



# **INQUIRY INTO YOUTH JUSTICE CENTRES IN VICTORIA**

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**SUBMITTED BY THE SALVATION ARMY**

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The Salvation Army State Social Command (Victoria):  
Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	4
The Salvation Army’s responses to the Terms of Reference .....	5
1. Security and safety in Victoria’s Youth Justice Centres.....	5
2. Remand in the last 10 years.....	6
Characteristics of young people in the justice system.....	6
OOHC and youth justice .....	7
The criminogenic effect of custody.....	9
Access to programs .....	10
3. The implications of incarceration on young people.....	10
The likelihood of reoffending .....	10
Separating young people from their communities and cultures.....	11
4. Options for keeping young people out of youth justice .....	11
Dual track.....	11
Diversion .....	12
Youth Justice Group Conferencing .....	13
Youth Justice Group Conferencing Case Study: Mark’s Story .....	14
Justice reinvestment .....	15
Practice and approaches .....	15
Youth sector workforce development and culture .....	16
Infrastructure and systems around the child .....	17
Joined-up approach case study: Billy’s story .....	18
5. The role of Government .....	19

## INTRODUCTION

The Salvation Army provides a wide range of youth services right across Victoria, including youth homelessness, case management, out-of-home care (OOHC), education, training and employment programs. Although our direct involvement in the youth justice system is mostly restricted to diversionary programs and post-release support, we have extensive engagement with young people who have been caught up in this system. We know that all of the young people who become connected with us have had a rough start to their lives. For too many, by the time they hit their teenage years, they've already dealt with more issues than most of us face in a lifetime. In a society where many young people are staying at home longer and longer after high school, university and into their first jobs, this group of vulnerable young people, many of whom have experienced trauma, is having to find their feet much earlier and overcome multiple disadvantages to do so.

Victoria's crime statistics show a downward trend in the number of offenders, offences and offending incidents since 2011.<sup>1</sup> This evidence shows that, on the whole, our approach to youth justice has been working. Yet the recent public discourse in Victoria has portrayed our young people as out of control and the youth justice system as being in continual crisis. The Salvation Army is concerned that Victoria is in danger of losing sight of the aspects of its approach to youth justice that once led the way in Australia and that young people will get caught up in a system that does not distinguish their circumstances from those of adults. Such a system would sacrifice any chance of genuine rehabilitation and serve to further marginalise these young people from the community.

We believe that the Victorian Government has a responsibility to show leadership in public discourse and ensure that our justice systems are built on evidence-based responses to crime. This means greater investment in preventative and early intervention strategies, continued connection with the sectors that intersect with justice, and less conciliation to 'tough on crime' rhetoric.

A range of research from independent bodies, frontline services in the youth and justice sector, statistics agencies and academia note that with adequate resources and

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<sup>1</sup> Crime Statistics Agency (2016) "[Downward trend in the number of young offenders, 2006 to 2015](#)"

commitment, young people have the capacity to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into their communities after offending. We urge the Government to ensure that this is reflected in how police, youth justice centres, the Courts and the youth sector respond to youth crime.

The Salvation Army is pleased to contribute to this Inquiry. This submission has been compiled with input from Salvation Army youth services and clients across Victoria, as well as research from Victoria and other jurisdictions.

## **RESPONSES TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. Security and safety in Victoria's Youth Justice Centres**

This section relates to the term regarding “the security and safety of staff, employees and young offenders at both facilities”.

We recognise that the current situation at both facilities has put the security and safety of staff, employees, and young offenders at risk. We are concerned by the recent frequency and intensity of incidents, but we urge the Committee to consider the causes of these insecurities and risks to safety, in order to assess what should be done to address this.

As we will discuss further in this submission, young offenders have often experienced trauma such as family breakdowns, violence, substance abuse and homelessness. Many have become part of the OOHC system. These vulnerable young people need specialised and consistent support. Yet there are severe staff shortages in youth justice centres and many of the available staff who have been engaged casually have security and corrections backgrounds, rather than specialising in the needs of young people. Reports of measures such as the use of solitary confinement, lockdowns and tear gas, demonstrate that these staff are not expected, encouraged or equipped to respond in ways appropriate to working with vulnerable young people. We are concerned that instead of attracting, developing and retaining staff that can support young people in custody, this workforce is becoming increasingly casualised and subject to high turnover. Our experience working with young people highlights the importance of building and sustaining relationships as a first step towards positive social reengagement, and the transience of an under qualified workforce does not enable relationships or respect to form.

