becroft, Mark Lillico and Emily Bruce

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Psychoactive Substances: the law chasing the high

What used to be “legal highs” have now become “illegal highs” under recent legislative reform. Amid rising concern about the devastating effects that new psychoactive products – “party pills”, “designer drugs” or “synthetic cannabis” - are having on communities, and particularly young people, the Government has enacted legislation to regulate, restrict and ban the sale of these products. This update will explain the new legislative scheme and how it affects young people.

Legislative Regime - Psychoactive Substances Act 2013 and the Psychoactive Substances Amendment Act 2014

- The Psychoactive Substances Act 2013 (PSA) came into force on 18 July 2013. The PSA regulates the importation, manufacture and supply of psychoactive substances, which are the active ingredients in party pills, energy pills and herbal highs such as synthetic cannabis. The purpose of the PSA is to help protect the health of, and minimise harm to, individuals using psychoactive products.



- The PSA established the Psychoactive Substances Regulatory Authority (the Authority) within the Ministry of Health. The Authority is responsible for ensuring products meet adequate safety requirements before they can be distributed in New Zealand. It also licenses importers, researchers, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers.
- The Psychoactive Substances Amendment Act 2014 (the Amendment Act) came into effect on 8 May 2014. The Amendment Act gives effect to the Government’s decision to introduce legislation ending interim product approvals and interim retailer and wholesaler licences granted under the Act.
- As of 8 May 2014, the Amendment Act revoked all interim product approvals and all interim retail and wholesale licences with immediate effect. Under section 88 of the Psychoactive Substances Act, the Authority issued an urgent recall of all products that had interim product approval.

Interim Regime for Licensing and Approved Substances

- In April 2014 the government announced a decision to bring forward the end of the interim phase of the Psychoactive Substances Act. This decision removed the remaining thirty-six products on sale, effective as of the 8th of May, 2014.
- At this time there are no approved psychoactive products legally available for sale in New Zealand. No products will be available until they have been approved under the Regulations. Regulations are scheduled to be released in mid-2014 for manufacture and wholesale, and mid 2015 for retail.
- Built into the legislation is a requirement for it to be reviewed by the Parliament by 2018. This means that if certain aspects of the law are not working, they can be fixed and the focus can remain on protecting health and minimising harm.
- All interim product approvals have been revoked. This means that there are no approved products on the market and no products can be sold. Interim wholesale and retail licenses have been revoked along with all interim licences for to manufacture psychoactive substances are currently suspended or revoked.
- Retailers can no longer sell the products as they are now unapproved. It is the responsibility of product suppliers to recall their products from the market.
- It is important to remember that even though these products are not longer legally available, they are available on the “blackmarket”. This means that those products that have been recently revoked are now being circulated illegally alongside those products that were removed by the Ministry of Health when the initial legislation first came into force because they posed too great a risk of harm.



Psychoactive Substances: legal lowdown for young people

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POSSESSION OFFENCES

- It is an offence for any person under the age of 18 to purchase, or be in possession of, any psychoactive substances, including approved products. Any person who commits an offence under this provision is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500 (s 48 PSA).
- The Youth Court **does not** have jurisdiction to deal with a young person charged with an infringement offence under the PSA (s 109 PSA). Youth Court jurisdiction may only be available if the young person is charged with another offence that falls within the Youth Court jurisdiction, and both offences arise out of the same transaction, and it is desirable or convenient that the charges be heard together. **This is concerning as it creates a jurisdictional anomaly for young people who will not be dealt with in the Youth Court.**
- The law treats the possession of cannabis, and the possession of psychoactive substances (which are often referred to as “synthetic cannabis”) differently.
- There is some concern that frontline police may not have the ability to make an “on the spot” determination of whether a cannabis-like substance is in fact cannabis, or whether it is a psychoactive substance. If the substance is indeed cannabis, the young person is entitled to the benefit of the Youth Court and diversionary processes. If the substance is a psychoactive substance, the young person is caught by the offence provisions of the PSA, and propelled into the District Court.
- Furthermore, the onus is on the young person to challenge any determination that they are in possession of a psychoactive substance.
- If an infringement notice has been issued for possession of a psychoactive substance (under s 74 PSA) and the young person wishes to challenge the infringement, they must request a hearing in writing within 28 days after service of a reminder notice in respect of the offence (s 21(6) Summary Proceedings Act 1957).
- The legislation is not clear whether the cost of any testing that needs to be undertaken to determine the nature of the substance will fall on the young person. The test necessary to determine whether a substance is a psychoactive substance are incredibly expensive (approximately \$1000 per test). It is unlikely that a young person will be able to meet this cost, and therefore may be less likely to challenge an infringement in the District Court.

Youth Court Judge Tony Fitzgerald shares some of his experiences of this issue in the Youth Court:

"Over the past two or three years, psychoactive substances, or what is commonly call “synthetic cannabis” has featured prominently in the profile of young people coming before the Youth Courts in which I sit across the greater Auckland region. My impression is that it has become the drug of choice for many young people whose offending is directly related to such use.

Here are just a few snapshots of cases that have come before me in the past week where synthetic cannabis has featured; these are typical of what is seen on any Youth Court day anywhere in the Auckland region at least.

