

The Comparative Youth Penalty Project



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Project Newsletter December 2014

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 an international comparative study of youth punishment in Australia (focusing on NSW, Victoria, Queensland and WA) and in 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 across 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 jurisdictions that are the subject of this project?
- 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 provides stakeholders with an update on the progress of the CYPP. It also lists some of the latest news and research in the field of youth penalty. For more information please visit our [website](#) or contact CYPP Research Associate, [Elizabeth Clark](#).

CYPP News

Interviews

Members of the CYPP have continued to conduct interviews across NSW in the final months of the year. This has included interviews with young people in detention, juvenile justice centre staff, as well as representatives from NSW Department of Justice (Juvenile Justice). These interviews have provided a range of insights into current and previous practices in the area of juvenile justice, and the CYPP looks forward to conducting further interviews in 2015.

Meanwhile, in January 2015, interviews will commence with judges and magistrates in England and Wales.

News (Australia & UK)

Australia

[Child Crim Name Shame](#) (Emma Channon, *Townsville Bulletin*, 27 September 2014)

[Jump in Youth Crime](#) (Christine Anderson, *Townsville Bulletin*, 1 October 2014)

[Teen killers of Janine Balding have received 'cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment': UN](#) (Tom Allard, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 November 2014)

[Indigenous incarceration: Tony Abbott focuses on school attendance and jobs](#) (Helen Davidson, *The Guardian Australia*, 5 December 2014)

[Juvenile Justice: Three young Australian men share their experience of life from the inside](#) (ABC, 5 December 2014)

[Judge Slams Qld Child Offender Laws](#) (AAP, *Herald Sun*, 15 December 2014)

[Children 'likely serving excessive jail time' after Queensland strips right to appeal against sentence](#) (Joshua Robertson, *The Guardian Australia*, 17 December 2014)

[Guards who restrained and stripped boy in detention in Alice Springs backed by NT corrections boss](#) (Anthony Stewart, ABC, 19 December 2014)

UK

[Grayling gives green light for staff to use force against inmates in new jail](#) (Alan Travis, *The Guardian*, 17 October 2014)

[Young offenders hurt by guards get £96,000 payout](#) (Josh Boswell, *The Sunday Times*, 26 October 2014)

[Will Cornick: The boy who killed his teacher, and a conundrum for the prison system](#) (Paul Peachy & Chris Green, *The Independent*, 4 November 2014)

[Children locked in solitary for months](#) (Josh Boswell, *The Sunday Times*, 23 November 2014)

[Some youth offending teams failing to protect at-risk girls, say inspectors](#) (Alan Travis, *The Guardian*, 19 December 2014)

Research

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2014, [Youth Detention Population 2014](#), *AIHW Juvenile Justice Series* no. 16, Canberra

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2014, [Pathways through Youth Supervision](#), *AIHW Juvenile Justice Series* no. 15, Canberra

Gooda, M (2014), [Social Justice and Native Title Report 2014](#), *Australian Human Rights Commission*, Sydney

Goldson, B. (2014) [Violence, child prisoners and institutionalised impunity](#), *Criminal Justice Matters*, 98(1): 14-15.

NSW BOCSAR (2014) [New South Wales Custody Statistics – Quarterly Update September 2014](#), *NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research*, Sydney

O’Leary, J (2014) [Out of Step and Out of Touch: Queensland’s 2014 Youth Justice Amendments](#), *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* 26(2) 159-175

Sharp, J (2014) [Addressing the Vulnerability of Aboriginal young People in the Justice System](#), *Precedent* (124), 10-14

Stewart, J et al. (2014) [Indigenous Youth Justice Programs Evaluation](#), AIC Reports, *Australian Institute of Criminology*, Canberra

Stone, N (2014) [Developments in the Management and Ethos of Secure and Custodial Accommodation](#), *Youth Justice: An international journal*, 14(1): 284-293.