

Better Justice Together Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026

Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Justice Strategy





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The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is committed to providing accessible information and services to Queenslanders from all cultural and linguistic backgrounds. To talk to someone about *Better Justice Together* and its associated Action Plans in your preferred language call **1800 512 451** and ask to speak with the First Nations Justice Office, Department of Justice and Attorney-General.



Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Queensland and as the Traditional Custodians of our precious land and waters. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We recognise and celebrate the unique and continuing position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our history, culture and future, and acknowledge their ongoing strength, resilience and wisdom. We are working to translate this recognition into fair, safe and inclusive practices, policies and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Queensland, we extend a special thank you for sharing your stories and insights to assist in shaping *Better Justice Together* through your collective voices. We are grateful for the knowledge and experiences shared to contribute to improved justice outcomes and a safer community for all Queenslanders.



Note on Language

In this document, we respectfully use the terms “Aboriginal”, “Torres Strait Islander”, “Indigenous” and “First Nations” to refer to the First Peoples of these lands. When we write Indigenous with a capital “I”, it’s talking specifically about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.

We acknowledge that there are many different language groups and nations across what is known today as Queensland. We recognise that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have distinctive cultures, customs, languages and lore. We also recognise the ongoing leadership of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in balancing compliance with western law and with traditional lore to support communities. *Better Justice Together* strives to build on communities’ strength to contribute to improved justice outcomes and a safer community for all Queenslanders.

These terms are used with the acknowledgement that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples maintain the right to self-determine the description of their cultural identity. So, we use the word ‘peoples’ with an ‘s’ as a way to show the diversity among First Nations peoples. This idea is supported by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and it acknowledges that there are many different cultures within these larger groups. The titles “Elders and Respected Persons” used in this document refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons who are recognised in and by their communities as one of these two titles.





About the artwork

This embodied design, *Better Justice Together*, is a joint creation by Kylie Hill, an Aboriginal Artist, and Jessie Mordey, a Torres Strait Islander Artist. It was commissioned by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's First Nations Justice Office and delivered with the support of Iscariot Media's creative team.

This embodied design captures the goals and challenges of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the justice system, emphasising their desire for a culturally safe and nondiscriminatory environment. It highlights the importance of unity and collective strength in tackling overrepresentation and focuses on building connections within the community to support and amplify their voices. *Better Justice Together* seeks to drive meaningful change and achieve positive outcomes in bettering justice for these communities.





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Introduction

Better Justice Together: Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Strategy 2024–2031

Better Justice Together: Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Strategy 2024–2031 (Better Justice Together) reflects Queensland Government's continued commitment to supporting victims and victim's families, preventing crime before it occurs, intervening when people offend, and strengthening community safety. We know and believe every Queenslander deserves to feel and be safe.

Better Justice Together, in response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce *Hear Her Voice – Report One*, is the Queensland Government's commitment to co-design a whole-of-government and community strategy to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system and meet the justice targets under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement).

In 2020, the Queensland Government committed to the National Agreement and its justice targets to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15 per cent and young people (10 to 17 years) in detention by at least 30 per cent by 2031. Since committing to the National Agreement, incarceration rates have continued to rise, and Queensland is not on track to meet the targets by 2031. *Better Justice Together* is the Queensland Government's chance to reverse the current trajectory and meet the justice targets under the National Agreement.

Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026

The Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026 is the first of three action plans to deliver on the commitments under *Better Justice Together*.

It is a commitment underpinned by the *Better Justice Together* focus areas, identified through community consultation and engagement

across remote and discrete, regional, and urban communities. It is a commitment to **work together** to develop and embed strong and accountable partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We will create space for significant **decision-making** to be equally shared between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their chosen representatives and government and support and develop culturally appropriate and culturally modelled **early intervention and prevention** initiatives.

We will implement transformational elements within government and organisations to provide a **better and fairer justice system** that is culturally safe and free from institutional racism.

We will improve community safety by **addressing offending and re-offending** behaviours, including providing culturally safe diversionary, rehabilitation and reintegration options.

This *Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026* will build and secure strong foundations for *Better Justice Together* to make real change and address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system.



Better Justice Together roadmap

Our Action Plans provide a clear roadmap of how we will reduce the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system. At each stage of the roadmap, we will partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure their voices are amplified and elevated to meet the needs of local communities.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap



We will work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at every stage to co-design our action plans.



Our four focus areas will underpin all our action plans.





How we will deliver Better Justice Together

Community-led design and delivery of actions

The *Better Justice Together* strategy has been developed and co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Queensland.

