

Improving Koori Justice Outcomes through One Justice

Presentation to the
National Indigenous Justice CEO Forum
Brisbane 21-22 November 2007

**Indigenous Issues Unit
Victorian Department of Justice**



The AJA Team

Ricky Morris, Chairperson, Hume Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC)

Yvonne Luke, Snr Policy Advisor, Koori Unit - Youth Justice, Dept of Human Services

Rudolph Kirby, Manager, Koori Courts, Magistrates Court, Dept of Justice

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Peter Hood, Executive Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

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AJA History

1991 – Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

1997 - National Ministerial Summit into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

2000 – Appointment of Bracks' Government

2000 – Launch of AJA1

2005 – Vic Implementation Review of Royal Commission Recs and AJA Review

2006 – Launch AJA 2

One Justice Overview

One Secretary

Penny Armytage

The Hon. Rob Hulls - (lead Minister AJA)

Deputy Premier

Attorney General Minister for Racing & Minister for Industrial Relations

The Hon. Bob Cameron

Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Minister for Corrections

The Hon. Tony Robinson

Minister for Gaming & Consumer Affairs

Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs

AJA PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURES

**Indigenous Community
Representatives**

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Representatives**

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**ABORIGINAL JUSTICE
FORUM**

**Regional Aboriginal
Justice Advisory Committees**

**Local Aboriginal Justice
Action Committees**

**Government Sector
Partnerships**

**Government Sector
Partnerships**

**Government Sector
Partnerships**

Joining it up

AJA Partnership Processes

Aboriginal Justice Forum
Meets 3 times per year

Community Activity

Government Agency Activity

RAJAC Plans

Koori Reference Groups
Koori Action Plans

LAJAC Activities

Aboriginal Justice Agreement
4 Year Work Plan

Aboriginal Justice Forum



AJF Operations

- Meets 3 times annually x 2 days
- Meets in community
- Commences with Community Forum
- Meetings open to community
- Proceeded by Koori Caucus

Aboriginal Justice Forum

- Parliamentary Secretary
- Justice Secretary
- Dep Sec, Human Services
- Director, Indigenous Issues
- Assistant Commissioner, Police
- Corrections Commissioner
- Victims Services Agency
- President, Children's Court
- Deputy Chief, Magistrates Court
- Sheriff's
- Youth Justice
- State Manager, DFACSIA
- Executive Director, AAV
- Vic Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee
- Vic Aboriginal Legal Service
- Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service
- Aboriginal Community Justice Panels Program
- Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum
- 7 x Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees

Koori Caucus

- All community members of AJF
- Secretariat services provided by IIU
- Builds collective community voice and empowers community members
- Meets prior to AJF
- Facilitates more effective AJF

AJA Justice Executive Committee

- Chaired by Justice Secretary
- Members – all Division Heads
- Director, Indigenous Issues
- Secretariat services provided by IIU
- Builds collective Justice voice and promotes positive competitiveness by Justice divisions
- Meets prior to AJF
- Facilitates more effective AJF and One Justice approach to AJA and approach to Koori programs

Koori Reference Groups

- Koori Reference Groups - Police, Courts, Justice, Corrections, Sheriff's, Youth Justice, Victims
- Membership – community and justice
- Program development & delivery consistent with AJA Principles
- Building accountability, transparency and participation

Koori Action Plans

- Statement of Commitment
- Summary description of AJA initiatives, outcomes, outputs
- Detailed project plan and time frame
- Qtr activity-expenditure reports (quarterly to AJF)
- Endorsement of Plan by the Koori Reference Group, JEC and AJF
- Annual review and three yearly evaluation

On time

Delayed < 3months

Delayed > 3 months

Not yet commenced

Benefits of AJA & One Justice

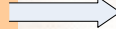
- Build holistic response
- More effective and efficient development and delivery of programs
- Easier to build, maintain, monitor (audit) compliance with standards and AJA principles
- Makes Justice more Koori accessible

AJA Challenges for joined up One Justice

- Commitment goes beyond current AG and Secretary
- Ensuring business units don't just pay lip service to Koori participation
- Ensuring max and appropriate representation from executive and management
- Visible commitment and leadership is essential

VIAF Policy Framework

Victoria's Indigenous Community



Goal
To improve life expectancy and quality of life for Indigenous Victorians



Victorian Government



Priority Outcome 1. Safe, healthy and supportive family environments with strong communities and cultural identity
 Priority Outcome 2. Positive child development and prevention of violence, crime and self harm
 Priority Outcome 3. Improved wealth creation and economic sustainability for individuals, families and communities



Victoria's Strategic Areas for Action

Government Leadership and Co-ordination

- Improve maternal health and early childhood health and development
- Improve numeracy and literacy
- Improve Yr 12 completion or equivalent qualification and develop pathways to employment
- Prevent family violence and improve justice outcomes
- Build indigenous capacity
- Improve economic development, settle native title claims and address land access issues

Strategic Indicators of positive change for Indigenous Victorians

'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage' Strategic Areas for Action