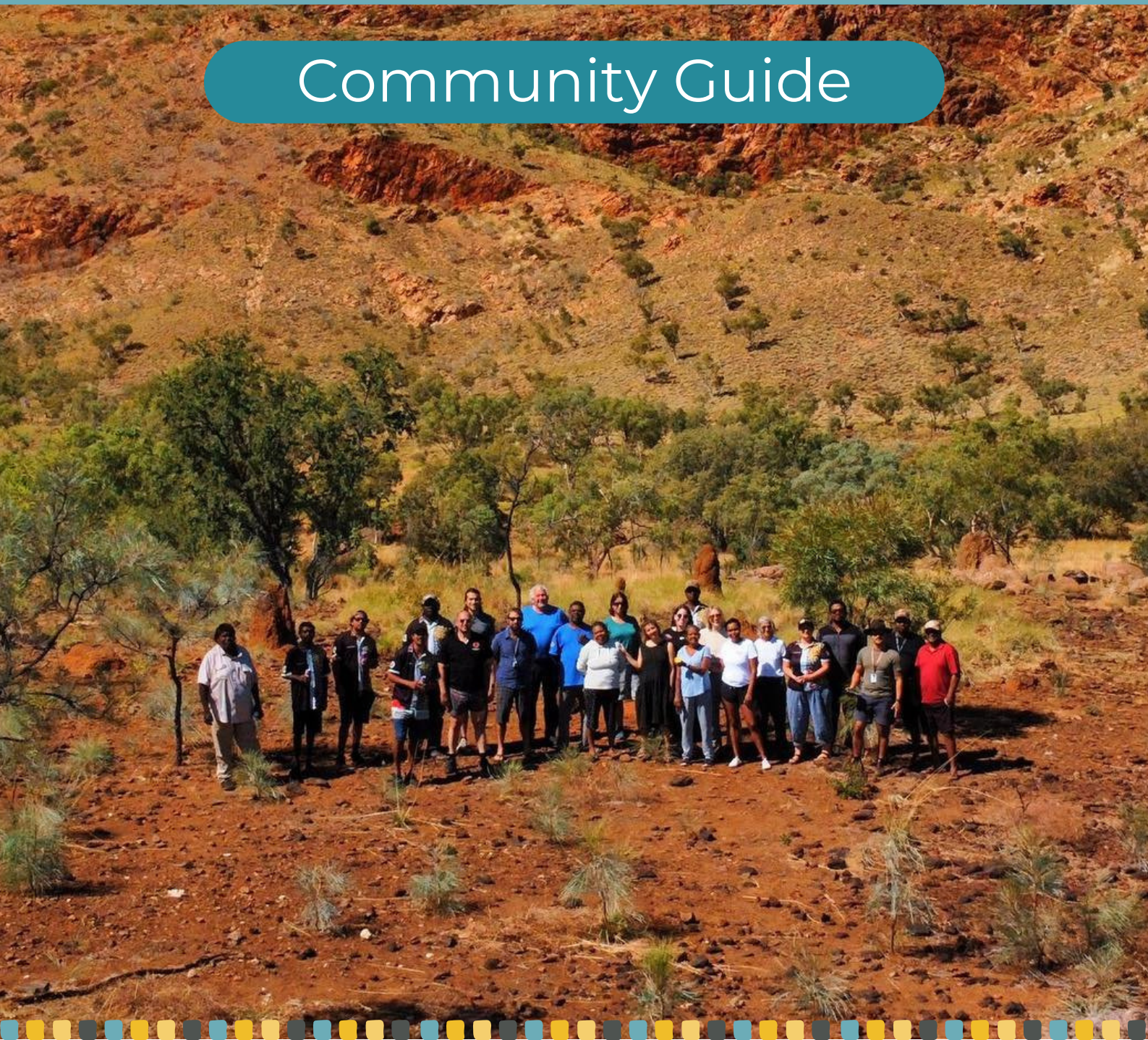




**SOCIAL
REINVESTMENT**
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Getting Started with Justice Reinvestment

Community Guide



Contents

Justice Reinvestment	2
Principals and Frameworks of JR	4
Justice Reinvestment in Action	5
The Justice Reinvestment Journey	6
Community Readiness Checklist	7
Social Reinvestment WA	9

Acknowledgement of Country

SRWA acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Ngala kaaditj Wadjuk moort keyen kaadak nidja boodja - We acknowledge Noongar people as the original custodians of the land on which our office sits.