The process of ‘co-design’ requires active participation and shared decision-making. It goes beyond simple methods of consultation which can often become ‘tokenistic’. It is a staged process of collaboration and partnership that enhances understanding and the value of peoples lived experiences and expertise to co-create services or potential solutions to specific issues.

The co-design process involves understanding and clearly defining issues, developing potential solutions which are community-led and testing these ideas in practice. It is also important to regularly monitor and review the delivery of outcomes to measure successes, identify key issues and learnings and opportunities for continuous improvement.

The *Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026* seeks to establish and embed stronger partnership elements between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and government. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples need to be included in all aspects of the ongoing design and engagement process. We are committed to working with community at every stage.

We know that each person and each community is unique, and one solution does not fit all. The *Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026* seeks to develop community readiness and capacity so together we can implement place-based community focused reforms.

We will continue to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout the life of the Strategy and Action Plans to identify issues, keys learnings, and ways to improve. We will work with communities to identify existing and previous place-based responses that communities say work well. We recognise it is for communities to identify what initiatives have worked well for them and it is government’s role to support this.

We will work with communities to identify the most accessible way to share relevant information with a view to conveying learnings and knowledge towards further co-designing, co-developing and co-implementing place-based responses.

A genuine co-design process will look very different for each community. There are a range of issues to consider and guide the approach to working in partnership with communities including respecting existing local decision-making structures, peak agencies and acknowledging the unique challenges and needs of remote, regional and urban communities.



The co-design process will be ongoing throughout the life of the Strategy. We will continue to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate in the evaluation of the Strategy to identify any issues, key learning and ways to improve for the development of future action plans.



Principles of Better Justice Together

To make real progress towards achieving our goal we need to adopt a bold strategy guided by the following principles:

- Self Determination**
We strive to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have autonomy to make decisions about matters that affect their lives and communities.
- Cultural Safety**
We prioritise cultural safety by acknowledging systemic inequities, power imbalances and past policies to create environments where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel safe, empowered, and free from all forms of discrimination. We acknowledge that cultural safety cannot be determined by others, it is only the individual who knows that they feel culturally safe.
- Accountability & Transparency**
We seek to improve governance arrangements so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and government build accountable and transparent partnerships that are based on shared decision-making and equity.
- Person Centred**
We place the person at the centre of our approach, treating them with respect and dignity. We prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' lived experience, culture and needs, and actively involve the person in decision-making.
- Rights Based**
We recognise and respect the human, civil, legal and cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Data Sovereignty**
We strive to improve access to data and information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise the importance of Indigenous Data Sovereignty.



Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026 at a glance

Focus area one: Working Together

1. Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and community-controlled organisations to identify ways to strengthen and formalise partnerships/relationships between communities, government and non-government service providers.
2. Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and community-controlled organisations to co-design governance and accountability frameworks.
3. Establish formal cross-sector partnerships and agreed ways of working between Queensland policy partnerships established under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to foster coordination and collaboration.

Focus area two: Early intervention and prevention with local decision-making for safer communities and families

4. Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to further identify ways to increase birth registrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
5. Develop and implement early intervention supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with disability to maintain their connection with learning.
6. Invest in targeted place-based sport and recreation initiatives through the Youth Development Partnership Fund to improve physical and mental health for youth at-risk of offending.
7. Partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to design and pilot programs tailored to meet the needs of their community for effective domestic and family violence perpetrator programs.
8. Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community and community-controlled organisations to identify best practice community-led, culturally safe, place-based responses.
9. Identify best practice data collection, access, management, local data sharing and decision-making arrangements and explore options to adopt and embed data sovereignty principles.
10. Develop and implement the Queensland Justice Reinvestment Framework.

Focus area three: Doing justice differently for a better and fairer justice system

11. Undertake a needs gap analysis to determine and identify cultural capability training offered, including to service providers, across the criminal justice system.
12. Design and implement a Cultural Safety Framework through engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander subject matter experts, and commitment to educating the Queensland Police Service workforce as to what racism is.
13. Explore options to strengthen the role of Community Justice Groups, Elders and Respected Persons and families in the criminal justice system.
14. Explore options to enhance court circuiting arrangements to discrete and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
15. Identify policies and legislation that inadvertently impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the justice system and explore options for review.

