

Portfolio:	Youth Justice
Witness:	Ms Brigid Sunderland
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence
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Relevant text:

Mr CARROLL: There were 129 category 1 incidents involving assault in the 2017–18 financial year.

Ms VALLENCE: Okay, I did not hear that, so I am not sure if Hansard—

Mr CARROLL: One hundred and twenty-nine.

Ms VALLENCE: One hundred and twenty-nine. And how many staff have taken stress leave as a direct result of those?

Question: How many staff have taken stress leave as a direct result of the 129 category one incidents in 2017-18?

Answer:

Departmental employees may make a WorkCover claim for work-related injuries or illnesses. Information relating to the number of standard claims received by the department (including Youth Justice) in 2017-18 is published in the Department of Justice and Community Safety annual report.

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Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence
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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Budget paper 3, page 274, I will turn you to now. It says the actual budget spent on youth justice custodial services—that is a mouthful, isn't it—was \$100.7 million in the 17–18 period and the expected outcome in the 18–19 period is \$156.7 million and the target for 19–20 is \$168.1 million. This represents a \$123.4 million incremental increase on custodial services over the 18–19, 19–20 period. How much of that is directly related to repairs by client damage at Parkville and Malmsbury?

Mr CARROLL: We have been implementing and getting on with the job, above and beyond the Armytage-Ogloff to also—

Ms VALLENCE: How much of the incremental increase—a couple of years ago we were at \$100 million-odd. Your actual for the 18–19 period has exceeded what your target was and you have gone up again, so the incremental over the last two years is \$123.4 million. You have skyrocketed over the run rate from a couple of years ago. How much is related to repairing damage from client services in Parkville and Malmsbury? I am just after a number, Minister.

Question: How much of the custodial services budget from 2017-18, 18-19 and 19-20 is directly related to repairs by client damage at Parkville and Malmsbury?

Answer:

A component of the Youth Justice custodial operating budget is set aside for responsive maintenance and repair works which includes the cost of repairing damage caused to Youth Justice facilities, as well as works for general maintenance issues that arise in the ordinary course of operations that are unrelated to client behaviour. Therefore, as not all responsible repairs and maintenance can be attributed to client damage, direct comparisons cannot be made between the cost of responsive works and the cost of historical works.

The department is committed to addressing legacy maintenance issues to strengthen the safety of the precincts for the workforce and young people.

The cost of repairs due to client damage and other unplanned maintenance is tracking significantly lower for the current financial year compared to previous years.

Youth Justice's overall spend on responsive repair works in 2017-18 was \$4.6 million. As at 30 April 2019, Youth Justice has spent \$2.5 million on responsive repair works for the 2018-19 financial year.

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Relevant text:

Ms SUNDERLAND: So in Victoria that is a 46.8 per cent return rate, which is in fact below the national rate.

Mr HIBBINS: Okay. And how is that trending over time?

Question: Trend of recidivism rates for young people over time.

Answer:

The Report on Government Services 2019 provides data on 'Return to sentenced supervision'. 'Returns to sentenced youth justice supervision' is defined as the proportion of young people released from sentenced supervision who are aged 10–16 years at the time of release who returned to sentenced supervision within 12 months. Available data shows that the Victorian trend is below the national average:

Year	Proportion (Victoria)	Proportion (Australia)
2013-14	39.3%	49.6%
2014-15	44.8%	50.9%
2015-16	46.8%	51.3%

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Relevant text:

Mr HIBBINS: Can I just get a figure on how many of the designated Koori positions are there now and how many will be from the future funding in the budget?

Question: How many designated Koori positions are there now and how many will be from the future funding in the budget?

Answer:

The department has recently appointed a new Aboriginal Executive in Youth Justice to lead the system's response to addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people and to ensure they are receiving appropriate cultural supports. There are currently a number of designated Aboriginal Liaison Officers and one Team Leader who support Aboriginal young people in custody. Two of these positions were created with funding received in the 2017-18 Budget Update and the 2018-19 Budget. The department currently employs two (twelve month) Koori Graduate positions, a Koori Court Advice Worker, and contracts with 13 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver the Community-Based Koori Youth Justice Program.

The 2018-19 Budget included \$10.8 million over four years to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in Victoria's Youth Justice system. This included funding to establish the Koori Youth Justice Taskforce, the first of its kind in Victoria. This investment also provided \$5 million for the Koori Youth Justice Program, providing increased staffing, brokerage and ongoing support to Aboriginal young people on community-based and custodial orders.

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Relevant text:

Mr HIBBINS: Thank you. Do you have figures on the number of people from CALD backgrounds working in the youth justice system as well?

Question: What is the number of people from CALD backgrounds working in the youth justice system?

Answer:

The department does not currently collect data on the number of staff in the Youth Justice system with a CALD background.

The 2019-20 Budget provides funding for seven CALD-specific positions to support Youth Justice staff to engage with young people of CALD backgrounds and ensure access to culturally-appropriate supports, programs and information. This includes funding for a number of CALD Liaison Officers in custody who advocate for and work with young people from CALD backgrounds in youth justice centres; one CALD Program and Education Manager and one CALD Program Coordinator to deliver CALD programs and services in custody; and one Principal Policy Officer to lead work on a CALD Strategy.

The funding also provides for two Community Engagement Officers in the North West and South East Metropolitan Regions who work with at-risk young people from CALD backgrounds to encourage their participation in community and cultural activities.