Various independent reports in recent years have highlighted the need to upgrade the physical infrastructure of our youth justice centres because current conditions contribute to safety and security risks. These reports, as well as observations from Salvation Army staff working with young people in youth justice, have highlighted that the physical environment does not enable the rehabilitative, trauma informed practices that should be hallmarks of Victoria's youth justice system. We cannot hope to rehabilitate young people in a physical environment driven only by punitive concerns.

At the time of writing, up to 80% of young people in custody are on remand. We will discuss the effect of this in more detail in section two of this submission, but the individual angst and uncertainty arising from indefinite custody, as well as the constant shift in group and power dynamics contributes to the precarious situation in the centres.

## **2. Remand in the last 10 years**

This section refers to the term “reasons for, and effects of, the increase in the numbers of young people on remand in the last 10 years”.

There are multiple factors which have contributed to the increase in the numbers of young people on remand in the last 10 years, including changes to bail and remand policy and policing practices. In this section, we will focus on issues affecting young people connected with Salvation Army services, how these issues contribute to offending and the effect that this has on the justice system.

### **Characteristics of young people in the justice system**

Our experience of working with young people who offend is that their offending behaviour is almost always a by-product of other issues in their lives. Most young people who are involved in criminal activities will be once off, minor offenders who outgrow criminal behaviours by adulthood. Only a small proportion of young people engage in more serious and persistent crime.

Data from the Youth Parole Board supports this, revealing that children from traumatic backgrounds are overrepresented in the youth justice system:

- 58 per cent had previously been suspended or expelled from school;

- 43 per cent had a previous Child Protection order and 19 per cent had a current Child Protection order;
- 33 per cent presented with mental health issues, another 22 per cent presented with issues concerning their intellectual functioning. Nine per cent were registered with Disability Services;
- 60 per cent had a history of both alcohol and drug misuse;
- 53 per cent had offended whilst under the influence of both drugs and alcohol and a further 29 per cent had offended whilst under the influence of one or the other;
- 23 per cent had a history of self harm or suicidal ideation.<sup>2</sup>

The disadvantage and marginalisation these young people experience early in life affects them throughout their lives and, without appropriate intervention, increases the likelihood they will be involved with the justice system as adults.

Understanding the circumstances of a young person's life is important when developing specific program responses to their offending behaviour. The Salvation Army believes that there are two broad categories of young people who come into contact with police and the broader youth justice system:

- Young people who come from relatively stable backgrounds, commit minor offences, and are likely to only come into contact with police once; and
- Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who have multiple and complex needs and are likely to progress further into the justice system in the absence of effective, rehabilitative interventions.

We will discuss approaches to keep these young people out of youth justice centres in section five of this submission.

### **OOHC and youth justice**

Young people who are in or about to leave Out of Home Care (OOHC) are overrepresented in the youth justice system. A report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that in 2014-15, young people on care or protection orders were 20

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<sup>2</sup> Youth Parole Board (Vic) (2015) Annual Report 2014-15

times as likely to be under youth justice supervision in the same year as the general population.<sup>3</sup> In Victoria, almost half of the young people in custody have had previous child protection involvement.<sup>4</sup>

These young people are particularly vulnerable due to their childhood experiences of abuse and neglect, which can be exacerbated for those who have poor experiences while in care, and their accelerated transitions to adulthood. There is little support for young people leaving care, and many will be at risk of or experience homelessness, sometimes for the rest of their lives.

Legislation, reflective of both the rights of young people and therapeutic jurisprudence, makes it clear that remand should only be used to ensure that a young person will appear in court or to protect the community, including victims or witnesses.<sup>5</sup>

However, our work with young people, which supports research by the Jesuit Social Services, Victorian Legal Aid and others, highlights that remand is increasingly being used to accommodate young Victorians with issues of physical and mental health problems, substance abuse, family violence and homelessness. There is growing concern from the Children's Courts and workers in the OOHC system that a lack of appropriate accommodation available for young people motivates them to offend so they are taken into custody, which may seem a safer, more stable and secure environment than their present situation. This can exacerbate the risks of criminalisation and further trauma.