One boy admitted charges of theft and burglary which were committed to help fund his \$80 a day synthetic cannabis habit. When he first appeared in Court last year a forensic assessment was carried out because of concerns about the effect synthetic cannabis was having on his cognitive functioning. A further assessment was required recently because he had started experiencing

auditory and visual hallucinations. The psychotic symptoms were assessed as being the result of his synthetic drug use. The other major impact on him (and this is true of all the users I see), was the damage to his physical and mental energy levels, preventing him from properly engaging in education, pro-social and therapeutic programmes, making it a huge uphill battle to get out of the rut he was in.

Another boy faced charges for violence within his home, assaulting his mother and smashing up the house, including leaving knife holes in walls and the fridge door.

There was another boy who had been doing well at school previously, and was talented at art and sports, who had disengaged from all such activities and presented with a number of symptoms of depression.

In a bail opposition form for a child offender the police had set out in a table (about a page long) the number of times, in recent months, they had picked him up off the streets grossly effected by synthetic cannabis. In a separate table they set out the escalation in his increasingly violent offending during that

same period.

The number of cases in which this drug features is also a concern. In this morning's Youth Court list, on files that have reports on them that refer to underlying causes of offending, synthetic cannabis is mentioned in all but one".

You can go here for more information on Psychoactive Substances

NZ Drug Foundation:

<http://www.drugfoundation.org.nz/psychoactive-substances-act>

Ministry of Health:

<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/psychoactive-substances-regulation>

Ministry of Health Psychoactive Substances Hotline: 0800 789 652

National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766

Alcohol and Drug Helpline: 0800 787 797

Maori Helpline 0800 787 798

Pasifika Helpline 0800 787 799

All three Helplines are available 10am – 10pm 7 days. They provide confidential advice and have an up to date list of all regional treatment

Case Brief



High Court applies Youth Justice principles: **Discharge Without Conviction**

R v Q [2014] NZHC 550

This sentencing by Justice Winkelmann in the High Court is important as it confirms that proceedings that would ordinarily have been conducted in the Youth Court, but which are conducted in the adult jurisdiction, should apply the youth justice principles, including those principles contained in the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989 (CYPFA) and relevant international conventions.

Facts

Q, his brother and the victim, Stephen Dudley, were students at the same school and were involved in a fight after a rugby training session. Q and the victim were both 15 years old at the time.

After punching the victim a number of times in the torso, Q and his brother left the scene, under the impression that the victim seemed okay. The victim subsequently lost consciousness and died. His death was caused by an undiagnosed heart condition which made him vulnerable in times of traumatic stress. There was no clear link between Q's offending and the victim's death.

Q was charged with manslaughter in the High Court. This charge was later amended to assault.

Sentencing Analysis

Winkelmann J acknowledged that she was bound by the principles of the Sentencing Act 2002. However, citing *Pouwhare v J*, the Chief Judge proposed to take into account youth justice principles underlying the youth justice provisions of the Children Young Persons and their Families Act 1989. Winkelmann J also noted that, were it not for the fact that Q was initially charged with manslaughter, which automatically brought him within the jurisdiction of the High Court, the assault charge would have been handled within the jurisdiction of the Youth Court and youth justice principles would have been applied.

When assessing the appropriateness of a discharge without conviction under s 106 of the Sentencing Act, Winkelmann J made the following observations:

- Q's youth was highly relevant to assessing culpability. It was accepted that the adolescent brain is far from fully developed and consequently, teenagers have impaired decision-making and a tendency to impulsive conduct. Adolescents are also particularly subject to peer pressure. Science now confirms "... what any parent could tell us about the behaviour of teenagers in their household".

- Because Q, as a 16 year old, is at a critical point in his development, youth is relevant in assessing the consequences of conviction. Citing the s 208 CYPFA principles and their emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration, it was stated that:

1. The outcome of court proceedings such as these for young offenders has an enhanced, even exaggerated capacity to contribute either constructively or destructively to a young person's future.

2. It was material that had this case been dealt with in the Youth Court, it would have almost certainly resulted in a discharge without conviction.

3. When addressing the need to hold Q accountable for the harm caused and to denounce schoolyard fighting, the sentencing process itself was sufficient denunciation for the purposes of deterrence.

- Emphasis was placed on the importance of encouraging Q's rehabilitation and reintegration into both his education and the community. Q's young age, lack of previous offending or violent behaviour, lack of continuing threat to the community and genuine determination to complete secondary education and gain entrance into University were mitigating considerations.

- When these factors were weighed against the seriousness of offending, the consequences of conviction would be disproportionate to the gravity of offending. Q, and the community, have a vested interest in his reintegration into education and the community.

On the issue of permanent name suppression, it was material that Q would have been had the benefit of automatic name suppression under the CYPFA. Both the Crown and the Chief Judge accepted that automatic name suppression under the CYPFA is an implicit acknowledgment of the degree of hardship a young person will suffer as opposed to an adult if their name was published.

International instruments were taken into account. Namely, the rights of young people under various international conventions to have their need for rehabilitation and reintegration respected through the criminal justice system.

There was not countervailing consideration which outweighed the potential damage caused to Q by being identified, which would inhibit or prevent his rehabilitation.

It was conceded that permanent name suppression would need to be granted to Q's brother to protect Q's identity.

