

What is Justice Reinvestment?

Spotlight Session: Creating Diverse Regional Futures

SEGRA Conference, Bathurst

1.30pm to 3.30pm Tuesday 21st October 2015

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Justice Reinvestment

A framework for rethinking the criminal justice system so large sums of taxpayer money aren't spent imprisoning people for *low-level criminal activity*.

Political decision to re-invest that money back into community.

Justice Reinvestment

Involves all levels of government
(Commonwealth, State, local),
non-government organisations, service
providers, education, health, commercial &
justice sectors.

Justice Reinvestment

Facilitates a policy and fiscal framework ...

Broader ecological, social & political systems

Invests in *social inclusion*

Retains detention as *measure of last resort*

Justice Reinvestment

NOT just a program or a collection of programs

A *systems* approach

Involves: Governments at all levels (Commonwealth, State, local)

Non-government organisations

Indigenous governance structures

Community organisations

Service providers

education, health, police, employment, housing, judiciary



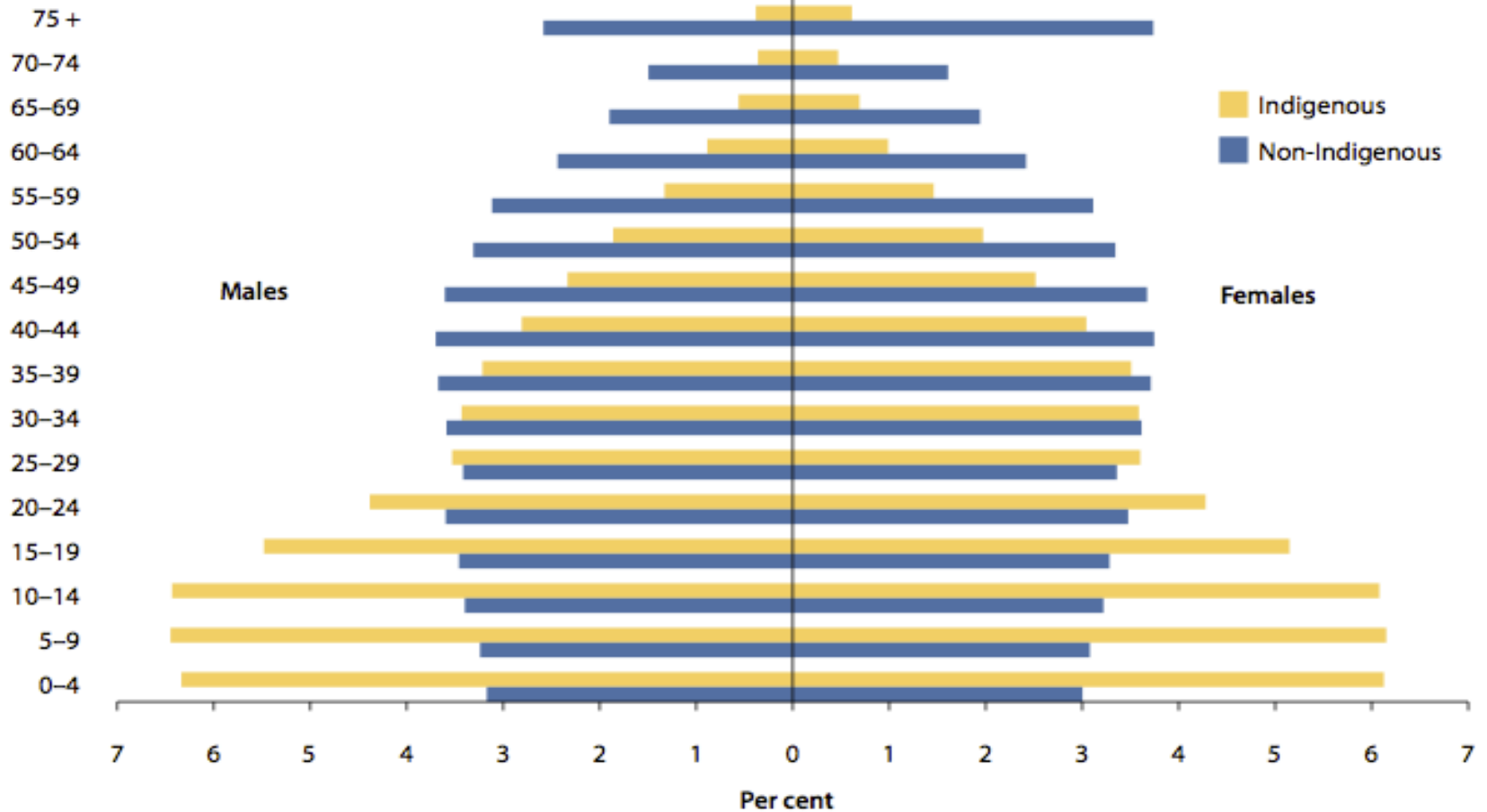
Why is Justice Reinvestment important?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians make up 2.5% of Australian population but more than a quarter of those in prison.¹

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are 31 times more likely to be in criminal detention than their non-Indigenous peers.²

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia* (2012)
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/A91DA889C3E80BA4CA257B3C000DCCC1>
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Juvenile detention population in Australia* (2012)
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=60129542551>

Age group (years)



Source: ABS 2008a.

Figure 2.2: Age structure, by sex and Indigenous status, 2006



Justice Reinvestment in the Australian context

At the political level

‘Doing Time, Time for Doing’, 2011

http://www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/house_of_representatives_committees?url=atsia/sentencing/report.htm

Senate Enquiry into value of Justice Reinvestment

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal and Constitutional Affairs/Completed inquiries/2010-13/justicereinvestment/index](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2010-13/justicereinvestment/index)



At the campaign level –

Justice Reinvestment Campaign
for Aboriginal young people (Bourke, NSW)

<http://justicereinvestmentnow.net.au/>



Research level

University of New South Wales

<http://justicereinvestment.unsw.edu.au/>

The Australian National University (NCIS)

http://ncis.anu.edu.au/news/index.php#jr_jun13



*Reducing incarceration using
Justice Reinvestment:
an exploratory case study*

11.00am – 11.30am, Wednesday 21st October 2015