

Breaking the cycle of youth crime

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The Plan to rebuild essential services

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“Effective crime prevention has arguably more to do with education than sentencing policy”.

[Chair of the UK Youth Justice Board, 2007].

Breaking the cycle of youth crime

Tasmania has the highest youth offender rate in Australia*, the highest youth unemployment rate in Australia**, and the worst retention rate for young people in senior secondary education.

There is a strong and direct correlation between offending and unemployment and an “absolute correlation” between a young person failing at school and entering the youth justice system^.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$5.3 million over three years into a statewide network of youth justice programs to break the cycle of youth crime.

Investing in early intervention youth justice programs aimed at breaking the cycle of youth crime and diverting young offenders, or those at risk of offending, into programs that re-engage them with education, training, employment and positive influences, will deliver improved outcomes for –

- The young person, in getting their lives back on track;
- Our community, with safer communities and less crime; and
- Our economy, with more productive, educated and skilled young people.

Programs to be funded will include:

- **Mission Australia’s U–turn program** – a restorative justice program for young people involved in, or at risk of involvement in, motor vehicle theft or offences. This program has been operating for ten years and has shown excellent results in reducing reoffending rates. The community also benefits with cars restored by U-turn donated back to victims of crime or programs like community driver training. Funding of \$500,000 per annum will be provided;
- **Save the Children’s Supporting Young People on Bail program, and Post-Detention Transition Program** – a program that provides for one on one support with both programs, showing outstanding results in helping young people who have offended to re-engage with education and positive influences, and prevent re-offending. The Bail program won a 2013 National Crime and Violence Prevention Award from the Australian Institute of Criminology. **Funding of \$600,000 per annum will be provided towards both programs, with Save the Children contributing an additional \$250,000 per year. This funding will allow both programs to operate statewide;**
- **Whitelion** – a program that has been working with young people across Tasmania since 2002. The Liberals will partner with Whitelion in a \$360,000 program to tackle Tasmania’s high youth unemployment rate. Our Youth Employment Partnership will help up to 200 at risk young people become job-ready, find long-term employment or re-engage in vocational education or training. **Funding of \$100,000 per annum will be provided with Whitelion to contribute an additional \$20,000 a year;**

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- [The TOOL program \(Training Opportunities and Options for Learning Inc\)](#) - a highly successful youth program offering a holistic approach to young people not going to school or looking for work. Operating since 2008, it has helped over 550 young people at risk to learn employable skills on projects including house renovations, a toy factory and operating a vineyard. **The Liberals will provide funding of \$270,000 per annum for TOOL to extend their training programs to include hospitality and horticulture and to assist over 300 young people per year to return to school, or access employment or traineeships;**
- [JLD Restorative Practices](#) will be provided with funding of \$50,000 per annum to intensify the delivery of restorative practice training to teachers and staff in Tasmanian primary and secondary schools and translate that training into practice. All around the world, restorative practice is having impressive results in schools in reducing problem behaviours and suspension rates; and
- [Tasmania's PCYC Network](#) plays an integral role in improving relationships between the Police Service and young people across the State, and helping divert young people from anti-social or criminal behaviour. **The Liberals will invest an extra \$250,000 per year into the network to continue to support and educate our youth to reduce crime and repeat offending.**

Costings: \$1.9 million (some initiatives included have been previously announced and costed).

* Tasmanian Commissioner for Children: Alternatives to Secure Youth Detention in Tasmania, 2013.

** Brotherhood of St Laurence, A Snapshot of Youth Unemployment in Australia, February 2014.

^ Children and Youth Services, 2012.