Special Report

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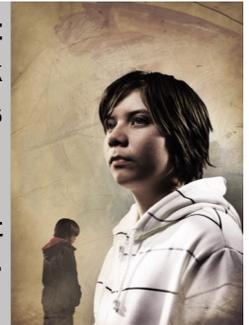
Talking Trouble NZ

Language and communication difficulties: children and young people involved with the legal system

Sally Kedge speech-language therapist
(Speech Science, School of Psychology, University of Auckland)
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“Have you ever wondered if young people completely understand what you’re saying to them? How easy it is for them to participate in the talk involved in your work? How common are oral language competence issues in the young people who are involved in the legal system?”

Speech-language therapist Sally Kedge recently presented to the Youth Court Judges about the prevalence of young people in our system with language and communication difficulties. Sally shares some of her insights in this field of work.



The speech-language therapists from **Talking Trouble NZ** are helping to answer questions like those above.

International research indicates that about **60% of the young people involved in youth justice systems have significant difficulties with oral language** (e.g. Bryan K, Freer J, Furlong C. Language and communication difficulties in juvenile offenders. International Journal of language and communication difficulties, 2007; 42, 505-520.)

Although the New Zealand research in this area has only just started, we have no reason to think that this will be a very different statistic. This means that many of the young people progressing through our courts are likely to be vulnerable; they may not fully understand what is being said to them and it may not be easy for them to get across their ideas and feelings. Participating in talking situations designed to help them may well be challenging. Currently in New Zealand, they are highly unlikely to have been assessed or treated by a speech-language therapist.

Our oral language competence is not usually something we need to give much thought to (unless we are perhaps travelling to a different country where a different language from our own is spoken), yet it allows us to do so much. We need to be able to talk and understand to participate in education, manage our relationships, deal with our emotions, express our thoughts and ideas and negotiate when someone does not agree with us. Oral language also underpins the development of reading, writing and spelling. The literacy needs of young and adult offenders are often talked about, but it is highly likely that many of those with literacy problems may also be struggling with spoken language.

Tama’s Story

Tama’s story illustrates many of the issues. It is based on a real young person but all identifying information has been removed and his name has been changed.

At Tama’s Family Group Conference a plan was made and the importance of sticking to this plan was stressed to Tama. He nodded when asked if he understood what he had to do. He shook his head when he was asked if he had any questions.

When asked later about the content of the plan and the conditions of bail, Tama was unable to explain what he had to do. He had not been able to follow the talk that went on around him at the Family Group Conference. He found it hard to answer any of the questions but knew that it was important to cooperate as best as he could. He could not follow the jargon and complex vocabulary. He was confused by time concepts and complicated grammar. He could not read sufficiently well to understand the documentation. **He later breached the conditions of his bail.**

Speech-language therapy role?

It’s extremely rare for young people in NZ over 8 to receive a speech-language therapy assessment. However, if Tama received an assessment, what information would it provide, and can anything be done to help him?



Talking Trouble NZ: Tama's Story

Speech-language therapists are interested in the following information:

<u>Understanding of spoken language</u>	<u>Expressive language</u>
Can he hear?	What is the quality of his talk like?
Can he listen and remember?	Grammar?
Can he make sense of what others say?	Vocabulary?
Knowledge of vocabulary and concepts like time / emotion words?	Speech sounds?
Complexity of grammar?	Fluency and voice?
Read between the lines?	What can he do with talking?
Deal with non-literal language? Sarcasm? Jokes?	Explain his role in an event?
Does he realise when he hasn't understood what he hears?	Reason?
<u>Social use of language</u>	Problem solve?
How does he relate to peers and adults?	Resolve conflict?
How does he use aspects of communication like tone of voice, eye contact, tone of voice, taking turns to talk, etc?	Express his perspective or emotions?
<u>Related information</u>	
How is he progressing with:	
Non-verbal skills? Reading and writing? Progress in education? Friendships?	
Mental health? Behaviour? Substance abuse?	

When the important adults in Tama's life were asked about his oral language, they said things like this: **"He talks OK. He can talk in sentences.** He gets what you're saying and knows what's going on. He's pretty quiet and keeps himself to himself. **He just chooses not to participate. He can't be bothered."**

An Audiologist established that Tama had mild problems with his hearing. Although these hearing difficulties were not stopping him from hearing what was said to him completely, they would mean that he would need to concentrate harder than his peers with good hearing and noisy environments would be challenging. Hearing difficulties are common in vulnerable young people and are often undiagnosed and untreated.

Listening, remembering and fully understanding what others say are challenging skills for Tama. He is very easily distracted, especially when the topic does not interest him much. Even when he is trying hard, he finds it difficult to stay focused on the information being talked about, especially if the words are

complicated and the sentences are long and complex. Busy, noisy situations are particularly tricky, but **a lot of the language Tama hears wafts over him without him tuning in properly, a bit like a radio on in the background.**

Others might not be aware of this as Tama tries hard to comply with people – he nods, says yes if anyone asks him if he understands and uses his eyes to watch what others are doing to help him work out what he is expected to do. **He does not always realise that he has not fully understood what he has heard.** He has begun to think that everything is difficult for him and there is not much point trying at anything challenging and this has started to damage his self-esteem and confidence.

Tama understands the language addressed to him if it is about what he can see in front of him, is short, has easy words and simple grammar and is about a topic that he is interested in. **He is often confused by more complicated vocabulary e.g. legal terms, emotion words, words to do with time and**

complex grammar is confusing for him. Reading between the lines to understand inferred meanings is hard and it can be hard for him to understand others' points of view or perspective on events. Sarcasm and metaphor are often missed by Tama.

