# Program referrals

Effective crime prevention initiatives rely heavily on receiving appropriate referrals from various sources, including schools, law enforcement agencies, youth organisations, community services and other spaces.

Building strong relationships with these referral sources is essential for accessing suitable participants and ensuring the safety and success of your programs.

**Strategic thinking**

**Building relationships and understanding criteria**

**Operational/Action**

**Ensuring safety, tailoring delivery, and monitoring**

By cultivating strong relationships with referral sources, understanding their criteria and priorities, prioritising participant safety, and tailoring program delivery to meet diverse needs, organisations and individuals can effectively source referrals for crime prevention initiatives. This collaborative approach ensures that programs reach the right participants, address their unique challenges, and contribute to safer and more resilient communities.

## Promotion of program to referral sources

Promoting your program effectively to referral sources is key to reaching the Youth Justice cohort and ensuring your program's success. Simply building a program and expecting young people to come on their own may not be effective in the YJ context. To overcome this challenge, focus on strategic outreach and awareness-building:

* **Identify and leverage referral partners:** Work closely with schools, community organisations, social services, and justice system stakeholders such as Youth Justice and Queensland Police Service. Their endorsement can be instrumental in reaching the target audience.
* **Educate referral partners:** Share your program's goals, benefits, and eligibility criteria with potential referral sources so they understand how your program can meet the needs of the young people they work with.
* **Offer informative sessions:** Organise presentations or workshops for referral sources to introduce your program, share success stories, and answer any questions.
* **Provide promotional materials:** Create and distribute promotional resources such as flyers, digital content, and brochures to help referral sources share information about your program.
* **Strengthen communication channels:** Maintain open lines of communication with referral sources to keep them updated on program progress, changes, and opportunities for collaboration.
* **Solicit feedback:** Encourage referral sources to provide feedback on the program's impact and how it serves young people. This information can guide your ongoing development and outreach strategies.

By actively promoting your program and maintaining strong relationships with referral sources, you can increase referrals and engagement from the YJ cohort.