Focus area four: Address offending and reduce reoffending

16. Explore options to increase restorative justice models in rural, regional and remote locations.
17. Explore opportunities to increase and improve diversion options available across the justice system.
18. Identify best practice for culturally responsive rehabilitation, healing and prevention programs and explore opportunities to implement across the criminal justice system.
19. Identify opportunities to enhance connection to culture, self-identity and Country for young people involved in the youth justice system.
20. Explore options to expand program delivery, including co-designing inside-outside programs and initiatives to target domestic and family violence for adults in the corrective services system.
21. Identify best practice accessible, culturally safe behaviour change programs designed and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and explore options to implement in Queensland.



Focus are one: Working together

We will build strong partnerships that are accountable and representative, and where decision-making is shared between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and government.

Action	How will this action drive change?	Alignment		Responsible
		Strategy objectives	Priority reform	
<p>1 Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and community-controlled organisations to identify ways to strengthen and formalise partnerships/relationships between communities, government and non-government service providers.</p>	<p>Action 1 will increase formal partnerships, strengthen relationships and build trust between the community, community-controlled sector, government and other service providers.</p> <p>It will strengthen these relationships and drive participation and shared decision-making and support to more informed decisions which better reflect the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>	<p>1.1 Improve partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community-controlled organisations, and government.</p> <p>1.4 Support communities to reframe service delivery in a way that is responsive to local community needs.</p>	PR 1, 3	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG)</p> <p>Justice Policy Partnership (JPP) Executive Governance Group</p>
<p>2 Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and community-controlled organisations to co-design governance and accountability frameworks.</p>	<p>Action 2 will support strengthened governance to ensure community and community-controlled organisations participate as equal partners with government to monitor the success of the objectives of the <i>Better Justice Together</i> Strategy.</p>	<p>1.1 Improve partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community-controlled organisations, and government.</p> <p>1.2 Improve governance arrangements and government accountability at a local level.</p>	PR 1, 2, 3, 4	<p>DJAG</p> <p>JPP Executive Governance Group</p> <p>Communities</p>
<p>3 Establish formal cross-sector partnerships and agreed ways of working between Queensland policy partnerships established under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to foster coordination and collaboration.</p>	<p>Action 3 will ensure all Policy Partnerships work better together, to breakdown traditional siloed approaches, to ensure holistic and integrated responses.</p> <p>Partnerships will be established to address underlying socio-economic issues and drivers of incarceration external to the criminal justice system, in sectors such as health, disability, education, violence prevention, employment, housing, early childhood and justice.</p>	<p>1.1 Improve partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community-controlled organisations, and government.</p> <p>1.3 Improve cross-sector partnerships.</p>	PR 1, 3	<p>DJAG</p> <p>JPP Executive Governance Group</p>



Focus area two: Early intervention and prevention with local decision-making for safer communities and families

We will empower and invest in communities and the community-controlled organisations to co-design and deliver high quality services that meet the need of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Action	How will this action drive change?	Alignment		Responsible
		Strategy objectives	Priority reform	
4 Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to further identify ways to increase birth registrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.	Action 4 will work to close the birth registration gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by building on work done from the <i>Closing the Registration Gap Strategy 2021–2024</i> .	2.1 Support culturally safe early intervention and prevention initiatives.	PR 2, 3	DJAG
5 Develop and implement early intervention supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with disability to maintain their connection with learning.	Action 5 will implement early intervention for relevant students through co-designed attendance and engagement programs, Intensive Education Case management, behaviour specialists in the early years of schooling and Family Support Coordinators to support transition from early childhood into school. Implementation will involve collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families, communities, and the schools.	2.1 Support culturally safe early intervention and prevention initiatives. 2.2 Support co-designed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led local responses.	PR 2	Department of Education
6 Invest in targeted place-based sport and recreation initiatives through the Youth Development Partnership Fund to improve physical and mental health for youth at-risk of offending.	Action 6 will support youth at-risk of offending through the power of sport and active recreation-based activities. It will improve the relationship between young people and the local Queensland Police Service. It will foster strong local connections between stakeholders and link initiatives to key support services where possible. It will provide programs that resonate with the unique needs and strengths of each locality to deliver positive change.	2.1 Support culturally safe early intervention and prevention initiatives.	PR 2	Department of Tourism and Sport Queensland Police Service (QPS)



