



## The Youth Partnership Project welcomes Social Reinvestment WA's call for action for a new vision for justice in WA, particularly for our most vulnerable young people.

We are proud to provide our support and excited to see the alignment of our shared vision for a better WA

### ACTION

## 1

### PREVENTION

The Youth Partnership Project agrees that prevention and early intervention are essential to ensuring that young people are supported **before** they come into contact with the criminal justice system. We need to ensure the cross-sector of government departments are not only providing secondary and tertiary services, but investing in a comprehensive range of early intervention supports. Young people have told us that this support should be focused on the protective factors of:



Life Skills



Safe Communities



Wellbeing



Supportive Families



Adequate Resources



Educational Engagement

#### What Are We Doing?

We have [engaged young people in a co-design process](#) to identify and understand the protective factors outlined above which help prevent young people's engagement with the criminal justice system.

### ACTION

## 2

### REHABILITATION

A supportive and rehabilitate approach must be taken with young people **at every stage** of engagement with the criminal justice system. There needs to be non-judgemental support to enhance protective factors for all who engage with the criminal justice system; from young people who are considered 'at-risk' to 'prolific priority offenders' and young people in or exiting detention. Additionally, young people at the [Speak Out for Change Summit](#) highlighted that young people need to be empowered to **make positive decisions for themselves** while they are engaged with the system, in order to give them agency and build their capacity, supporting rehabilitation.

### ACTION

## 3

### ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS

In order to make lasting change and address underlying causes of the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system, we must help build capacity and enable contribution and leadership from Aboriginal community, and importantly, Aboriginal young people. This needs to include both representation in strategic forums and decision making, as well as on-the-ground partnerships.

#### What Are We Doing?

The Youth Partnership Project works closely with partners such as The Champion Centre (Armadale's cultural centre) for the delivery of local collaborative programs, and seeks to build capacity of Aboriginal young people through mentoring opportunities. We [engaged Aboriginal young people in the co-design](#) of the partnership model, and have representation of Aboriginal people (including young people) on our Executive Committee.

### ACTION

## 4

### DATA LINKAGES AND MAPPING

It is essential that we have ongoing access to accurate data and analysis to inform our approach to justice. This needs to include data which is disaggregated by age, cultural identity and other key factors, as well as by location so that place-based approaches can be well informed.

#### What Are We Doing?

The Youth Partnership Project has undertaken a micro data mapping of the situation in the South-East Corridor of Perth, which includes analysis of local data related to youth justice, risk and protective factors, and services to support young people. This micro project could be up scaled across the state. Look out for our report, to be launched soon.

### ACTION

## 5

### YOUTH JUSTICE

We must work together to identify young people who have complex needs and indicators which put them at risk of engagement with the justice system. We need to engage them early and proactively provide collaborative support to address risks and enhance protective factors.

#### What Are We Doing?

The Youth Partnership Project has collaborated with all key government agencies in the south east corridor to develop a [shared definition of young people with complex needs](#), enabling us to identify and provide support to young people early who are at-risk of engaging in the juvenile justice system. We are also trialing a proof-point project; the Armadale Youth Intervention Partnership, working with key government agencies and community services to identify and support young people who are at risk of coming into contact with the justice system.