The increasing trends towards custodial remand reveal a system which does not have sufficient alternative options available. The response to increasing numbers of young people on remand should consider reform and resourcing of more appropriate community-based supports, which will be discussed further in part five of this submission.

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<sup>3</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2016) [Young People in Child Protection and Under Youth Justice Supervision 2014-15](#)

<sup>4</sup> Youth Parole Board (Vic) (2015) Annual Report 2014-15

<sup>5</sup> Ericson, Matthew, and Vinson, Tony (Jesuit Social Services) (2010) Young people on remand in Victoria: Balancing individual and community interests

## The criminogenic effect of custody

Research indicates that incarceration is criminogenic, and can increase a young person's involvement in the criminal world, including continuation of offending behaviours into adulthood.<sup>6</sup>

Many young people on remand do not go on to sentenced detention, but their experience in custody can have detrimental effects on a young person's mental health, development and aspiration. Remand overexposes young people to punitive responses to behaviours, which may entrench negative associations with previous trauma. They are also negatively influenced by interactions with adult offenders and other offending youth, and stigma associated with youth justice involvement. It increases the likelihood of a young person self-identifying as a "criminal" and disrupts any connections the young person may have in the community such as education or employment. Placing a young person on remand takes away the fear of incarceration and removes the main incentive youth justice workers can leverage to encourage a young person to stop offending.

Young people experiment and push boundaries in an attempt to establish their identity. It is also an age when acceptance by peers and a feeling of belonging is particularly important. As a result, peer influence has a significant impact on young people's developing sense of identity, which for some can result in increased risk taking behaviours, such as criminal offending.<sup>7</sup>

To avoid further criminalising young people, remand should be treated as a last resort in the same way that detention is a last sentencing resort. The range of options available before remand needs to be significantly expanded beyond those currently in place.

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<sup>6</sup> Australian Institute of Criminology (2015) [Bail and remand for young people in Australia: A national research project](#)

<sup>7</sup> Richards, Kelly (2011), [What makes juvenile offenders different from adult offenders?](#), Australian Institute of Criminology

## **Access to programs**

While on remand, young offenders do not have the same access to programs such as education and training or therapeutic support that sentenced young offenders have. These programs do not yet exist at the Grevillea Unit of Barwon Prison, which is of great concern.

A lack of access to these kinds of programs and support further disrupts young people's development and will disadvantage them upon return to the community. The time spent in remand varies and often the young person does not know when they will appear in Court. This has a destabilising effect, causing angst and uncertainty, which accumulates and negatively impacts the communal environment, damaging the chances of rehabilitation and reinforcing criminality.<sup>8</sup>

### **3. The implications of incarceration on young people**

This section refers to the term "implications of incarcerating young people who have significant exposure to trauma, alcohol and/or other drug misuse and/or the child protection system, or who have issues associated with mental health or intellectual functioning".

#### **The likelihood of reoffending**

As discussed above, criminalising and destabilising can occur when young people are incarcerated, whether sentenced or on remand. The Sentencing Advisory Council found that offending by children and young people is rare, but once children are in the system, their reoffending rates are high.<sup>9</sup>

The Salvation Army witnesses this working with young people in custody, where their peers and role models are other young offenders, some of these with trajectories towards continued offending and criminal behaviour in adulthood, and exposure to the punitive responses deployed in custody.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2016) [Young People in Child Protection and Under Youth Justice Supervision 2014-15](#)

<sup>9</sup> Sentencing Council of Victoria (2016) [Reoffending by Children and Young People in Victoria](#)

Despite legislation, policy and continued research supporting a specialised youth justice approach, youth detention is becoming increasingly similar to adult detention, with its focus on punitive responses, and is moving away from approaches, infrastructure and responses that enable restoration and rehabilitation.

### **Separating young people from their communities and cultures**

Young people, especially those in need of rehabilitation, benefit from relationships and support from people they trust and respect. These relationships help to establish a community with appropriate boundaries around the young person to which they can be accountable. However, such relationships cannot be established where the youth justice environment creates uncertainty, instability or is primarily punitively focussed. Similar barriers exist where staff are transient or underqualified and do not have the resources, knowledge or skills to support vulnerable young people.

This is particularly pertinent for young people from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds or from refugee backgrounds, many of whom have experienced historical and intergenerational trauma, loss of identity, place and connection. For these young people, responses to offending behaviours should consider this specific trauma, and the system should avoid exacerbating the lasting impact of this by enabling them to maintain a connection to their communities, families and cultures.