Action	How will this action drive change?	Alignment		Responsible
		Strategy objectives	Priority reform	
<p>7 Partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to design and pilot programs tailored to meet the needs of their community for effective domestic and family violence perpetrator programs.</p>	<p>Action 7 will lead to delivery of accessible and culturally safe perpetrator programs that communities identify as likely to be effective for their community. These programs are likely to have a healing approach and be connected to culture, community and country.</p> <p>Culturally safe, accessible programs which address some of the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples contact with the criminal justice system and reduce rates of victimisation and offending.</p>	<p>2.1 Support culturally safe early intervention and prevention initiatives.</p> <p>2.2 Support co-designed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led local responses.</p>	PR 1, 2, 3, 4	DJAG
<p>8 Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community and community-controlled organisations to identify best practice community-led, culturally safe, place-based responses.</p>	<p>Action 8 will identify and support initiatives that address factors which contribute to increased risk of involvement with the criminal justice system, including exploring community interest in initiatives that support women and girls wishing to report sexual violence. This will also explore opportunities for services currently delivered by government to be transitioned to community-controlled organisations.</p> <p>Sharing effective local responses will inform community about what works elsewhere and promote self-determination. These initiatives will reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples contact with the criminal justice system and reduce rates of victimisation and offending.</p>	<p>2.2 Support co-designed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led local responses.</p>	PR 1, 2, 4	DJAG
<p>9 Identify best practice data collection, access, management, local data sharing and decision-making arrangements and explore options to adopt and embed data sovereignty principles.</p>	<p>Action 9 will identify ways to better collect and share data with communities to build upon the Productivity Commission’s recommendation to adopt Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles into ways of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community and the community-controlled sector and enable evidence-based shared decision-making. This will ensure efforts of both government and communities are focused on sustainable self-determination and effective self-governance.</p>	<p>2.3 Improve access to data and information.</p>	PR 1, 2, 3, 4	DJAG JPP Executive Governance Group
<p>10 Develop and implement the Queensland Justice Reinvestment Framework.</p>	<p>Action 10 will support Queensland communities to access funding for justice reinvestment initiatives.</p> <p>This will allow for more place-based responses that respond to the needs of individual communities.</p>	<p>2.4 Support community-led justice reinvestment initiatives.</p>	PR 2, 3	DJAG





Focus area three: Doing justice differently for a better and fairer justice system

We will transform government to identify and address racism and embed cultural safety.

Action	How will this action drive change?	Alignment		Responsible
		Strategy objectives	Priority reform	
<p>11 Undertake a needs gap analysis to determine and identify cultural capability training offered, including to service providers, across the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Action 11 will increase understanding of cultural capability training offered across the criminal justice system. This analysis will then help inform options to enhance cultural capability for all service providers in the criminal justice system to support a culturally safe justice system, build community confidence and trust, and lead to better decision-making and a fairer justice system.</p>	<p>3.1 Improve the justice system to be culturally safe and free from all forms of racism.</p> <p>3.2 Ensure we have an equitable and accessible justice system that promotes, protects, and respects the rights and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>	<p>PR 2, 3</p>	<p>DJAG</p>
<p>12 Design and implement a Cultural Safety Framework through engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander subject matter experts, and commitment to educating the Queensland Police Service workforce as to what racism is.</p>	<p>Action 12 will increase the cultural safety of the Queensland Police Service, to support a culturally safe justice system, build community confidence and trust and lead to a fairer justice system.</p>	<p>3.1 Improve the justice system to be culturally safe and free from all forms of racism.</p>	<p>PR 3</p>	<p>QPS</p>





Action	How will this action drive change?	Alignment		Responsible
		Strategy objectives	Priority reform	
<p>13 Explore options to strengthen the role of Community Justice Groups, Elders and Respected Persons and families in the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Action 13 will explore ways to strengthen the role of Community Justice Groups, Elders and Respected Persons and families to ensure their voices and knowledge are heard when justice decisions are being made.</p> <p>This action recognises the important role that Elders, Respected Persons and families play in their communities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system as victims, victim-survivors and offenders.</p>	<p>3.1 Improve the justice system to be culturally safe and free from all forms of racism.</p> <p>3.2 Ensure we have an equitable and accessible justice system that promotes, protects, and respects the rights and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p> <p>3.3 Support Community Justice Groups</p> <p>4.3 Enhance culturally safe and appropriate support for victims, victim-survivors and offenders.</p>	<p>PR 1, 2, 3</p>	<p>DJAG</p> <p>Department of Youth Justice (DYJ)</p> <p>Queensland Corrective Services (QCS)</p>
<p>14 Explore options to enhance court circuiting arrangements to discrete and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p>	<p>Action 14 will explore ways to increase access to justice in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p>	<p>3.2 Ensure we have an equitable and accessible justice system that promotes, protects, and respects the rights and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>	<p>PR 3</p>	<p>DJAG</p>
<p>15 Identify policies and legislation that inadvertently impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the justice system and explore options for review.</p>	<p>Action 15 will support the Queensland Government to identify policies and legislation that inadvertently impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly in relation to rates of overrepresentation, and explore options for review.</p>	<p>3.4 Review policies and laws that inadvertently disadvantage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and consider options for reform.</p>	<p>PR 3</p>	<p>DJAG</p> <p>JPP Executive Governance Group</p>



Focus area four: Address offending and reduce re-offending

We will move towards preventative and restorative justice models that directly address rehabilitation and reintegration.

