

Youth Koori Court Support Services

The Department of Justice is seeking suitable support services to assist in the delivery of the Youth Koori Court program.

About the Youth Koori Court

The Youth Koori Court process operates within the Children's Court for young Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders who have been found by the Children's Court to have committed a criminal offence and who choose to be part of the Youth Koori Court.

The Youth Koori Court expanded to Surry Hills Children's Court in February 2019.

The Youth Koori Court has the same powers as the Children's Court but involves the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the court process. The Youth Koori Court aims to:

- make it easier for young people to come to court and have a say in the court process
- connect young people to services to help them stay out of trouble
- help young people to connect to their family, their community, and their culture and
- provide a culturally safe and respectful environment for all participants in the court process.

The role of support services

Support services are an integral part of the Youth Koori Court process.

During a Youth Koori Court Conference, an Action and Support Plan is developed to address the young person's needs.

This might include ways for the young person to:

- improve their cultural connections
- stay at school or get work
- have stable accommodation and/or
- sort out any health, drug or alcohol issues.

As part of the Action and Support Plan the young person may be referred to support services that have indicated a willingness to accept referrals from the Youth Koori Court and that are relevant to the young person's needs.

Referrals are only made where the young person meets the support service's existing eligibility requirements and the service has the capacity to assist the young person.

Support services are responsible for:

- establishing a trusting relationship with the young person
- assisting the young person to address specific needs that have been identified by the Youth Koori Court
- managing the young person's involvement with the support service and
- reporting on the young person's progress.

How you can get involved

If your service is interested in assisting young people appearing in the Youth Koori Court please provide the Children's Court with some written information about your service including:

- a description of your service
- if your service is a specialist Aboriginal service and/or a child specific service
- the period of time your service would ordinarily engage with a young person
- if your service is limited by numbers

- if your service ordinarily has a waiting list and how long a young person may need to wait before they can access your service
- if your service provides transport
- if your service can provide written progress reports to the Youth Koori Court's casework co-ordinator, and
- your understanding of the Youth Koori Court process and its aim or a willingness to learn about the Youth Koori Court.

More information

If you have any further questions, please contact:

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