

# Taskforce Guardian

## Frequently asked questions and answers

Taskforce Guardian is a rapid response initiative between the Department of Youth Justice (YJ) and Queensland Police Service (QPS). Taskforce Guardian deploy expert teams of police and youth justice workers to support regional Police hubs and youth justice service centres respond to sudden surges in youth crime.

Taskforce Guardian is a roaming resource with long-term impacts. Our youth justice experts work with Queensland Police and alongside key agencies to create an effective and collaborative approach to service delivery in each location we work.

### What does Taskforce Guardian do?

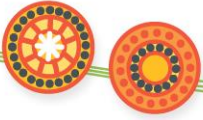
Taskforce Guardian works as a rapid response to combat youth crime hot spots in regions of Queensland. We deploy teams of expert police and youth justice workers to provide additional resources, strategic advice, evidence-based support and upskill regional youth service centres. The team works closely with QPS and other agencies during deployment to build capability and capacity in the service centres.

During each deployment, Taskforce Guardian aims to:

- increase the capability of regional service centres to provide consistent responses, referrals, welfare checks and risk assessments
- increase public safety and community confidence
- reduce reoffending
- decrease overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system.

### Where is the Taskforce Guardian team deployed?

Taskforce Guardian is a statewide initiative supporting every region and youth service centre in Queensland. Deployments are requested by Youth Justice service centres.



## **How does Taskforce Guardian prioritise deployments?**

Taskforce Guardian receives requests from youth justice service centres across the state and deploy on a priority-based model. YJ and QPS meet on a fortnightly basis to review and triage requests.

## **How long are deployments?**

The length of the deployment is determined by the needs of the community and the assistance requested. Taskforce Guardian forward planning is conducted in 28-day cycles. Deployments of more than 28 days may be negotiated to support long-term outcomes.

## **How does Taskforce Guardian provide support to youth service centres?**

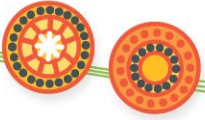
Each deployment is tailored to the needs of the region. YJ sends between specific staff for each deployment to assist local staff to provide additional resources, strategic advice, and upskill regional youth service centres. Professional skills range from restorative justice, case work, court work and cultural support.

Taskforce Guardian works to build capability and increase the capacity of the youth service centres they visit. We aim to do this through:

- diverting young people from the youth justice system to support services where appropriate
- linking young people and families to services and programs that can provide early intervention support
- increasing the capacity and capability of regional service centres to provided consistent evidence-based responses
- supporting the local implementation of change orientated programs.

## **Is QPS involved in each deployment and what is their role?**

YJ and QPS have their individual requests for deployment. This information is shared between YJ and QPS when deciding collaboratively on deployment locations. During deployment YJ and QPS each have their own individual priority list, with YJ working with youth service centres and QPS with local police stations. YJ often revisits locations to provide extra upskilling to youth service centres and employees.



## **How do Taskforce Guardian teams address community safety?**

Taskforce Guardian provides local services with extra support and resources to target and reduce sudden surges of youth crime in regions across Queensland.

During deployment Taskforce Guardian prioritises community safety and confidence by:

- supporting community members who have been victims of youth crime through restorative justice conferences
- reduce re-offending through increased diversionary options and increased evidence-based and culturally responsive programs to target high-risk young people
- engage with serious repeat offenders and connect them with change-orientated programs
- decrease overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system.

## **How is Taskforce Guardian different to Youth Co-Responders?**

Youth Co-Responder teams (YCRT) connect specialist staff with young people involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in the youth justice system. YCRT often work with young people out on bail and connect them to support services to help address their offending behaviour.

Taskforce Guardian is a collaborative initiative between YJ and QPS deploying teams of expert police and youth justice workers to regions across Queensland where sudden surges in youth crime happen. Taskforce Guardian provides extra resources, skills and advice to local youth service centres and police units, working to help increase capacity and capability within these regions to provide young people with the services they need to reduce reoffending.

## **How does Taskforce Guardian work towards cultural responsiveness?**

Whilst operating within local areas, Taskforce Guardian works with cultural community members to support cultural protocols and relationships to ensure cultural safety towards communities and individuals. Youth Justice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, YJ's First Nations Acton Board and Cultural Units are consulted to ensure cultural integrity is met.