Action	How will this action drive change?	Alignment		Responsible
		Strategy objectives	Priority reform	
16 Explore options to increase restorative justice models in rural, regional and remote locations.	Action 16 will ensure options are explored to increase the availability of restorative justice programs. This may result in more mediation and peace-keeping solutions, which may in turn lead to more successful resolution of conflicts within communities, reducing risks of escalating tensions. This will increase community safety and reduce overrepresentation in traditional justice processes.	4.2 Improve access to culturally safe and appropriate diversion, restorative justice, bail support options and community-based sentencing options.	PR 2, 3	DJAG JPP Executive Governance Group
17 Explore opportunities to increase and improve diversion options available across the justice system.	Action 17 will ensure opportunities are explored to increase the availability of diversion options available across the justice system to enhance opportunities for people to exit the system. We will explore opportunities for people in remote locations to access services or invest in digital technologies to facilitate involvement in diversion opportunities.	4.2 Improve access to culturally safe and appropriate diversion, restorative justice, bail support options and community-based sentencing options.	PR 2, 3	DJAG JPP Executive Governance Group
18 Identify best practice for culturally responsive rehabilitation, healing and prevention programs and explore opportunities to implement across the criminal justice system.	Action 18 will address factors which contribute to offending behaviours, including for people who currently have difficulty accessing these programs. This will increase community safety by reducing risks of reoffending and reduce overrepresentation. Persons who complete appropriate programs are less likely to have further contact with the criminal justice system.	4.3 Enhance culturally safe and appropriate support for victims, victim-survivors and offenders.	PR 2, 3	DJAG JPP Executive Governance Group



Action	How will this action drive change?	Alignment		Responsible
		Strategy objectives	Priority reform	
<p>19 Identify opportunities to enhance connection to culture, self-identity and Country for young people involved in the youth justice system.</p>	<p>Action 19 will address factors which contribute to offending behaviours and enhance wellbeing. By reducing risks of reoffending this action will increase community safety and reduce overrepresentation.</p>	<p>4.3 Enhance culturally safe and appropriate support for victims, victim-survivors, and offenders and families.</p>	<p>PR 2, 3</p>	<p>DYJ</p>
<p>20 Explore options to expand program delivery, including co-designing inside-outside programs and initiatives to target domestic and family violence for adults in the corrective services system.</p>	<p>Action 20 will address factors which contribute to violent behaviors. This will increase community safety by reducing risks of reoffending and reduce overrepresentation. Persons who complete appropriate programs are less likely to have further contact with the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>4.3 Enhance culturally safe and appropriate support for victims, victim-survivors, and offenders and families.</p>	<p>PR 2, 3</p>	<p>QCS</p>
<p>21 Identify best practice accessible, culturally safe behaviour change programs designed and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and explore options to implement in Queensland.</p>	<p>Action 21 will identify programs that are responsive to the needs of participants, including more support for services delivered by community-controlled organisations. Culturally safe programs will increase community safety by reducing risks of reoffending and reduce overrepresentation.</p> <p>Persons who have access to and complete appropriate programs are less likely to have further contact with the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>4.5 Improved access to culturally safe and appropriate programs designed and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>	<p>PR 2, 3</p>	<p>DJAG</p> <p>QCS</p> <p>Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition</p>





Governance and accountability

DJAG will be responsible for oversight of the implementation of *Better Justice Together* and the *Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026*, with lead agencies and organisations reporting on progress to DJAG. DJAG will report on progress to the Justice Policy Partnership (JPP) Executive Governance Group which will also provide strategic oversight of the implementation of *Better Justice Together*. The Queensland Government will hold itself to account, including to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through the co-designed monitoring and evaluation plan.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement) is the overarching framework to support delivery of practical and meaningful change to ensure governments work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their representatives to improve life outcomes. The Queensland Government is held accountable for progress on the National Agreement, its Priority Reforms and Targets through the Productivity Commission’s Closing the Gap national data dashboard and Annual Data Compilation Report.

