

## The role of your YJCSS Case Worker

YJCSS will provide supports and services for Youth Justice clients according to the individual support needs of the young person and the service response. The role of the YJCSS Case Support Worker is, amongst other things, to:

- Implement case tasks as identified in the YJ Client Service Plan
- Engage in ongoing assessments of, and respond to, YJ clients' changing needs
- Provide assertive outreach
- Support linkages to employment, education, housing and specialist health services
- Build an enduring connection between the young person and their family
- Support the develop living skills
- Contribute to a holistic case management approach for each young person

## After Hours Support

The MASP after-hours team can also provide intensive after-hours support to young people and their families and ensure young people referred to the program are supported to complete the requirements of their Youth Justice Order, are linked to family, community and culture, have pathways to economic participation and have access to a range of supports and services in relation to health, housing and developmental needs.

## Referral Process

YJCSS is a voluntary service, so the young person needs to agree to involvement with the program. Referrals to the Youth Justice Community Support Service are initiated by the community based youth justice worker as part of the case planning process. The youth justice worker discusses the nature of the referral with the young person and gains their consent for referral to the program.

## Contact Details:

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YOUTH JUSTICE COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT SERVICE (YJCSS)

## What is the Youth Justice Community Support Service?

MASP Youth Justice Community Support Service (YJCSS) provides integrated and intensive support and services to young people involved with the youth justice service to complement case management undertaken by youth justice workers.

The service has been developed recognising that young people involved with youth justice present with a range of complex and varied needs that require a service response that is tailored to their circumstances.

The service commenced operation in Mildura in February 2009.

The Youth Justice Community Support Service aims to:

- reduce severity, frequency and rates of re-offending by young people and minimise their progression into the criminal justice system
- better service young people in their local communities and facilitate their transition from the youth justice service system to their local community service system
- better prepare young people for adulthood by developing their independence, resilience and pro-social connectedness to family and community
- develop young people's capacity for meaningful educational and economic participation.

Through new funding and partnership arrangements between community service organisations, the Youth Justice Community Support Service provides a broad range of service to better meet the needs of young people and deliver better outcomes at a local level.

## Key features of the Youth Justice Community Support Service

The service requires that organisations partner strategically in each region to provide a range of services that can be accessed by a single access point tailored to meet the individual needs of each young person referred.

The Youth Justice Community Support Service provides the following services:

- intensive case work support to assist young people to not reoffend and to connect with family, education, training, employment and community
- integrated access and supported referrals to a wide range of services including drug and alcohol, mental health and health service, housing, education, training, culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal services available through Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
- Transitional housing and support via the Transitional Housing Management - Youth Justice Housing pathways Initiative (THM-YJHPI), which has been integrated into the Youth Justice Community Support Service and provides transitional housing properties, assistance and housing outreach support for young people.



## Outcomes for young people and the service

The Youth Justice Community Support Service is designed to ensure that service access and delivery for young people involved with the youth justice system are provided in an integrated and coordinated manner at a local level with a high level of collaboration and a 'care-team' approach between youth justice and community service organisations.

Processes for the prioritisation and eligibility of young people for services operate within each local area, providing flexibility and responsiveness to the individual needs of the young person and local demands.

The Youth Justice Community Support Service is designed to provide access to services that are focused on:

- reducing recidivism
- improving compliance with court orders
- improving connection with family, significant others and peers
- providing access to housing and developing independent living skills
- engaging with health and mental health services
- providing access to income support
- addressing alcohol and other drug use
- providing education, training and employment
- improving engagement with community and culture.