Justice Reinvestment



What is Justice Reinvestment (JR)?

Justice Reinvestment is a form of preventative action which intentionally addresses the underlying causes and social determinants of criminal behaviour, such as family breakdown, poverty, unemployment, lack of meaningful training and job pathways, drug and alcohol dependence, mental health issues etc.

In doing so, justice reinvestment seeks to create safer communities by preventing crime, rather than predominantly focusing on the more expensive aspects of reacting to crime after it has occurred, such as policing, prosecution and incarceration.



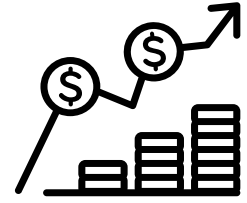
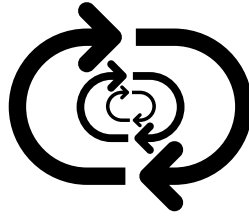
The evolution of Justice Reinvestment

Justice Reinvestment originated in the USA as a means for states with unsustainable prison populations to reduce their rate of incarceration and associated economic burdens, by diverting resources from the tertiary end of the criminal justice system to early intervention, prevention, diversion and rehabilitation where costs are significantly cheaper. Texas saved \$443 million over 2008/2009, and in 2012 closed a prison for the first time.

In Australia, justice reinvestment has developed further, prioritising place-based and community-led approaches that empower communities to lead transformation. In this way, justice reinvestment brings together both “bottom up” community development approaches and “top down” policy and systems approaches. Australian approaches to justice reinvestment also acknowledge that making a lasting and sustainable impact on community safety involves solutions and initiatives that fall outside the traditional confines of the justice system, and making a difference happens in many social and economic areas that contribute to community wellbeing.

The Maranguka JR Project in the town of Bourke, NSW (in partnership with JustReinvest NSW) was the first place-based Aboriginal community-led JR site in Australia. This project, alongside others such as Tiraapendi Wodli in Port Adelaide and Olabud Doogethu in Halls Creek, have helped shape the evolution of justice reinvestment in Australia.

Why do we need Justice Reinvestment?



WA has the highest rates of Aboriginal Incarceration in the entire nation.

On an average night in 2022-23, 71% of the children imprisoned in WA were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander [i] - despite Aboriginal children accounting for just 6.8% of the 10-17-year-old population [ii].

Historical injustices such as Stolen Generations, wage theft, and other colonial policies have deeply impacted Aboriginal people in WA - socially, emotionally, and economically. Subsequently inter-generational trauma and entrenched disadvantage and poverty are experienced at significantly higher rates than for the non-Indigenous population. Poor life outcomes associated with poverty are social determinants of crime.

Our prison system does not successfully rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders.

More than half (52.59%) of young people sentenced to detention in WA return to detention within two years of their release [iii]. Over a five-year period, this figure rises to more than 80% [iv].

Most people involved with the justice system experience complex social dysfunction prior to involvement with the justice system, such as unstable accommodation, substance use issues, and mental illness - many of which are not effectively addressed through the justice system. This continual cycle of incarceration and reoffending fails to make communities safer in the long term.

Our justice system is also considerably expensive and growing.

Adult and Juvenile Corrective Services cost over \$1.1 billion in 2022/23 [v] to incarcerate 6,352 adults and 1,440 children.

Strategies which seek to prevent offending, reduce incarceration and avert recidivism, provide an opportunity to address unsustainable growth in incarceration and related expenditure, while improving outcomes for the wider community.

Community-based initiatives that address the underlying causes of offending are significantly cheaper than incarceration, and create better outcomes. They create safer communities, and help enable individuals and their families to thrive by alleviating disadvantage.

JR is a smarter approach to justice.

[i] Productivity Commission (2024). Report on Government Services 2024, Part F, Section 17. Table 17A.5.

[ii] AIHW (2023). Youth Detention Population in Australia 2023. Table S55c (sourced from ABS).

[iii] Department of Justice (2023). Annual Report 2022-23.

[iv] Legislative Council of Western Australia, Question on Notice 3053 (15 September 2020).

[v] Legislative Council of Western Australia, Question on Notice 3053 (15 September 2020).