Justice Policy Partnership

In 2021, the JPP was established under Priority Reform One of the National Agreement as part of a joined-up approach between the Commonwealth, states and territories and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives. The JPP is focused on the reduction of adult and youth incarceration and this partnership is guided by an *Agreement to Implement the JPP*. The JPP recognises the causes of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can only be addressed through systematic and institutional change.



JPP Executive Governance Group

In Queensland, we have established strong governance arrangements to support the JPP in partnership with members of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition and independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives. The JPP is supported by the Queensland JPP Executive Governance Group which is co-chaired by the Deputy Director-General of Justice Policy and Reform, DJAG, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. Other members include:

- CEOs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service;
- Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission;
- Two members of the Queensland First Children and Families Board;
- One member of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Training Advisory Committee; and
- Deputy Director-General level representatives from government agencies.

The Queensland JPP Executive Governance Group is supported by the JPP Cross-Agency Working Group, consisting of members from the above organisations.

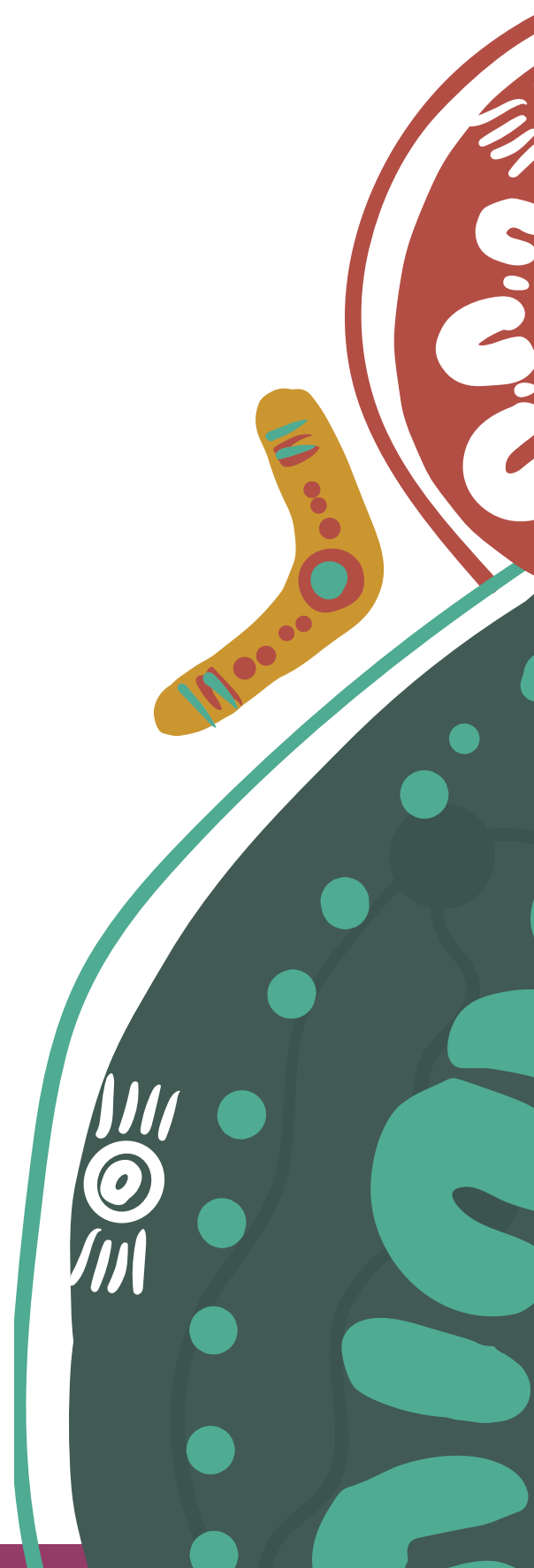
Monitoring and evaluation plan

We are committed to ensuring meaningful change is achieved in implementing *Better Justice Together* and the *Foundational Action Plan 2024–2026* through a robust monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure progress, transparency, accountability and continuous improvement.

A monitoring and evaluation plan for *Better Justice Together* will be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure:

- measures of success and key indicators meet both community and government needs;
- improvements and barriers can be easily identified; and
- the objectives of the Strategy are met.

The monitoring and evaluation plan will support the ongoing implementation of initiatives and programs and inform the development of future action plans.







Queensland
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