Tama can talk. He can use short sentences and he has no speech sound difficulties. He does not stammer and his voice sounds like others of his age. **On the surface his talking seems fine.**

However the quality of his talk is highly compromised compared to other teenagers of his age. His sentences are short and use basic grammar and he does not always have the vocabulary he needs, relying on 'thing' to fill in the gaps. It is clear that **Tama finds it challenging to explain his role in an event, reason, problem solve, resolve conflict, express his perspective or emotions.** It is hard for him to interact with his peers with ease. He tends to be on the outside of any group.

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Talking Trouble NZ: Tama's Story

Tama does not have a medical diagnosis and this is common for many of the young people who have oral language difficulties. Oral language problems are associated with conditions like Autism Spectrum Disorders, Traumatic Brain Injury, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, learning difficulties and intellectual impairments but oral language difficulties often occur without any other condition being present.

It is also common that Tama's oral language difficulties have been **undetected and untreated**. Sometimes this is because young people become skilled at hiding their problems because they are embarrassed, ashamed or don't know how to seek assistance but also because professionals are not clear about what to look for and speech language therapy services are rarely used for older children currently. Adolescence can be a challenging time for many, and may mask underlying oral language problems which do not disappear with age. Superficial skills with talking often mask more significant problems and we often hear the comment, 'he swears really well'. Children and young people with language difficulties are often described as rude, uncooperative, slow, unmotivated or quiet, and although they may be any or all of these things, such a presentation may hide an oral language competence issue. Vulnerable young people are often transient which makes it difficult for professionals to share information and gain a thorough assessment of their skills and needs.

Oral language difficulties can compromise the success of interventions designed to help vulnerable young people – most involve talking (and often literacy). Anger management, stress management, Family Group Conferences, counselling, Court Hearings and classrooms are all highly verbal settings.

Changes may need to be made to the way the talk in these settings is conducted to support the 60% of vulnerable young people who may be struggling with oral language.

What did this mean for Tama?

The key adults supporting Tama needed to know how to recognise his oral language difficulties and know how to change their own talk. They needed to know what he can be expected to understand (**about at a 7 to 8 year old level**). They needed to know when he might struggle to participate and how to support him with strategies for breaking down information e.g. what his FGC plan means he has to do, using visuals to give him information, checking understanding (without just saying 'do you understand?'), **teaching important vocabulary e.g. what 'breaching bail' means**. His teachers needed to consider how they delivered instructions and the curriculum content in the light of his oral language profile and he needed an individual education plan that aimed to explicitly build his oral skills. He needed ongoing input from a speech-language therapist.

What does all this mean for NZ?

We need a response that is specific to NZ and addresses our **unique cultural and linguistic situation**. There are implications for children and young people going through both Care and Protection and Youth Justice systems. How can we ensure that language difficulties are not missed? How can we address any gaps in skills? What do effective interventions look like? Who do they target, the young people themselves or the adults?

If a young person has a communication need, how adults talk and interact with them can make a big difference. They will engage and want to participate. They will understand more and are less likely to disengage. Adults will spend less time managing behaviour. Education, skills

training, or any other interventions will be more successful.

Lord Ramsbotham (UK) HM Chief Inspector of Prisons has been a strong advocate for involving speech-language therapists in the justice system, and in 2006 he commented:

"I have to admit that in all the years I have been looking at prisons and the treatment of offenders, I **have never found anything so capable of doing so much for so many people at so little cost as the work that Speech and Language Therapists carry out**. When I went to the young offender establishment at Polmont I was walking with the governor, who told me that **if, by some mischance, he had to get rid of all his staff, the last one out of the gate would be his Speech and Language Therapist.**"

Talking Trouble NZ has made a start on tackling these issues in New Zealand and has started a research programme, professional development workshops, and networking but more is needed.

Please contact talkingtroublenz@gmail.com for reference lists, further information or to go on our mailing list.

Relevant resources

www.talkingtroublenz.org (our own organisation)
<http://www.theadvocatesgateway.org> (extremely comprehensive resources about communication for legal professionals)
http://www.rcslt.org/about/docs/rcslt_justice_evidence_dossier_final (Royal College of Speech Language Therapist's 2012 research review)
<http://www.sentencetrouble.info> (UK professional development resources for youth justice)
<http://pamelasnow.blogspot.co.nz/p/blog-page.html> (Australian Researcher)

Special Report

THE YOUTH COURT
OF NEW ZEALAND | TE KOOTI TAIOHI
O AOTEAROA

MIXIT: a community arts project for young refugees

Mixit is a community arts project for youth from 13 – 20 years. It supports young people from a diversity of backgrounds to gain core life skills – confidence, self-expression, communication and socialisation. It brings together refugee, migrant and locals through a mix up of artistic activities. The primary means and central platform the programme uses are the performing arts: dance, drama and music. These are vehicles used to build stronger individuals and develop capacities to successfully deal with life transitions

Fathe Tesfamariam and Felix Becroft are two young men who both started up with Mixit as 14 year olds. Fathe is from Sudan (although his family are originally from Eritrea) and Felix is a 5th generation New Zealander from West Auckland. They both were regular Mixers (a Mixit participant) and went on to be key contributors to the Youth Leadership programme. Now at 21 and 22 years old, and moved on from regular weekly involvement, they continue as creative contributors and role models. Of their time spent at Mixit through their teenage years they reflect on the project's impact on their lives.