## **4. Options for keeping young people out of youth justice**

This section refers to the term “additional options for keeping young people out of youth justice centres”.

### **Dual track**

Victoria has historically been regarded as a leader and innovator in youth justice and has been able to divert the majority of young people away from the youth justice system. The Dual Track system in Victoria is effective as it enables young offenders to avoid imprisonment in adult detention centres and shields them from the criminogenic effect of custody with adult offenders. The introduction of the Youth Support Service (YSS) provides a much needed referral system that supports young people to reengage with education, employment, training, family and other community support structures. Finally, other initiatives like providing psychiatric and psychological assessments to young

offenders through the Children’s Court Clinic and the Children’s Koori Courts help young people to identify and address issues that may have impacted their offending. All of these aspects of the Victorian youth justice system and others have resulted in a system that successfully diverts the vast majority of young people out of the system, and back into mainstream society.

## **Diversion**

A number of programs and practices in Victoria have been labelled “diversion” such as police cautioning, the ROPES program, and group conferencing, among others. While each of these programs has a valuable place at specific points within the justice system, The Salvation Army is concerned that the term “diversion” has come to refer to “a number of programs, interventions and approaches” more than a principle. The risk in understanding diversion as only a program or intervention is that young people will only be considered to be “diverted” if they participate in a particular program. This thinking could bear significant consequences in the form of net widening and over intervention in young people’s lives which has been shown to be extremely counterproductive. It is important to maintain a flexible, “light touch” approach to diversion that is able to respond to the particular needs and circumstances of each child without over intervening.

The Salvation Army supports an understanding of diversion as a principle that informs programmatic responses but is not confined to them. The principle of diversion is closely linked to issues of identity and the milieu of a young person and it is based on the idea that young people need to be exited out of the justice system as soon as possible and diverted back into the mainstream, law-abiding community, where they receive minimum intervention from the justice system but can still access supports if needed. By supporting young people to positively reengage in mainstream society, it places young people in an environment that positively affects their identity, social networks, and other external factors that can ameliorate criminal behaviour. Enabling young people who offend to reengage positively with the mainstream community is, and should be, the ultimate aim of diversion.

As discussed earlier in this submission, there are two cohorts of young people who may come into contact with police and the youth justice system.

- Young people who come from relatively stable backgrounds, commit minor offences, and are likely to only come into contact with police once; and

- Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who have multiple and complex needs and are likely to progress further into the justice system in the absence of effective, rehabilitative interventions.

While the principle of diversion remains the same for both groups, specific interventions need to address the varying and different needs of each individual. The majority of young offenders will 'grow out' of offending and are likely to only come into contact with police once. Young people in this group may offend for a number of reasons, but most often offending behaviour is a result of tension at home, peer pressure, disengagement from education, substance use, mental health difficulties, intellectual disability, or simply poor and erratic decision making, boredom, or the fun or "rush" of committing a crime. Some of these are recognisable signs of adolescent development and should not be prematurely assigned as criminal tendencies. For this group, the "lightest touch" possible from the youth justice system is usually most appropriate and often comes in the form of either informal or formal police caution, warnings or fines. For the vast majority of young people, this is the only intervention they will ever need.

However, there is a small group of young people with multiple and complex needs and histories of trauma who are likely to become increasingly involved in the youth justice system. Children in this group come from a range of backgrounds and need intensive and specialised support to help them deal with these issues.

### **Youth Justice Group Conferencing**

The Salvation Army delivers the Youth Justice Group Conferencing program in Northern Victoria, where a restorative justice approach is undertaken by bringing together young offenders, their families, police, other people involved in their support, and victims of their offending behaviour with a view to repairing the harm that their offending behaviour has caused.

This program has seen very positive outcomes for young offenders, their families and communities, and victims of the crimes they have committed. This program highlights the benefit of enabling restorative justice to occur, which, in many situations, will divert young people from proceeding further into the justice system.

## Youth Justice Group Conferencing Case Study: Mark's Story

Mark, an Indigenous young man was referred to Group Conferencing after pleading guilty to burglary. He was one of four young males, aged from 14 to 18, who were involved in burglaries and theft of motor cars. He was the youngest of the group at the time in which the crimes were committed and was attending full time mainstream education. At the time of his offending, Mark's father was absent and his mother was transient. He lived near his uncle, who took on a care role with Mark. He had no previous charges against him and was not known to police.

