

Report on Government Services (ROGS) Summary

Community Services: Youth Justice

Youth justice systems are responsible for administering justice to those who have committed or allegedly committed an offence while considered by law to be a child or young person (predominantly aged 10–17 years). This summary relates to statutory youth justice agencies responsible for the supervision and case management of young offenders and includes group conferencing, community-based services and detention-based services.

Expenditure

- In 2022-23, total recurrent expenditure nationally on youth justice services, covering detention-based supervision, community-based supervision and group conferencing, was \$1.3 billion.
- Detention-based supervision accounted for the majority (\$855.3 million or 64.7 per cent) of the total expenditure.

Profile

- The average daily number of young people aged 10–17 years under youth justice supervision in Australia in 2022-23 was 3,446.
- On an average day in 2022-23, 79.7 per cent of the young people under supervision were supervised in the community (which includes supervised bail, probation and parole), with the remainder in detention.
- Most young people aged 10–17 years supervised by youth justice agencies are male (in 2022-23, 89.0 per cent in detention and 76.8 per cent in the community)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are overrepresented in the youth justice system in detention-based supervision (28 times the rate for non-Indigenous young people nationally in 2022-23) and in community-based supervision (almost 22 times the rate for non-Indigenous young people)
- Nationally, in 2022-23, 554 young people in community-based supervision and 600 young people in detention were aged 10–13 years old, with more than 70 per cent of this age cohort being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
- No young people died while in the legal or physical custody of an Australian youth justice agency in 2022-23.

- Nationally (excluding Tasmania) in 2022-23, there were 23 incidents of young people injured in custody due to a serious assault.
- Nationally, 57.8 per cent of young people aged 10–16 years at the time of release from sentenced supervision in 2020-21 returned within 12 months. This is not necessarily a sign of recidivism but could be the result of a range of factors affecting youth offending patterns, including family environment and social circumstances.

'Workforce sustainability' relates to the capacity of the youth justice workforce to meet current and projected future service demand. It is an indicator of the governments' objective in providing sustainable youth justice services and a useful measure to inform workforce planning. This indicator is currently under development.

Data set link: <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2024/community-services/youth-justice>