"I don't know what I would have become if I hadn't gone to Mixit. It helped me make strong decisions about what I want to do with my life. As a teenager it was a place I could go to shake it out and express myself every Saturday instead of staying home and getting bored. It gave me a good thing to focus on and I didn't have to pay. It was a place where I could lean and I was encouraged to stay open to new experiences, be free and give things a go" - Fathe.

"Using performing arts as a basis for skill development, Mixit was a place that affirmed my passion for performing arts; not only in terms of my own skill development, but also the ways these skills can assist in everyday life" - Felix.

The project provides a strong sense of belonging. The non-judgemental welcoming space offers somewhere to increase English, learn to look someone in the eye (as is expected in NZ although discouraged in the cultures most refugee and migrants come from), increase self-confidence, communication skills and build positive social interaction skills. For many it's a 2nd home – with a group of people they know they can turn to for help. For others, particularly NZ locals, it's the first time they get to hang out and become friends with people from extraordinarily different backgrounds and experiences. There is an underlying philosophy that everyone has both something to bring and something to learn – from the experienced professional artists to those freshly arrived from the Mangere Refugee Centre.



Fathe Tesfamariam (front left) and Felix Becroft (front right)

Both Fathe and Felix articulate how the Mixit support continues to influence their transitions into professional pathways.

"The amount of artists and collaborators of a very high level that have come through Mixit has formed a core of a network that I have, and will continue to utilise in my own career as an actor and maker of creative works" - Felix.

"Networks, opportunities and confidence to meet people. Mixit gave me skills to head into the world. It made me not afraid to take on anything" - Fathe.

NZ communities have a high number of young people with little guidance and support, either from within, or outside of, their families, nor with many positive role models. For many there are too few opportunities outside of school, church, mosque or ethnic communities where appropriate socialisation can be experienced in a safe way that allows space for young people to navigate their own way into adulthood and to deal with critical transitions. Fathe is very aware of what he sees around him in West Auckland amongst young people.

"A lot of guys I know are not very aware and they don't know how to listen. They are fundamentally good people but they break the rules, do silly stuff that gets them into trouble. They haven't got many basic life skills to navigate their futures. They could change but there needs to be some serious change of directions to move beyond theft, drugs and bad things. Some of them they can't speak in full sentences, they can hardly read or write. They are nice guys but its hidden and you can't always know, but you can have an idea where it started [the downward path]. It's a lot to do with not having a connection to good people in the first place. Other people they give up on these guys, right at the start, so how can they get somewhere? I know a lot of people who live in very small, constricted places in their minds and they are not open and flexible, but you need to be open to try new things and be prepared for something different. It's so sad I have some friends who get themselves into trouble so easily" - Fathe

Special Report

MIXIT: continued

Healthy socialisation involves a complexity of players and interaction. It's not just about the newcomers in a community doing all the work, its success also requires a convergence between migrant and locals all contributing to positive inter-cultural understanding and fluency. As our communities rapidly diversify there are plenty of opportunities for ignorance, suspicion and hostility. Schools are often regarded as the meeting place of multiculturalism, and they are, but not always very effectively. Felix reflects about his experiences at school.



*"My high school was interesting because it felt at times as if multi-cultural interaction was discouraged. The school's Maori students had their own house, classrooms and teachers. We (the rest of the school) almost never got to interact with the Maori students at all. I don't think the school realised the racial tension this created, and how it encouraged further racial divide in the rest of the school. The amount of times I would hear, or see written on the wall **'Black vs. White - fight after school'** was quite frightening. It fostered a real attitude of 'us' and 'them' in a lot of the students - which would often perpetuate in violence".*

Mixit has a central commitment to providing a platform where people put their ethnicity, religion, culture, past and present grievances aside and step into a shared space that has a basis of connection and meeting points. Through the fun and energy of creativity participants get to belong and become part of a collective multi-cultural support network.

For many Mixers the arts basis of the project does not mean they are interested in a vocational career in the arts. Some Mixers are focused on, or are currently studying in, a variety of directions: medicine, trades, science and sports. However both Fathe and Felix are creatively driven, and Mixit helped inspire them to take on serious training in performance (Felix at Toi Whakaari NZ Drama School and Fathe at South Seas Film and TV). Both were recently invited to be part of a new Interns initiative within the project.



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"Having just finished a performing arts degree my skills are now at a level where I can come into Mixit in a teaching capacity, combining what I have learnt about my craft, with the many years I have spent at Mixit learning how these skills can be used outside of a specific arts context. Teaching and sharing skills is always a wonderful learning opportunity for everyone involved" - Felix.

"I can participate in different ways at Mixit now, like recording music and being an intern leading groups. I'm taking things more seriously and I'm not anymore in the back. I'm able to step up with the leaders and think with them, share my thoughts. I've got new levels of questioning, understanding and what 'follow through' really means. I'm getting opportunities to think beyond myself - how to guide others" - Fathe.

Both young men are motivated about their future -

"I hope one day to establish myself as a creator of film and theatre. It's an exciting time to be creative" - Felix.

"I want more training, plus be able to work at the same time and earn money. But I have another dream - that when I'm an older man with more skills I would like to go back to my countries in Africa. There are a lot of very damaged people there and I would like to offer support through creativity - performing and running workshops" - Fathe.

