

The Comparative Youth Penalty Project



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Project Newsletter September 2013

The Comparative Youth Penalty Project (CYPP) is an ARC Discovery Project led by Professor Chris Cunneen, Professor Eileen Baldry, Emeritus Professor David Brown, Melanie Schwartz and Professor Barry Goldson (University of Liverpool).

The CYPP is a comparative study of youth punishment between Australia (focusing on NSW, Victoria, Queensland and WA) and England & Wales. The project aims to analyse developments in the punishment of children and young people over the last 30 years. This is the first in-depth analysis of Australian youth penalty and the first comparative study of youth punishment between these jurisdictions.

The Project seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the defining features of contemporary juvenile justice penalty?
- How has youth penalty changed since the early 1980s across the comparative jurisdictions?
- How have changing approaches to youth penalty impacted upon particular social groups including racial minorities, Indigenous youth, young women and young people with mental and cognitive disabilities?
- What, if any, jurisdictional differences are to be found in discourses on community safety, the nature of childhood and youth (including child welfare and protection), the appropriateness of rehabilitation and the character of punishment practices for youth?
- How has the development of a human rights framework impacted on penal law, policy and practice as applied to youth? What impact, if any, has a children's rights framework had on differentiating youth justice from adult penal systems?

This newsletter aims to update stakeholders and other interested parties on the progress of the project; and relevant news and research in the field. For more information please visit our [website](#) or feel free to contact Alisa Wicks.

CYPP Project News

Professor Chris Cunneen, Emeritus Professor David Brown and Professor Barry Goldson are presenting on youth penalty at the 13th European Society of Criminology Conference in Budapest this September.

Professor Chris Cunneen is presenting on youth justice at Jesuit Social Services' National Justice Symposium in Melbourne this September.

Professor Barry Goldson visited Sydney from Liverpool in August to work on the CYPP. Professor Goldson also taught an elective on Juvenile Justice at UNSW Law School during his stay.

Professor Eileen Baldry presented 'Pathways from school to prison' to South East Sydney Health Symposium in June.

Professor Eileen Baldry co-authored with Ruth McCausland and Sarah Johnson and Anna Cohen (PwC) an Australian Human Rights Commission publication 'People with mental health and cognitive impairments in the criminal justice system: cost benefit analysis of early intervention' (August 2013), a study of the cost benefits of assisting children using social and human services and supports rather than the criminal justice system.

Professor Eileen Baldry and Alisa Wicks are supervising a CYPP related study being conducted by social science students at UNSW this semester. The students are analysing policy and legislation related to young people over the last 10 years, as well as conducting interviews with key informants in NSW, QLD, WA and Victoria.

Professor Eileen Baldry was interviewed on Radio National 29 August 2013: '[Investment in early childhood education will save costs later.](#)'

Professor Barry Goldson and colleagues edited a [special issue of 'Youth Justice: An international journal'](#) - focusing on the minimum age of criminal responsibility (August 2013). The publishers SAGE have also promoted the special issue due to its topical nature: See the post on [SAGE Insight](#).

News (Australia & UK)

[Children's Commissioner declares Tasmania's juvenile detention centre an unlikely deterrent](#) (ABC News, 27 August 2013)

[Girls gone wild](#) (Sydney Morning Herald, Sayer 11 July 2013)

[High risk of death for young people after release from prison](#) (University of Melbourne Newsroom, 31 July 2013)

[New figures on Indigenous kids in jail a national disgrace](#) (SBS/NITV, Liddle 23 August 2013)

[State considers privatising juvenile detention centre](#) (ABC News, 25 August 2013)

[WA report recommends creation of a youth justice agency](#) (ARACY eBulletin, 9 August 2013)
See full report 'Directed Review into an Incident at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre on 20 January 2013' [here](#).

[WA teen prison riot 'entirely predictable'](#) (The Australian, 7 August 2013)

UK:

[Children in custody pilot scheme could bring end to strip-searching](#) (The Guardian, Allison 17 August 2013)

[Youth offending rates on the rise](#) (Children & Young People Now, Puffett 26 July 2013)

Research

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013, '[Young people aged 10-14 in the youth justice system 2011-2012](#)', Juvenile justice series no 12, JUV 19. Canberra: AIHW.

Cunningham, T, Ivory, B, Chenhall, R, McMahon, R & Senior, K 2013, '[Youth gangs in a remote Indigenous community: Importance of cultural authority and family support](#)', *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 457, July, Australian Institute of Criminology.

Fougere, A, Thomas, S & Daffern, M 2013, 'A study of the multiple and complex needs of Australian young adult offenders', *Australian Psychologist*, 48, pp. 188-195.

Law & Justice Foundation of NSW 2013, '[Legal needs of younger people in Australia](#)', *Updating Justice*, no. 27. Extract from Coumarelos, C, Macourt, D, People, J, McDonald, H, Wei, Z, Iriana, R & Ramsey, S 2012, 'Legal Australia-Wide Survey: Legal need in Australia,' Law and Justice Foundation of NSW.

Van Dooren, K, Kinner, S & Forsyth, S 2013, '[Risk of death for young ex-prisoners in the year following release from adult prison](#)', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 37, no. 4, pp. 377-382.

Wagland, P, Blanch, B & Moore, E 2013, '[Participant satisfaction with Youth Justice Conferencing](#)', *Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice*, no. 170, June, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Department of Attorney General and Justice.

Wong, K, Meadows, L, Warburton, F, Webb, S, Ellingorth, D & Bateman, T 2013, [Youth Justice Reinvestment Custody Pathfinder: Findings and delivery lessons from the first year of implementation](#), 29 July, Hallam Centre for Community Justice, Sheffield Hallam University, Ministry of Justice Analytical Series.

Events

Jesuit Social Services National Justice Symposium '[Pushing the boundaries: Rethinking the extent of Children's involvement in the criminal justice system](#)'
18-19 September, Melbourne.

[Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference 2013](#)
1-3 October 2013, Brisbane

[British Society of Criminology Conference](#)

Professor Barry Goldson and colleagues from the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool UK, will be hosting the BSC Conference in July 2014. Professor Chris Cunneen is one of three confirmed keynote speakers. Preliminary details of the conference are available [here](#).