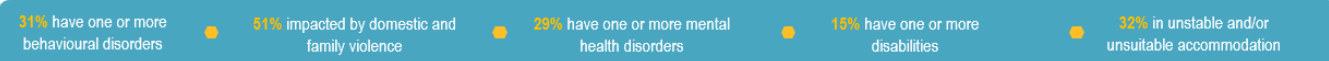


## Young people in the youth justice system



**Serious and repeat youth offending** is linked with disadvantage, trauma, and impoverished experiences of adult supervision and emotional support



It is critical to **strengthen responses to serious repeat offenders** and continue to **expand evidence-based initiatives** across the prevention, early intervention, and rehabilitation



### Low-risk offenders – stay the course

Over the past ten years, there has been a decrease in the number of young people committing offences.

For low-risk offenders, we need to continue focusing on diverting young people away from court and developing local solutions with communities.

**Diversion programs continued** – location-specific responses with a mix of after-hours support, cultural mentoring, bridging to flexi-school and case management, alternative opportunities, and activities for at-risk youth, i.e., sports, barbeques, and access to computers.

**Community partnerships** – short-term one-off projects to engage local communities and trial innovative responses to youth crime prevention, i.e. driver deterrence programs, Elders cautionary program, and a youth advocacy program providing 15 hours of weekly support to young people.

### Medium-risk offenders – dial up the intensity

The Serious Repeat Offender Index is helping us understand the trajectory of young people's offending and when we need to target interventions.

We are continuing to invest in high-quality services and case work for this group.

**On Country** – culture-based rehabilitation in Cairns, Townsville and Mt Isa.

**Townville Street University** – vocational education, drug and alcohol treatment, life skills and mentoring.

**Youth Co-responder Teams** – joint initiative with the Queensland Police Service. Successful after-hours program engaging young people with supports to divert those at-risk and tackle issues that may contribute to re-offending – currently in expansion to South Brisbane, Fraser Coast, Ipswich, Mt Isa and Toowoomba.

### Serious repeat offenders – focus on community safety and breaking the cycle of offending

Top priority group, with focus on intensive supervision and multi-agency responses to address their high needs and risk.

#### Intensive Case Management

- five high-risk young people and their family per case manager, two to three Cognitive Behaviour Therapy sessions per week + family sessions and youth work for average nine months.
- uses proven practice frameworks.
- currently funded to work with 134 young people (17 locations across Queensland).
- additional funding will roll out in Brisbane, Brisbane South, Cairns, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture/Moreton, Rockhampton and Toowoomba to reach a further 180 young people and their families.

#### Multi-Agency Collaborative Panels and 72-hour plans (existing resources)

- intensive, collaborative case management.
- coordinating responses to support high risk young people, including as they leave detention.
- also focus on keeping the community safe by disrupting and wrapping supports around 24/7.

### Youth Co-responder Teams

- joint initiative with the Queensland Police Service. Successful after-hours program engaging young people with supports to divert those at-risk and tackle issues that may contribute to re-offending – currently in expansion to South Brisbane, Fraser Coast, Ipswich, Mt Isa and Toowoomba.

### Intensive bail initiative

- intensive NGO support to high-risk young people and their families while on bail.
- continuing funding in five locations and expanding to Cairns, Mt Isa and Toowoomba.
- increased after-hours monitoring, supervision and intensive support; and 34% reduction in custody nights.

### Specialist youth crime rapid response

- specialist police squad will be partnered with senior expert youth justice workers to prevent, disrupt and respond to youth crime in 'hot spot' areas around the state.

## Evidence

### Staying the course

**Transition 2 Success** – vocational training and therapeutic services aimed at preventing at-risk young people from entering the system and reducing reoffending of those already offending.

- 54% of young people who completed a Transition 2 Success course in 2021 did not reoffend in the following 12 months. This proportion is lower than previous years due to the program supporting an increasing number of higher risk young people.

**Family-Led Decision Making** – empowering First Nations families to make positive changes to impact on young people's behaviours and meet cultural and practice support needs.

- strengthened young people's connections to culture, family and community.

**Mount Isa Transitional Hub** – providing out of business hours community integrated and culturally safe diversion response for young people at risk of offending and entering the youth justice system.

- young people report a strong sense of trust, safety, and support with Hub staff.

**Restorative Justice Conferencing** – diverting young people from court and facilitating meetings between young offenders and victims to focus on effects of crime and how harm can be repaired.

- 48% of young people who attended a Restorative Justice process in 2021 did not reoffend in the following 12 months. This proportion is lower than previous years due to the program supporting an increasing number of higher risk young people

**Community Youth Response and Diversion** – targeting young people at risk of offending or reoffending in Ipswich, Logan, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Townsville and Cairns, to address drivers of offending behaviours and prevent crime from occurring.

- achieving positive outcomes for young people, with increased access to prosocial activities and other services, including health, education and employment related services and programs. Positive shifts in young peoples' sense of belonging, their cultural connectedness and orientation towards the future.

### Dialing up the intensity and focusing on community safety/breaking the cycle of offending

**Youth Co-responder Teams** – joint initiative with Queensland Police Service.

- very high levels of compliance due to YCRT interactions. Average compliance across all locations was 95% for 2021-22.

**Bail Support and Legal Advocacy Services** – providing support to ensure young people meet bail conditions and assisting with legal advice and information to young people in the youth justice system.

- 34% reduction in custody nights. 32% reduction in re-offending frequency and severity.

**Intensive Case Management** – targeted intervention to address multiple factors that impact chronic offending behaviours, including enhancing family and kinship connections and engagement in education and training initiatives.

- 51% reduction in offending frequency, 72% reduction in proportion of crimes against the person. Improved family functioning.

**Early Action Group** - intensive support for vulnerable young people who are at risk of becoming serious repeat offenders. Case coordination services for up to 20 young people and their families per location.

- positive outcomes being achieved. Currently in Townsville, funding to expand to Cairns and Mt Isa.