Mixit is a free project for youth and is open to anyone between 13 - 20+ yrs who are willing to give new things a go. Mixit assists with transport through co-ordinating a comprehensive system of a van, volunteer drivers and public transport passes. It is a yearlong programme that runs school term courses every Saturday. No experience is required and inspirational fun is a certainty. Mixers will meet a host of new people, discover things about themselves they haven't yet found out, develop networks and opportunities and find that they too can be somebody.

For more info and enquires about what's happening right now at Mixit visit www.mixit.co.nz



Book Review



Youth Justice in Aotearoa New Zealand: Law, Policy and Critique

Alison Cleland
Khylee Quince

Mā te whakaaro nui e hanga te whare; mā to mātauranga e whakaū

Big ideas create the house; knowledge maintains it

At its inception in 1989 with the revolutionary Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, our youth justice system was truly a structure born from pioneering ideas. However, over the past 25 years the landscape of youth justice in Aotearoa New Zealand has changed significantly.

Youth Justice in Aotearoa New Zealand: Law, Policy and Critique is a comprehensive review of our system today - its origins, evolution, successes and failures – through legal, social science and criminological research and perspectives. One of the key aims of this book is to evaluate whether Aotearoa New Zealand's youth justice system, in its current form, is fit for purpose.

This evaluation of our legislation, professional practices and the operation of the wider system is undertaken in a balanced, challenging and forward-thinking way, within both international and domestic frameworks. The system is considered in the light of international human rights expectations, including those relating to youth justice processes and to the rights and protection of indigenous peoples. The place of the Treaty of Waitangi and domestic models of Māori health and wellbeing provide a solid contextual foundation for subsequent discussion on one of the greatest challenges to our system – the disproportionate overrepresentation of young Māori.

The following key issues are explored in depth:

- Constructions of youth: who are the young people that offend? How do society and the law respond to them?
- The Children, Young Persons and their Families Act: is the legislative scheme fit for purpose?
- Jurisdiction: how does the law and legal processes define and treat children and young people? Does our system reflect international standards?
- Aotearoa New Zealand's "gift to the world": is the Family Group Conference achieving what it set out to do? Are FGC processes and outcomes truly restorative? Are FGCs "culturally appropriate"? Are they really "indigenous"?
- Balancing interests: how does the system respond to young people with complex needs? This includes discussion of youth forensic services in the Youth Courts, the role of education officers and The Intensive Monitoring Group
- Ngā Kōti Rangatahi: how does the system currently provide for cultural matters in the youth justice response? How have marae-based Youth Courts balanced a formal justice response with traditional Māori protocol and practices? Do youth justice processes have the potential to be transformative as well as restorative?



**Youth Justice in
Aotearoa New Zealand**
Law, Policy and Critique

Alison Cleland
Khylee Quince

The book concludes that in the modern landscape of Aotearoa New Zealand, an internationally acceptable and domestically effective youth justice system must concern itself with the whole child or young person that comes before the system.

Recent developments in our system, which incorporate holistic and inter-disciplinary approaches to meet the needs of the increasingly complex realities of young offenders, are on the right track. However, within this potential lies the continual challenge for our youth justice system – to account for young people's contemporary realities, while helping them to maintain their cultural integrity and supporting resilient and healthy development.

Aotearoa New Zealand now has two comprehensive monographs on youth justice that are useful for youth justice personnel, legal academics and students, criminologists and policy makers:

Youth Justice in New Zealand by Dr Nessa Lynch was published in December 2012.

You can order a copy here: <http://www.thomsonreuters.co.nz/youth-justice-in-new-zealand/productdetail/121684>

Youth Justice in Aotearoa New Zealand: Law, Policy and Critique by Alison Cleland and Khylee Quince will be launched on Wednesday 30 July 2014 at Waipapa Marae, University of Auckland.

You can order a copy here: http://store.lexisnexis.co.nz/product?product=youth-justice-in-aotearoa-new-zealand-law-policy-and-critique&meta_F_and=9781927183786

Latest Research / Articles



An update on some of the current research and publications from the Youth Justice sector

New Zealand

Youth engagement in the justice system across time – risk, resources and service experiences

Authors: Jackie Sanders, Robyn Munford and Linda Liebenberg

Source: <http://www.youthsay.co.nz/massey/fms/Resilience/Documents/Engagement%20in%20the%20Justice%20System.pdf>

Abstract: This report presents a preliminary analysis of the relationship between involvement in the justice system and a range of other indicators for a group of vulnerable youth participating in the New Zealand Youth Transitions Study; a longitudinal study of vulnerable youth.

Violent Girls and Youth Justice System: Why current systems are failing this at risk population

Author: Charlotte Best

Source: *Public Interest Law Journal of New Zealand* (2013) PILJNZ 54-61

Abstract: Violent girls are a unique group of offenders that bring complex histories and problems with them to the system. This paper argues that more positive gender specific initiatives are needed to effectively cater for violent girls in the youth justice system.

Australia

Innovative approaches for dealing with young people appearing in the Children's Court of Victoria who are charged with sexual offending

Author: Magistrate Jennifer Bowles

Source: Presentation for the National Juvenile Justice Summit, Melbourne, March 2013 <http://www.childrenscourt.vic.gov.au/innovative-approaches-dealing-young-people-appearing-childrens-court-victoria-who-are-charged-sexual>

Abstract: This paper describes the operation of the specialist Sexual Offences List for children charged with sexual offences in Victoria.

