

The Comparative Youth Penalty Project



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Project Newsletter March 2015

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 (UNSW) 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

NSW Interviews

Members of the CYPP in Australia are currently finalising the last of the interviews to be conducted in NSW. Interviews with stakeholders, experts and young people form an invaluable part of this investigation and we are very grateful for the insights they have provided.

Publication of *Youth Crime and Justice* (2nd Edition)

CYPP Chief Investigator Barry Goldson and John Muncie have published a new edition of *Youth Crime and Justice*. The book comprises a range of cutting-edge contributions from leading national and international researchers providing a comprehensive examination of contemporary developments and trends in youth justice. More information about *Youth Crime and Justice* (2nd ed) can be found [here](#).

News (Australia & UK)

Australia

[‘NT government defends transfer of juvenile detainees to former adult jail’](#) (Helen Davidson, *The Guardian Australia*, 16 January 2015)

[‘Indigenous youth 24 times as likely to be locked up, research shows’](#) (Nicola Berkovic, *The Australian*, 28 January 2015)

[‘Boy, 15, found with gun at Central Station: police’](#) (Megan Levy, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 February 2015)

[‘Damning report on NT juvenile detention reveals ‘climate of daily crisis’](#) (AAP, *The Guardian*, 18 Feb 2015)

[‘Freedom Ride: plenty of lessons to be learned at Dubbo juvenile justice centre’](#) (Monica Tan & Fred McConnell *The Guardian Australia*, 19 February 2015)

[‘Labor to review LNP boot camps’](#) (Amy Remeikis, *The Sydney Morning Herald* 12 March 2015)

[‘Queensland Youth Justice System breaches international law: human rights experts’](#) (Amy Remeikis, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 March 2015)

[‘AG seeks more connected justice system’](#) (Chris Merrit, *The Australian* 20 March 2015)

[‘Changes to SA Youth Court may increase risk of reoffending: law expert’](#) (Simon Royal, *ABC News*, 22 March 2015)

UK

[‘Get tough gimmickry will never solve London’s gang problem’](#) (David Lammy, *London Evening Standard* 26 January 2015)

[‘Imprisonment ‘turns young offenders into sex criminals’](#) (Paul Peachey, *The Independent*, 10 February 2015)

[‘Carolyn Willow: ‘We closed workhouses. let’s get rid of child prisons’](#) (Eric Allison, *The Guardian*, 11 February 2015)

[‘Youth prison death prompts calls for reform’](#) (Mark Townsend, *The Guardian*, 1 March 2015)

Research

[NB: Many of the following publications require online subscriptions in order to gain access]

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2015, [‘Using the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set to measure returns to sentenced youth justice supervision: stage 2’](#) AIWH Juvenile Justice Series No. 17, Canberra

Hutchinson, Terry, 2014, [‘Making the Fun Stop: Youth Justice Reform in Queensland’](#) *Deakin Law Review* 19(2), 243

O’Toole, S., O’Leary, J., & Watt, B.D., 2015, [‘Fitness to plead in Queensland’s youth justice system: The need for pragmatic reform.’](#) *Criminal Law Journal*, 39(1), 40

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2014) [‘New South Wales Custody Statistics: Quarterly Update December 2014’](#) BOSCAR, Sydney

Shepherd, Stephane et al, 2014, [‘The predictive validity of risk assessment approaches for young Australian offenders’](#) *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law* (21(5), 801

[‘Stories from the Inside’](#), 2014, *Shark Island Productions*

West, Andrew, 2014, [‘Imprisoning Juveniles’](#) *Queensland Lawyer* (34), 154