



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Mr Peter Cain, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Annual Reports 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
21 February 2022

Asked by Andrew Braddock MLA on 21 February 2022: Richard Denning, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 21 February 2022, pg 9]

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: I have a substantive question on the same topic. I am interested in the rates of reoffending by those who have successfully gone through restorative justice, versus the normal population, versus the people found not suitable.

Mr Denning: Attorney, would you like me to—

Mr Rattenbury: Thanks, Richard. If you have that data, that would be great.

Mr Denning: I do not, I am afraid.

Mr Rattenbury: Okay.

Mr Denning: That is my answer. This was evaluated as part of the evaluation of phase 1 and reported on at the time. Was that reporting done in 2016 as part of moving to phase 2? I can find it.

Mr Rattenbury: Mr Braddock, we will take that on notice, because there has been data done to that effect. My broad recollection is that we do see lower rates of reoffending. There is a strong sense that it is very impactful for offenders who go through a restorative justice process. It is also very positive for the victims. They find it very therapeutic. That evaluation did show certainly good levels of compliance with the agreed comes. Mr Denning has already talked about the satisfaction rates with the process. We will just check that recidivism data for you. We will take that on notice.

Attorney-General: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate's (JACS) Restorative Justice Unit does not collect information about the recidivism rate for offenders who participate in the Restorative Justice Scheme. This reflects the primary goal of ACT's Restorative Justice Scheme which is to enhance the experience of victims by creating access to a safe and meaningful restorative justice response at any stage of the criminal justice system, as well as practical constraints on our ability to monitor reoffending.

However, previous evaluations of restorative justice in the ACT have shown a reduction in recidivism for offenders who participated in a restorative justice conference compared with those who haven't.

The Australian Capital Territory Restorative Justice Evaluation: An Observational Outcome Evaluation was released in July 2018. This evaluation was commissioned by JACS and conducted by the Australian National University and the Australian Institute of Criminology. The evaluation measured the recidivism of young offenders who participated in restorative justice conferences between 2005

and 2016, noting adult offenders were not included in the Restorative Justice Scheme until 2016 and were outside of scope of the evaluation.

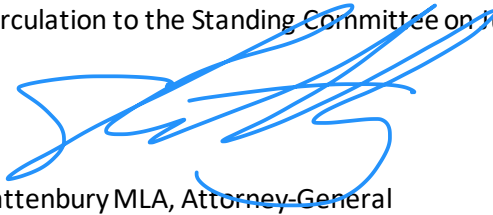
The evaluation found that young offenders who took part in restorative justice conferences were less likely to reoffend, or to reoffend as often as young offenders with similar characteristics who had not gone through the restorative justice conferencing process. A report of the findings and methodology used to assess recidivism is available at:

[https://www.justice.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/resources/uploads/JACS/PDF/Restorative Justice Phase 1 evaluation.pdf](https://www.justice.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/resources/uploads/JACS/PDF/Restorative_Justice_Phase_1_evaluation.pdf).

The evaluation also found that 98% of victims, young offenders and support people who participated found the restorative justice process satisfying.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date:

1/3/22

By Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Attorney-General