Justice Reinvestment:
Getting more for your dollar in dealing with crime

Emeritus Professor David Brown
Melanie Schwartz
UNSW
CRIME RATES V IMPRISONMENT RATES
PERCENTAGE OF PRISONERS RELEASED IN 2006-7 WHO RETURNED TO PRISON WITHIN 2 YEARS

WHAT ARE WE SPENDING ON IMPRISONING PEOPLE?

Corrective Services expenditure by jurisdiction 1999-2010

* Stat for WA for 2006 is incomplete due to change from Ministry of Justice to Dept of Corrective services midway through that financial year.
Data mapping

B. W. Cooper Housing, Central City New Orleans

Implementation of JR in the USA

Programs identified as Justice Reinvestment strategies (US states working with the Justice Centre)

- Enhance educational opportunities
- Increased housing options
- Expand employment services
- Increased police resources
- Improvements to restitution system
- Standardised risk assessments
- Changes to supervision regimes
- Increased community-based diversion
- In-prison initiatives
- Broader sentencing options

Number of states
JR outcomes in Texas

JR outcomes in Texas

In 2006, Texas had a projected prison population growth of **14,000 in 5 years** at a cost of US$523 million

Implementation:

- Substance abuse treatment programs
- 1,700 new beds in halfway houses
- 3,200 new beds in in-prison treatment programs
- Changing probation and parole regimes

Outcome:

- **2008-2010:** decrease in prison population by **1,125**
- **2008-2009 budget:** net saving of **US$443.9 million**
- **$4.3 million** pulled from the 2008-2009 corrections budget for a violence prevention program, the Nurse–Family Partnerships, to be delivered to 2000 families in identified ‘high stakes’ communities
Particular relevance to Indigenous incarceration

- Disadvantage
- Remoteness
- Community buy-in
- Victims’ issues
Case Study: Papunya

At the 2006 census, Papunya had a total recorded population of 379, (including 71 people under 14 years). In 2007–08, 72 adults entered Northern Territory jails who usually live in Papunya (this is not 72 different people, but includes people who had multiple receptions in the same year). The number of individuals comprising those 72 receptions is probably closer to 50 (at 30 June 2008 there were 31 people from Papunya in NT jails).

At $164 per day per prisoner, positing a median sentence of six months of the year (taking into account those churning through on short sentences), this represents a corrections cost of over $1.5million per year (incarceration costs only) for a community of less than 400 people.