

Question 21

What changes to the YOA, or its implementation, could be made to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have equal access to diversionary interventions under the YOA?

Under a shared responsibility approach and early as possible Aboriginal young people are referred to Cultural appropriate services and diversionary programs, such as walkabout Dreaming a specialised program targeted at high needs and at risk youth that builds on the holistic approach of creating a sustainable case plan that is realistic and meaningful for the young people. Please find attached a draft of the walkabout dreaming self determination concept document and walkabout dreaming program.

What changes to the YOA, or its implementation, could be made to better address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the criminal justice system?

Acceptance, funding and working partnerships to assist programs become reality, implemented and recognised. This would form part of young offenders act to work with specialised Aboriginal programs, delivered and owned by Aboriginal people.

Thanks and have a deadly day

Derek Hardman

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Walkabout Dreaming