

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 your 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 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?

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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 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.