Principals of Justice Reinvestment



**Self
Determination**



**Community
Leadership
& Co-Creation**



**Coordinated
Collaboration**



**Prevention
Focused**



**Strength
Based**



**Data &
Evidence
Informed**



**Prioritising Cultural,
Social
& Emotional Wellbeing**

Frameworks of Justice Reinvestment



Justice Reinvestment – Aims to direct funding away from prisons and the justice system into strategies that address the underlying causes of offending.



Assets Based Community Development – Communities identify and mobilise existing, but often unrecognised or unutilised assets, to respond to challenges and create local opportunities.



Collective Impact – a model to help communities address complex social issues, built on 5 key conditions: a common agenda, a backbone organisation, continuous communications, mutually reinforcing activities & shared measurement.



Place-based Approach – Collaborative projects in a particular location working toward long term change and thriving communities. It is characterised by community leadership, shared design, shared management & accountability.



Co-design – Uses creative & participatory methods to design & deliver community services in an equal & reciprocal partnership between service users, service providers & funders.

Justice Reinvestment in Action

Australian communities leading change

Maranguka, Bourke NSW

Maranguka is the first Aboriginal-led place-based model of justice reinvestment in Australia and is a collaboration between the Bourke Tribal Council, Just Reinvest NSW and the community of Bourke. Maranguka, meaning 'caring for others' in Ngemba language, is a model of Indigenous self-governance which empowers the Aboriginal community to coordinate the right mix and timing of services through an Aboriginal community owned and led, multi-disciplinary team working in partnership with relevant government and non-government agencies.

Learn more: maranguka.org.au



Tiraapendi Wodli, Port Adelaide SA

Tiraapendi Wodli (TW) means 'protecting home' in Kaurna language. TW is a community-led collaboration between the Tiraapendi Wodli Aboriginal leadership group, the Aboriginal community in the western metropolitan area, Red Cross and Justice Reinvestment SA (JRSA) to strengthen the health, safety and lives of Aboriginal families, children and young people. At the heart of Tiraapendi Wodli is the commitment to making sure Aboriginal people's voices are at the centre of the design and delivery of programs and services. Tiraapendi Wodli 'walks alongside' local families to expand the many services and supports available to them.

Learn more: tiraapendiwodli.org.au



Olabud Doogethu, Halls Creek WA

The Shire of Halls Creek, together with Kimberley communities leads 'Olabud Doogethu', a Kriol phrase that translates as "all of us together". Olabud is committed to diverting mob away from the overcrowded prison system, and investing in their future – their children. With the community and partners, Oabud are implementing community-driven initiatives for early intervention. Schemes that rehabilitate young people and families, whilst cultivating stronger bonds within the community to help all live happier, more fulfilled lives.

Learn more: olabuddoogethu.org.au



The Justice Reinvestment Journey

1 Learn more about Justice Reinvestment

Discover what Justice Reinvestment is all about and hear about how other communities have put it in practice. Think about how it might work for your community & plan for the next steps. *Includes Unpacking Justice Reinvestment Toolkit.*

2 Bring Everyone Together for a Yarn

Get everyone in the community involved, from local elders, different family groups, service providers, government agencies and anyone else! Together, unpack your vision for your community, and what is stopping that from being a reality. Think about local strengths and assets, and unpack local challenges and potential solutions. *Includes Starting Community Conversations Toolkit.*

3 Make A Plan for Change

Form a partnership around a shared vision and a common goal, then decide how you will work together to make it happen. Identify community priorities, plan for measuring impact, and bring together the people, information, data, and resources you need to start taking action. *Includes: Collaboration for Collective Impact Toolkit; Data to Inform JR Toolkit, and; Developing your Community JR Plan Toolkit.*

4 Putting the Plan Into Action!

Work together to bring your ideas to life and start making changes that work towards your common goal. Share your JR story and review and refine plans along the way. *Includes Telling Our JR Story Toolkit and Review and Refine Toolkit.*

5 Regroup, Refocus & Reinvest

As you achieve social, cultural and economic benefits, aim to re-invest savings into new projects. Focuses on sustaining a strong partnership and shared vision, identifying emerging issues or new goals and strategies as you go.

