

# INTRODUCING JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

*WE NEED TO BE SMARTER ON CRIME, NOT TOUGHER ON CRIME*

A MEANS OF REDUCING CORRECTIONS SPENDING AND REVERSING ESCALATING INCARCERATION RATES WHILST IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

**REDUCE CORRECTIONS SPENDING**



**REVERSE ESCALATING INCARCERATION RATES**



**IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY**



**STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES**



## WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

### IT INVOLVES

diverting a portion of the public funds earmarked for future prison costs back into local communities with a high concentration of offenders to fund programs, services and activities that address the underlying causes of crime.



# JUSTICE REINVESTMENT IS

## 1 / ECONOMICALLY RESPONSIBLE

If prison populations continue to grow, millions will need to be spent on building new prisons. Crime prevention is a wiser and more efficient approach. It has worked in the US and it can work here.

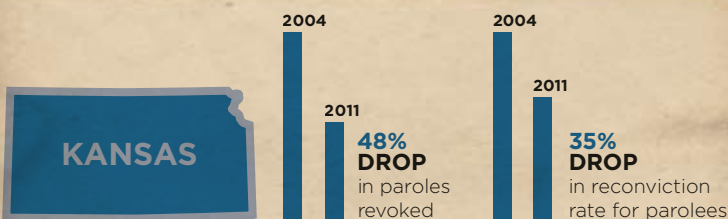
## 2 / DATA DRIVEN

By mapping where offenders live and the types of crimes committed, and cross-referencing this data with gaps in available services, it is possible to strategically guide investment towards programs which are most likely to reduce offending in these 'high-stakes' communities.

## 3 / COMMUNITY FOCUSED

The causes of crime are complex and location-specific. In response, Justice Reinvestment promotes tailored, community-driven, multi-pronged solutions. Emphasis is placed on building healthy communities not just rehabilitating individuals.

### BUT DOES IT WORK?



From an historic high in 2004, Kansas has now reduced its prison population, parole breaches and the reconviction rate for parolees. Kansas has been able to avoid building a new prison, and is expected to save an estimated \$80 million over five years.

### YES IT DOES!

**Justice Reinvestment** originated in some of the most conservative 'law and order' states in the US.



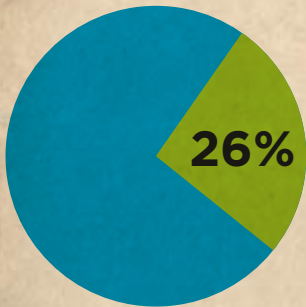
Since the introduction of Justice Reinvestment strategies in 2007, the Texas prison population has stopped growing for the first time in decades and crime rates in nearly every major urban area in Texas have declined.

# TIME FOR NEW THINKING IN AUSTRALIA

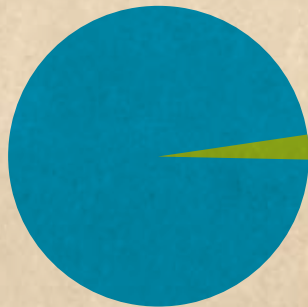
## INDIGENOUS INCARCERATION

**25x**  
MORE LIKELY

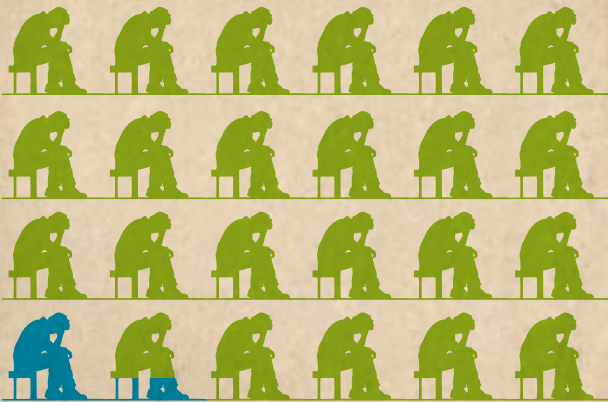
Indigenous juveniles are 25 times more likely to be placed in juvenile detention than their non-indigenous counterparts.



**PRISON POPULATION**



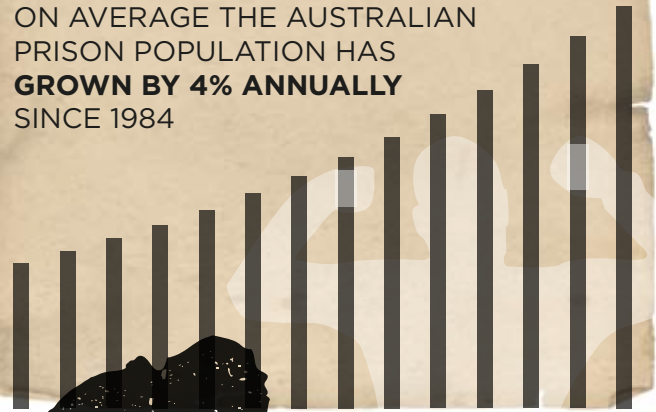
**NATIONAL POPULATION**



**23.3** INDIGENOUS  
**1.3** NON-INDIGENOUS | PER 1000 ADULTS

As at 30 June 2010 the imprisonment rate for Indigenous Australians was 23.3 per 1000 adults compared with 1.3 per 1000 non-indigenous adults. The Indigenous imprisonment rate is 18 times higher than the non-indigenous rate.

ON AVERAGE THE AUSTRALIAN PRISON POPULATION HAS **GROWN BY 4% ANNUALLY** SINCE 1984



OPERATING COST  
PER PRISONER

**\$207**  
PER DAY

## COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

EVERY SAVES **\$100**

For every \$1 spent on community legal centres, the Government saves \$100 in future justice system spending.

### COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

provide services to clients who are significantly disadvantaged.

**82%** OF CLIENTS **EARN LESS THAN \$26,000 A YEAR**

# WHERE TO FROM HERE?

It's time to embrace smart, targeted, evidence-based solutions to reducing imprisonment rates and improving outcomes for disadvantaged communities.

The Human Rights Commission has already identified a number of 'high-stakes' communities across the country which could be targeted for pilot programs.

Strong federal leadership and a whole-of-government approach are essential for the successful implementation of long-term Justice Reinvestment strategies.

COAG should adopt a 'Closing the Gap' target for reducing Indigenous imprisonment rates, supported by a well-funded and evidence-based Justice Reinvestment framework.