

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2024-25

The Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC
Minister for Youth Justice

Friday 24 May 2024



System overview

Youth Justice is responsible for the **statutory supervision** of children and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system.



Early intervention services

Delivered by **community service organisations**

Statutory **Children's Court Diversion** Service, with more than **1,400** diversions and **98% successful completions** in 2022-23



Youth Justice community services

Over 20 locations statewide

Over 200 staff delivering **Court advice, case management** and **supervision**

Five Multi Agency Panels for high-risk young people



Youth Justice custodial services

Two **custodial precincts**: Parkville and Cherry Creek

Health and rehabilitation services through public or community health providers

Parkville College – 52 weeks per year, six days per week



Aboriginal Youth Justice

Community based **Aboriginal Youth Justice** program

Culturally responsive services for young people in custody

Implementation of key **Wirikara Kulpa** initiatives

2024-25 Budget overview

The 2024-25 Victorian Budget provides **\$69.2 million** to continue our work to deliver a leading Youth Justice system that reduces offending by children and young people, improves community safety and provides genuine opportunities for children and young people to turn their lives around.



\$34.8 million to continue to support a safe and stable Youth Justice system

- Support diversion and early intervention programs
- Deliver dedicated and tailored support to address offending
- Continue to address Aboriginal over-representation



\$34.4 million to provide enhanced Youth Justice bail supervision and support

- Electronic monitoring
- Addressing non-compliance
- More supervision and support



Maintaining a safe and stable Youth Justice system

Safe and stable operations are the bedrock of an effective and efficient youth justice system.

Investment in the 2024-25 budget will allow for the continuation of various reforms implemented in response to the Youth Justice Review and Strategy, including critical workforce reforms.



Continued operation of the **Weekend Online Remand Court** and **Youth Justice Bail After-Hours Service**



Continuation of **behaviour support specialists in custody** and strengthening the custodial workforce



Disability support for young people with diagnosed disabilities in contact with the Youth Justice system



\$3.6 million has been provided to continue a **dedicated legal service for Aboriginal young people**

Continuing efforts to reduce numbers of young people under supervision and prevent re-offending

With Youth Justice reforms, Victoria has some of the lowest rates of youth justice supervision in Australia.

Our focus on early intervention and preventing offending is outlined in the **Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2030, Wirkara Kulpa**, the Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy, and the **Youth Justice Diversion Statement**.

In 2022-23, Victoria had:

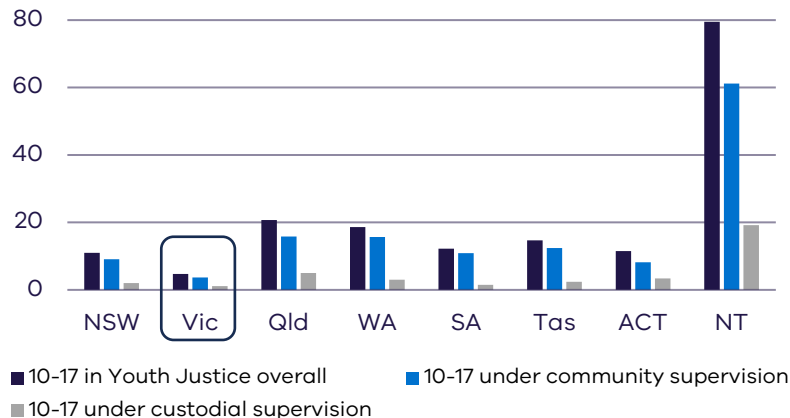
(Report on Government Services and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare).

- The **lowest national rate** (per 10,000 population) of all young people aged 10-17 years in Youth Justice. A rate that **has decreased by 53 per cent** since 2018-19
- The **lowest custodial rate** at 1.1 young people aged 10-17 (per 10,000) – lower than the national rate of 2.7
- The **highest** proportion of **community orders successfully completed** (94.5 per cent)
- the **lowest rate** of Aboriginal young people aged 10-17 years under Youth Justice supervision in Australia. A number that has decreased **59 per cent** since 2018-19



Graph 1
Young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, per 10,000 young people, by state/territory, 2022-23

Report on Government Services 2024 (2022-23 data)



Community safety through enhanced bail supervision and support

While Victoria has one of the lowest rates of youth offending in Australia – there is a small cohort of young people who are driving increases in youth offending and recidivism.

\$34.4 million to implement a two-year trial of electronic monitoring and enhanced bail supervision to operate in metropolitan Melbourne.

- The trial will be legislated through the **Youth Justice Bill**, including safeguards to ensure electronic monitoring is necessary to address a serious risk to the community
- Electronic monitoring will be implemented alongside more **intensive bail supervision** to help keep young people engaged in support to address the underlying causes of offending



Electronic monitoring

technical capability to electronically monitor young people



Addressing non-compliance

Dedicated youth justice staff to support the trial, respond to non-compliance and to provide advice to the court



Enhanced bail supervision and support service

To strengthen risk-based bail case management and oversight of young people who receive an electronic monitoring bail condition

Thank you