Mark's uncle believed he was "a pretty good kid who got mixed up with the wrong crowd". This was reinforced in the conference, where he was seen to be quiet and shy, but made regular eye contact with all his victims and clearly showed remorse for his actions.

Mark's first conference was with a Russian-Australian couple, whose house had been burgled and their car stolen, driven and abandoned whilst they were away on holiday. Mark and the other young men involved had left the house open after their burglary and the house was subsequently ransacked. The couple were very distressed, had experienced some lasting trauma and negative perceptions of the Indigenous community since the incident and initially did not want to participate in the conference. The couple thought the process was a "slap on the wrist approach" and the wife in particular was scared to face Mark. The couple appeared to be distressed throughout the conference and left at its conclusion without further interaction. However, following the conference, Mark created and gifted some art to the couple, who were impressed with his commitment to making amends, which improved their perceptions of the process and of the Indigenous community.

His second conference was with a family comprising of a widow and her adult sons. During the burglary, the widow's deceased husband's ashes were spilt, which traumatised the family. However, during the group conference, while visibly upset and shaken by their ordeal, they committed to see Mark get a second chance to turn his life around. They spoke to him about making better choices in friends and choosing to say no, including offering a number of suggestions for Mark to get involved in the community. At the conclusion of the conference, the widow hugged Mark, wished him well and they both cried.

Mark's story demonstrates that when a young person is given the opportunity to meet with those who have been impacted by their offending behaviour, they can understand how their actions affect others and make amends in ways that are appropriate to each unique situation.

## Justice reinvestment

A more effective alternative to the “tough on crime” approach is a “tough on the causes of crime” approach embodied in justice reinvestment strategies.<sup>10</sup> Similar to early intervention for individuals, justice reinvestment seeks to stop crime early by investing at critical life points when young people are vulnerable. Rather than investing in the “tertiary” end of justice, or detention, justice reinvestment seeks to invest in education, training, health and other sectors where economic and social disadvantage can be better addressed before offending occurs.

Justice Reinvestment has been recommended at the Federal Government level,<sup>11</sup> and a range of organisations, including the Smart Justice coalition, have been advocating for this approach in Victoria. The Salvation Army’s experience helping hundreds of thousands of Victorians across a wide range of areas strongly supports the value of these kinds of approaches towards building healthier and stronger communities.

## Practice and approaches

Community-based and non-clinical interventions play a vital role in helping young people who may be experiencing mental health difficulties or who are suffering the effects of trauma, and who come into contact with the youth justice system. The young people with whom The Salvation Army works have often had to find ways of coping with incredibly difficult life situations. These coping strategies, which may include using alcohol and other drugs, self-harm, violence and criminal activities, are symptomatic of the struggle to survive in an environment that usually contains limited supports. Too frequently, these activities result in further judgement and marginalisation rather than the care and support that is needed in order to provide sufficient stabilisation for the introduction of more appropriate coping strategies.

For young people who are disconnected from family, such as those in the OOHC system, diversion needs to come in the form of targeted and intensive interventions that address

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<sup>10</sup> Smart Justice (2015) [Justice Reinvestment](#)

<sup>11</sup> Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (2013) [Value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia](#)

the underlying issues of trauma, neglect, substance abuse, mental health and housing instability that affect these young people's offending. This support needs to be available to young people at any stage of the youth justice tariff and should be aimed at pushing the young person back down the tariff hierarchy and ultimately out of the justice system all together.

With particular regard to young people from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and refugee backgrounds in the youth justice system, practices and approaches should respond to the historical and environmental conditions that motivate these young people to partake in offending behaviour. As well as the trauma which is common to young people in the justice system, this group faces additional challenges which includes seeking or restoring identity, connecting with peers, or seeking control.<sup>12</sup> Trauma informed practice that is culturally safe is essential for reducing the overrepresentation of these young people in the youth justice system.

### **Youth sector workforce development and culture**

The youth justice system, and the systems which intersect with it, rely on human resource interactions that are fundamental to the wellbeing, development and support of young people. The Salvation Army's extensive experience in youth and community services highlights the importance of investing in staff capacity and capabilities. Our staff are often our most powerful tool for positive engagement and to create opportunities for transformation in the lives of young people.