Community Readiness Checklist



There are certain pre-conditions which help enable Justice Reinvestment initiative to successfully get off the ground. Below is a checklist that you can use to consider if you community is ready to get started with Justice Reinvestment.

Urgency for Change

- Are justice issues prevalent in the community?**
 - Is there data or other evidence showing that there are justice issues are present in the community? Are other issues which lead to offending going unaddressed?
- Is there a need for a new approach/ solutions in this community?**
 - Is there a need for new JR solutions and approaches in your community? Or are there already areas of opportunity where you can collaborate with and support community change, rather than compete.
- Is it a priority for the community?**
 - Has your community expressed the need for justice reform? Your community must have expressed this as a key area of desire for change in their local area.

Community Capacity & Leadership

- Community champions**
 - Your community must have leaders ready to call for change and be supportive of justice reinvestment approaches.
- Some evidence of collaborative partnerships**
 - Your community needs to be able to demonstrate prior collaborative partnerships, big or small. Without some capacity to work in partnership in a local area, any project will be difficult to realise.
- Cultural knowledge and experience**
 - If your community is an Aboriginal community, it is critical there are Aboriginal people, leaders, and organisations with cultural knowledge and experience who are willing to lead and guide the project.
- Leadership structures**
 - Your community must already have some functioning and capable leadership structures that we can tap into and collaborate with to achieve meaningful community driven change.
- Attitude of local government**
 - In an ideal situation local government should be supportive, can you involve them or champion it?

Community Attitude

Community Buy-In

- Does your community at large support the idea? How is the support demonstrated by the community commitments? Is there diverse, multi-sector, and multi-generational support?

Is the community committed for the long-term?

- Does your community understand the time length a justice reinvestment project may take until implementation and success? Have they or will they plan for it/ and or resource it accordingly?

Willingness of community to share stories & contribute building the evidence base

- Is there agreement from your community to share information, data, and learnings; for use to build support and the case for reform and justice reinvestment across the state?

Access to Resources

Assets in community

- Does your community have sufficient existing infrastructure, services, and/ or other assets to begin developing a site? For example, local organisations and buildings.

Access to data

- Does your community have sufficient existing data available to build the project and can it be made accessible to partners?

Level of resourcing

- Does your community have sufficient existing resources available, or a strong possibility of achieving such, to undertake a justice reinvestment site?

If your community checks these boxes, you are ready to get started with Justice Reinvestment. Check out our Justice Reinvestment journey and modules online to get started.

If your community doesn't quite tick all the boxes yet – Don't worry! It doesn't mean that Justice Reinvestment isn't the right option for you, but it does mean that there is some more work to do building up the pre-conditions before you're ready to get started.



Social Reinvestment WA

Our role in supporting justice reinvestment

We are enablers, connectors, and advocates.

We support WA communities to succeed at establishing JR sites, and we work with policy and decisionmakers to shift systems necessary to enable successful and effective justice reinvestment - so we can be smarter about how we approach justice, build safer communities, and stronger families.

What we've done

- Spoken, presented, and workshopped with thousands of people across WA about justice reinvestment
- Worked alongside four communities as they started putting JR into action
- Advocated to local, state, and federal governments for the shifts needed to support JR
- Developed tools, templates and resources to help communities get started
- Held state-wide justice reinvestment forums, worked with allies across the nation as part of the JR Network of Australia
- Supported the development of the Commonwealth Government's National Justice Reinvestment Program through the federal attorney general's office

What do we do

Support communities to build their capacity to lead justice reinvestment locally

Grow the evidence base and show how justice reinvestment can make a difference for the whole community

Help tell the important stories, and communicate to the wider world how justice reinvestment can work

Coordinate and advocate for policy and systems changes that support justice reinvestment



How SRWA can support your community or organisation

- SRWA's JR Community of Practice supporting connection with others leading the way!
- State-wide Justice Reinvestment Summits and regional forums.
- Training Workshops Delivered on Key Elements on JR Use our Modules and Resources Library.
- Help you tell stories about your good work
- Help you build evidence to show that your work is making a difference
- Support in developing Outcomes Measurement Frameworks & Impact Analysis



**Ready to get started
on your JR journey?!**

Get in touch with our team and
visit our tools for communities webpage today

Get in touch with our team

 srwa.org.au

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 Social Reinvestment WA

 Social.Reinvestment.WA

 @SocialRWA