



## Making Justice Work

### 2016 NT Election Asks

@NT\_MJW

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#### **ASK 1: Aboriginal Justice Agreement**

“We call for an Aboriginal Justice Agreement that sets out how government and Aboriginal people will work together to make justice work in the NT.”

The agreement will be the result of a process that is based on, and builds, trust and engagement and will lead to practical solutions that meet the needs of our community.

#### **ASK 2: Specialist and therapeutic courts**

“We call on the NT government to commit to establishing and resourcing specialist and therapeutic Courts across the Territory’s entire justice system. Therapeutic Courts have proven to be effective - they allow the system to respond to the underlying issues behind offending and capture opportunities to steer people away from the criminal justice system wherever possible.”

**PRIORITY 1:** Specialist Youth Court in Alice Springs (new facility in Darwin working well)

**PRIORITY 2:** Alcohol and Other Drugs Court (clinicians linking people with support)

**PRIORITY 3:** Mental Health Court (clinicians linking people with support)

**PRIORITY 4:** Domestic and Family Violence Court (engaging community and court workers to creating case plans)

#### **ASK 3: Rehabilitation and reintegration**

“One of the key roles prison must play in our society is rehabilitating people for their return to the community. That’s why we want to see increased funding for rehabilitation, reintegration and employment programs for young people and adults already in the system. Crucial to this is action to address the shocking overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system and police custody.”

**PRIORITY 1:** Reintroduce rehabilitation into the objects of the *Correctional Services Act*. Rehabilitation must be the primary role of the Department of Correctional Services.

**PRIORITY 2:** Increase services and programs that encourage and maintain links to culture, community and country, and facilitate reintegration to the community.

**PRIORITY 3:** Increase resources for prisoner through care.

#### **ASK 4: Reduce the number of young people being locked up**

“We call on government to take urgent steps to reduce the number of young people being locked up. The NT locks up young people more often than anywhere else in Australia. This damages our youth and does not make the community safer. We have to make sure detention is a last resort, used only when community safety is at risk.”

**PRIORITY 1:** Bail support and accommodation

- Provide accommodation support to young people on bail
- Provide casework to young people on bail to ensure they are engaged in education and training, and receive financial and therapeutic support

**PRIORITY 2:** Better Resources for Diversion

- Youth Conferencing
- Therapeutic responses - camps and community programs
- Development of support link referral points
- Youth specific drug and alcohol programs

**PRIORITY 3:** Early intervention and primary prevention

- Invest in early childhood and family support programs
- Reengage disaffected young people in the education system
- Ensure youth services both developmental and recreational are essential services delivered in communities in the same way as other essential services such as health, housing, police and education
- Structured recreational activities delivered across the Territory
- Establish informational and referral spaces for young people

#### **ASK 5: Abolish Mandatory Sentencing**

“Mandatory sentencing has failed to make the NT a safer place. We call for it to be abolished in all its forms.”

#### **ASK 6: A comprehensive plan to deal with alcohol**

“Alcohol is a major driving factor behind offending and causes significant harm to our community. The NT needs a comprehensive plan to deal with alcohol - including a review of current laws and policies to identify strengths and shortcomings.”

**PRIORITY 1:** Establish a comprehensive evidence-based plan to minimise the harm caused by alcohol, including implementation of the recommendations of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory Select Committee on Action to Prevent Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (2015) and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs report on the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (2015).

**PRIORITY 2:** Abolish paperless arrests, Alcohol Protection Orders and the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment scheme.