

The Comparative Youth Penalty Project



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Project Newsletter May 2013

The Comparative Youth Penalty Project (CYPP) is a new 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 internationally with England and 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

CI Professor Eileen Baldry presented '[Pathways into and avenues out of criminal justice for young people with cognitive and mental impairments](#)' at the National Juvenile Justice Summit, Melbourne, 25- 26 March 2013.

PI Professor Barry Goldson presented two papers in Hong Kong in March: 'Youth "gangs" and "gang culture" in the UK: Exploring the evidence', Research seminar, City University Hong Kong; and 'Juvenile Justice in a Changing Europe: Crisis Conditions and Alternative Visions', Public lecture, Hong Kong University.

CI Emeritus Professor David Brown presented ' Looking behind the rise in juvenile remands in NSW' at the Australasian Youth Justice Conference: Changing trajectories of offending and reoffending, Canberra, 20-22 May 2013.

CI's Professor Chris Cunneen and Melanie Schwartz, together with Professor Harry Blagg and the Indigenous Law Centre at UNSW are conducting research for **Amnesty International Australia** on 'Justice Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Australia'. Their report will form the basis of a campaign to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are incarcerated.

News (Australia & UK)

[Doubling of Indigenous in prisons alarms leaders](#) (WA Today, Baker 25 May 2013)

[Experts call for youth forensic mental health unit](#) (The Age, Petrie 19 May 2013)

[Alcohol factor in rise of girls in detention](#) (Sydney Morning Herald, Wallace 10 May 2013)

[Challenge to detain juveniles at Hakea dismissed](#) (ABC, 3 May 2013)

[Don't give up on them](#) (The Australian, Taylor 1 May 2013)

[Youth detention gap widening](#) (The Australian, Morton 30 April 2013)

[WA children sent to adult prison](#) (ABC Law Report, 23 April 2013)

[Call for crime prevention focus to cut Indigenous jail rates](#) (SBS, 22 April 2013)

UK: [Young offenders need more education, says think tank](#) (BBC, Sellgren 1 May 2013)

UK: [Court rules Home Secretary's treatment of 17-year-olds unlawful](#) (Just for Kids Law, Press release 25 April 2013) Read the full judgment [here](#).

Research

Australian Institute of Criminology 2013, [Australian Crime: Facts & Figures 2012](#)
Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, May 2013.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013, [Youth Justice in Australia 2011-12: An Overview](#), AIHW bulletin 115. Cat. no. AUS 170. Canberra: AIHW.

Doolan, I, Najman, J, Mills, R, Cherney, A & Strathearn, L 2013, '[Does child abuse and neglect explain the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in youth detention? Findings from a birth cohort study](#)', *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol 37, no 5, pp. 303-310.

Goldson, B 2013, 'Children, young people and the contemporary penal landscape: Reflections, prospects, policy and research', in Dockley, A & Loader, I (eds) [The Penal Landscape: The Howard League Guide to Criminal Justice in England and Wales](#), London: Routledge, pp. 189-218.

Goldson, B & Kilkelly, U 2013, '[International human rights standards and child imprisonment: Potentialities and limitations](#)', *International Journal of Children's Rights*.

Jordan, L & Farrell, J 2013, '[Juvenile Justice Diversion in Victoria: A Blank Canvas?](#)', *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, vol 24, no 3, pp. 419-437.

Muncie, J & Goldson, B 2013, 'Youth Justice: In a child's best interests?', in Simon, J & Sparks, R (eds) [Handbook of Punishment and Society](#), London: Sage, pp. 341-355.

Events

[Australian Human Rights Commission: RightsTalk](#) with Marta Maurás, member and Vice President of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.
Wednesday 12 June 2013, 7.30am – 9am, AHRC Level 3, 175 Pitt Street Sydney.

Registration essential – limited places.

[British Society of Criminology Conference](#)

The BSC Conference ‘Criminology on Trial’ will convene at the University of Wolverhampton over July 2-4, 2013.

[Critical Criminology Conference 2013](#)

22-23 July 2013, Adelaide

[Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference 2013](#)

1-3 October 2013, Brisbane

[The Howard League Symposium - What is justice? Re-imagining Penal Policy](#)

In early 2013, the Howard League for Penal Reform launched a new and ambitious symposium. Through *What is justice? Re-imagining penal policy* it is seeking to develop innovative, credible and challenging ideas and to generate an intellectual debate that can act as a springboard to contest the conventional role of the penal system and, ultimately, promote a new, achievable paradigm. The Symposium’s [first seminar](#) took place in London on May 16, 2013.

An international conference is scheduled for October 2013 at Keble College, Oxford University: <http://www.howardleague.org/what-is-justice-events/>