Getting beyond "Just" talk – making thinking visible in conferencing contexts

Author: Jane Douglas

Source: Paper presented at Australasian Youth Justice Conference "Changing Trajectories of Offending and Re Offending" Canberra, May 2013

Abstract: The merging complexity of young people referred to community conferencing in Northern Tasmania has necessitated a review of current conferencing practice. It is clear that those referred for diversion by police and courts are presenting with high criminogenic risks and needs than previously envisaged, or considered in existing legislation.

Diverting indigenous offenders from the criminal justice system

Author: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Institute of Family Studies

Source: Produced for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse, December 2013 <http://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=60129545614>

Abstract: This resource sheet reviews evidence for the functioning and effectiveness of various diversionary programs in the context of Indigenous contact with the justice systems. These include both mainstream and Indigenous-specific programs.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in children: implications for judicial administration

Authors: Samantha Parkinson and Sara McLean

Source: *Journal of Judicial Administration* Issue 22, 2013

Abstract: Children can display a range of neurocognitive and psychosocial deficits resulting from being exposed to alcohol prenatally – frequently attracting a diagnosis of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). This article discusses the cognitive and social impairments exhibited by children with FASD, the challenges these present for the criminal justice system, and offers suggestions for addressing these challenges. Difficulty in understanding and producing oral language, in particular, may infringe on the child's basic rights to a fair trial by limiting their understanding of proceedings and decision-making. Custodial sentences may lead to a range of negative outcomes including victimisation and exploitation by peers. Cognitive deficits need to be taken into account throughout the criminal justice process to obtain the optimal outcome for all parties.

Europe

Juvenile female sex offenders: offender and offence characteristics

Authors: Miriam Wijkman, Catrien Bijeveld and Jan Hendricks

Source: *European Journal of Criminology* 11(1) January 2014, 23-38

Abstract: This study comprises all female juveniles convicted for sexual offences in the Netherlands between 1993 and 2008. Summarizing the offender motives as they emerged from offender and victim statements, five offender subtypes are identified. The findings are discussed in terms of implications for research and treatment.

Latest Research / Articles



United States

Females in the juvenile justice system: who are they and how do they fare?

Authors: Charlotte Lyn Bright, Patricia L Kohl and Melissa Jonson-Reid

Source: *Crime and delinquency* 60(1) Feb 2014

Abstract: Increasing numbers of female youth involved in the juvenile justice system highlight the need to examine this population. This study enumerates distinct profiles of risk and protection among juvenile court-involved females, examining young adult outcomes associated with these profiles.

Technology, Teen Dating Violence and Abuse and Bullying

Authors: Janine Zweig, Meredith Dank, Pamela Lachman and Jennifer Yahner

Source: <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?id=412891&RSSFeed=Urban.xml>

Abstract: This study explores the role of technology in teen dating violence and abuse and teen bullying. Twenty-six percent of dating teens reported experiencing abuse online or through texts from their partners, and 17 percent of all youth said they were cyber bullied by a peer.

Annotated Bibliography on Juvenile Justice

Author: National Institute of Corrections

Source: nicic.gov/Library/027879

Abstract: A comprehensive bibliography of resources on juvenile justice that covers: courts, assessment tools, programs, facilities, training, websites and information on juvenile sex offenders.

The Dreary State of Juvenile Mental Health Care: Inside and Outside the Justice System

Author: James Swift

Source: Juvenile Justice Information Exchange <http://jjie.org/the-dreary-state-of-juvenile-mental-health-care-inside-and-outside-the-justice-system/>

Abstract: The way youth are served has changed in large part due to the increasing number of young people that require services related to mental or behavioural disorders. As high as 70 percent of the children that pass through the juvenile system have either a diagnosable behavioural or mental health condition.

Screening and assessments used in the Juvenile Justice System: Evaluating risks and needs of youth in the juvenile justice system

Author: Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts and the Centre for families, Children and the Courts

Source: http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/AOCBrief_AssessOnline.pdf

Abstract: This briefing provides an overview of screening and assessment instruments that may be administered to youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system

Updated inventory of evidence-based, research-based, and promising practices for prevention and intervention services for children and juveniles in the Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Systems

Author: University of Washington

Source: <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/ReportFile/1537>

Abstract: This inventory includes those mental health, child welfare and juvenile justice intervention and prevention services that are provided to children and juveniles in Washington State and are considered to use promising practices

State trends: legislative victories from 2011-2013: removing youth from the adult criminal justice system

Author: Campaign for Youth Justice

Source: <http://jjjustice.org/cfyjstatetrends/>

Abstract: Over the past eight years, twenty three states have enacted forty pieces of legislation to reduce the prosecution of youth in adult criminal courts and end the placement of youth in adult jails and prisons.

Helping traumatized children: tips for Judges

Author: National Traumatic Child Stress Network

Source: <http://www.isc.idaho.gov/cp/docs/Helping%20Tramatized%20Children-A%20Judges%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Abstract: This factsheet for judges and other court personnel outlines the impact of trauma on children's development, beliefs, and behaviours. It is designed to help professionals in the juvenile justice and family court system become more effective in addressing the unique needs and challenges of the traumatised children and adolescents they work with.