In both the youth justice system and OOHC, there is a need to invest in workforce development in order to provide more effective interventions with and support for young people. There is a need to attract and recruit qualified and committed staff in both systems, as well as to support building the capabilities of existing staff, so that they can be retained and enable better continuity in relational service delivery. In particular, all staff, whether community or prison based, should undertake mandatory and intensive training in developmental trauma, its impact and how to respond to young people who have

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<sup>12</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012), [Indigenous young people in the juvenile justice system](#); Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc (2000) [A Guide to Working with Young People who are Refugees](#)

experienced this. The establishment of trusted relationships with qualified staff is a foundational step towards the kind of rehabilitation and healing that will give young people the best chance of avoiding further involvement with the justice system.

The Salvation Army's work in OOHC also highlights limitations arising from increased administrative requirements of staff, which diverts time away from engagement with young people. Staff, carers and others involved in OOHC have a fundamental role in supporting young people and where young people are provided adequate care, they can be rehabilitated, integrated or diverted from the youth justice system entirely. While we recognise that administrative and compliance activities are an important aspect of any form of service provision, there is a need to ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained so that frontline staff can prioritise relational engagement with the young people in their care.

### **Infrastructure and systems around the child**

A key theme coming from Salvation Army youth workers was that successful engagement frequently depends upon young people being met on their own terms. This requires flexible strategies and responses, which should also include a range of online and social media supports, reflecting the changing environments in which young people interact.

While we recognise that existing physical infrastructure is inadequate, we do not agree with the Government's approach to address this by establishing new detention facilities that emphasise a punitive physical environment instead of a rehabilitative focus. Our own delivery of youth services has highlighted the enormous benefit which physical environments that look and feel like home and community have on young people's rehabilitation, integration and accountability - and how they enable trauma-informed practice. Historically, youth justice centres have also integrated this approach and The Salvation Army urges the Government to retain this in any upgrade of existing or establishment of new facilities.

Additionally, young people have benefited from models such as our Upton Road Accommodation and Learning Centre, which provides stable, safe accommodation and a learning environment within a 24 hour refuge setting. Young people are actively engaged in program activities. Longer term intensive case management support is provided, which works with young people on issues such as problematic substance use, health & mental

health, income support, life and living skills, family breakdown and violence, pregnancy and parenting issues, education pathways and legal support. This brings together all the people involved in supporting the young person, creating a community and environment where you are accountable and that feels like home. The Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Collingwood has also consistently demonstrated the advantages of these kind of joined-up approaches in the justice system, which has been reflected in multiple evaluations.

### **Joined-up approach case study: Billy's story**

Billy is a 23 year old single father, currently living in transitional housing. Billy was previously in the Out of Home Care system, and had a difficult childhood that included emerging mental health issues, as well as alcohol and drug misuse.

Billy's contact with the youth justice system emerged when he faced charges for theft, possession of cannabis, driving while disqualified, and having an unrestrained child in a vehicle. He had also breached bail on four occasions.

When he approached The Salvation Army for support, it was clear that Billy needed more than just someone to attend court with him. A Salvation Army case worker managed to coordinate a range of practical and targeted supports, including help from a barrister and legal students, a social worker, a justice worker and a Headspace clinician. Because these supports were in place, Billy was sentenced 250 hours of community work rather than prison. This joined-up approach has proved to be successful, as Billy has not offended since the conclusion of his court case in August 2016.

Billy's story demonstrates how a range of programs, services and specialists working together to support a young person's various needs can divert them from the youth justice system and further offending.

## 5. The role of Government

This section relates to the term “the role of the Department of Health and Human Services in overseeing practices at the centres”.

The shift of the youth justice system from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation has raised significant concern amongst key stakeholders. Not only does this risk the vital rehabilitative focus that has been behind past successes with young people, but the adult corrections system has problems of its own, with recidivism rates above 40% recently.

Making our community safer requires more than locking people up after they commit a crime. If we don't want young people, many of whom are also victims of crime, to keep making the same mistakes, we need a genuinely youth-focussed system that supports their rehabilitation.

The Salvation Army appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry into Victoria's youth justice system, which will, no doubt, highlight a range of strengths and weaknesses of current and past systems. We urge the Victorian Government and all stakeholders in Parliament, to commit to investments that build on the best of our historic engagement in youth justice so that all of our young people can look forward to a more promising future.