Ten things every Juvenile Court Judge should know about trauma and delinquency

Author: National Traumatic Child Stress Network

Source: http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/trauma%20bulletin_0.pdf

Abstract: The purpose of this technical assistance bulletin is to highlight ten crucial areas that judges need to be familiar with in order to best assist traumatised youth who enter the juvenile justice system.

A detailed cost evaluation of a juvenile drug court that follows the juvenile drug court model (16 strategies)

Authors: Shannon Carey, Theresa Allen, Tamara Perkins and Mark Waller

Source: *Juvenile and Family Court Journal* 64(4) 2013

Abstract: Although juvenile drug courts (JDCs) have now been in operation for 17 years, there is still no definitive appraisal as to this model's cost effectiveness and in particular, no detailed cost analysis of a JDC program following the 16 strategies until this one. The cost data presented in this paper build on the process and outcome evaluations performed on the Clackamas County Juvenile Drug Court (CCJDC).

A letter to be proud of

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This is a letter written by a victim to the young person who committed a burglary in respect of his property

Two cousins committed a burglary, spurred on by their much older cousin. Both young persons have a history of committing burglaries. The victim attended the Family Group Conference for both young offenders, who carried out their FGC Plans successfully. When the matters were returned to the Youth Court for discharge, one of the youths handed this letter to the Judge.

In addition to the offer contained in the letter below, the victim also gave the young person back the \$124 reparation that the young person had saved up and paid. The victim made this offer to both cousins.

This act of generosity by the victim would have cost close to \$4000.

*All names have been changed to preserve anonymity

Hi Alex,

It is great to receive a letter from you. It is clear that you have good intentions and a positive attitude. It is also obvious that you have some good people supporting you. Lisa Thompson believes in you and I bet your Mum is an absolute rock.

I can relate to where you were with your relationship with your cousins. I could tell you some stories of my stupidity, 45 years ago. In those days the Cops gave you a hiding, took you home to your parents and you got another hiding. Believe me, the pain wasn't worth it.

Lisa tells me you showed up to a meeting with half the money for the cost of repairs. This tells me that you are a decent person and have good intentions. If farming, fishing and forestry are your passions, then go hard, my boy, and achieve some serious goals. A truck driving licence would be a handy asset in life, and can be used to earn money while you are studying or between jobs, in your chosen career.

Enclosed is an application for a berth on the Spirit of Adventure. I highly recommend that you give it a go. It is a life changing experience. Your cousins will definitely not be able to bully you after a trip on the Spirit. Family friends have been sent on this boat and in both cases, they came back different people.

I wanted to meet you and your Mum first before I made this decision, but I am very busy and the Spirit of Adventure have a vacancy in December this year – if we get the application in quickly.

My wife Karen and I will pay for the trip and we do not want any repayment.

We are very happy to offer you the opportunity in the hope that it will give you a huge boost in confidence and positivity. It is all up to you after that young fella.

So mate, if you are keen, fill out the application form and send it back to me ASAP.

Maybe we can meet soon and swap stories.

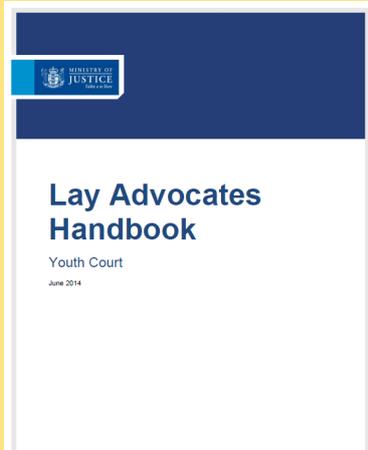
Cheers,

Mike

News Worth Celebrating



Lay Advocates Handbook Released



The growing appointment and use of Lay Advocates constitutes one of the biggest changes in Youth Court operations in the last 20 years.

Much energy and work has gone into the vitalisation of the use, coordination and training of Lay Advocates over the past year.

These efforts have culminated in the publication of the Lay Advocates Handbook in June 2014.

A Lay Advocate's primary roles are to help the Youth Court understand the cultural context and other cultural matters relating to the child or young person, and to represent the views of the young person and their whānau, hapū or iwi, while providing support to the young person, their family/whānau during the Court processes.

This handbook provides Lay Advocates, Judges and Court Staff with a comprehensive code of the processes, boundaries and intricacies of the Lay Advocate role.

Rangatahi Courts Launch in Christchurch and Huntly

The Christchurch Rangatahi Court was launched at Ngā Hau e Whā marae on 22 March and had its first sitting on 28 April.



The Huntly Rangatahi Court was launched at Rāhui Pōkeka marae and had its first sitting on 28 March 2014.

Both launches were well attended by members of the judiciary, Youth Justice stakeholders, members of the local hāpū and marae, kuia and kaumātua and members of the community. The Chief Justice, Dame Sian Elias attended the launch of the Christchurch Rangatahi Court and her address reflected upon the invaluable service and opportunity that the Rangatahi Court provides to the community.

There is now a total of fourteen Rangatahi Courts in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Upcoming Youth Justice Workshop

Youth Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (AYCA) prepares the shadow report on Aotearoa's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This workshop will:

- Discuss Aotearoa's performance in relation to international standards
- Give those in the justice sector the first opportunity to advise AYCA on key issues that should be addressed by the shadow report

Where: Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Road, Auckland

When: Thursday 7 August, 5.30 - 7.30 pm

RSVP: email margeryw@vodafone.co.nz (for catering)

