

# NATIONAL JUSTICE REINVESTMENT PROGRAM & NATIONAL JUSTICE REINVESTMENT UNIT CO-DESIGN COMMUNITY RESOURCE

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**Jumbunna**  
Institute for Indigenous  
Education and Research

# COMMUNITY CO-DESIGN: NATIONAL JUSTICE REINVESTMENT PROGRAM

The Federal Government has committed \$81.5 million to justice reinvestment. This commitment includes two things.

- \$69 million from 2022–23 for place-based community-led justice reinvestment initiatives in up to 30 communities.
- \$12.5 million from 2022–23 to establish an independent National Justice Reinvestment Unit to coordinate and support justice reinvestment work nationally.

We would like your input about the design of the grants process and guidelines under the National Justice Reinvestment Program.

## What is justice reinvestment?

Justice reinvestment or 'JR' is not a program, though communities might set up community-led programs through JR. JR is a way of working – a process that strengthens community leadership that will help improve justice and other outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. JR also usually focuses on improving outcomes in a particular community. It is informed by data and other evidence that helps communities identify priorities and measure progress over time.

JR tries to address the reasons why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are coming into contact with police and being locked up. Communities might focus on breaking cycles of offending through, for example, family support and better health and education outcomes. Communities also advocate for changes in government and non-government service/program delivery, including changes to policing, courts and corrections, to help improve justice and other outcomes.

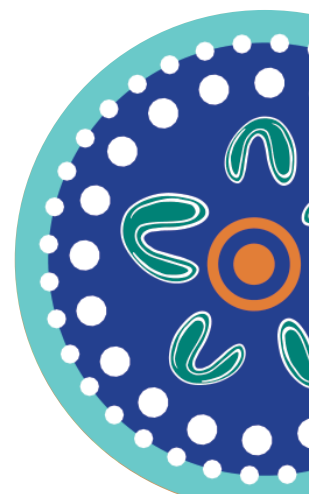
## QUESTIONS

### Funding JR activities

What type of work is your community currently doing or wanting to do that could be funded through this national program?

Examples of activities to be funded could include the following:

- Staffing and operational costs for those working on and leading JR.
- Infrastructure, communications and learning opportunities.
- Setting up and evaluating programs.
- Activities that bring community together to participate in JR activities.



## Funding JR initiatives

Community-led initiatives that are not referred to as JR, but that have a similar way of working to JR will be funded under the national program.

There are some common elements of JR initiatives:

- Being place-based or focused on a particular community.
- Having strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leadership.
- Using evidence and data to identify community priorities and to measure progress over time..
- Addressing drivers of offending and incarceration.

What initiatives do you think should be funded under the program? What type of key elements should they have?

## Making decisions about funding

The national program will fund communities that identify themselves as ready to explore or progress JR. Being ready to work with JR might mean different things in different communities. Examples of readiness include the following:

- Community leaders (Traditional Owners, Elders and others) and others in the community are coming together to call for urgent change.
- Community understands the long-term nature of JR – or at least, is ready to better understand what is involved in implementing JR.

- Community is thinking about who they need to partner and collaborate with for change to occur, including community organisations/programs, government and other service providers at a local level.

While community readiness for change is essential, government also needs to change the way it is currently working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities if justice outcomes are to be improved.

How do you think communities will know they are ready to work with JR? And how do they demonstrate this readiness when applying for this funding?

Apart from thinking about whether a community is ready, what else could inform decisions about JR funding?

Should Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people be part of funding decisions under the national program? How could this work best?



## Making funding accessible and meaningful

Applying for funding can be difficult. Funding opportunities can be hard to identify, and application processes can be complicated, for instance. Sometimes funders have requirements about who they provide money to (for example, to an incorporated body only).

What are the common challenges that communities face when applying for funding? What could be done to make applying for funding under the national program as accessible and easy as possible?

Sometimes the way funding is provided doesn't meet community needs. It might be too short term, too little or come from too many different funding sources – meaning the community has lots of funding partnerships to manage.

Have you got ideas for how JR funding can be provided to best meet community needs?

## Evaluating the national program

The Federal Government will need to evaluate how well the national program is working.

What sort of outcomes will Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want to see from this program, including those working with JR? Do you think these are likely to be different to those government will want to see?

Will outcomes be different in communities that are just starting out with JR and those that have been working with JR for longer?

Should both government and communities be responsible for achieving outcomes through the national program? What are some ways to make this happen?

## The role of the Federal Government

What is the role of the Federal Government in supporting JR around the country, other than providing funding?

For more information, contact:  
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# COMMUNITY CO-DESIGN: NATIONAL JUSTICE REINVESTMENT UNIT

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- \$12.5 million from 2022–23 to establish an independent National Justice Reinvestment Unit to coordinate and support justice reinvestment work nationally.

We would like to hear from you on the design of the National Justice Reinvestment Unit.

## What is justice reinvestment?

Justice reinvestment or 'JR' is not a program, though communities might set up justice and other community-led programs through JR. JR is a way of working – a process that strengthens community leadership that will help improve justice and other outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. JR also usually focuses on improving outcomes in a particular community. It is informed by data and other evidence that helps communities identify priorities and measure progress over time.

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## QUESTIONS

### Role of the National Justice Reinvestment Unit

The Federal Government will set up a National Justice Reinvestment Unit to support communities exploring or implementing JR.

Is it important that the Unit is staffed and overseen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expertise and leadership? If so, what is the best way to make this happen?



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## Activities of the Unit

What type of work do you think the National Justice Reinvestment Unit could do to support communities exploring or implementing JR?

Are there things it should and shouldn't do? Should the Unit have a role in deciding which communities and initiatives get funded through the National Justice Reinvestment Program for example?

Some examples of National Justice Reinvestment Unit activities include:

- Provide technical advice to communities
- Bring communities working with JR together.
- Collect and share information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led JR with Aboriginal and Torres Strait people, government, funders and the public.

The Unit is likely to be independent from government. Do you think this is a good idea?

How should the Unit work with government, if it is independent? Should it play a role, for example, in advocating for changes to the way government is working to help improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice outcomes?

What role could the Unit play, if any, in setting up or managing funding partnerships between communities, government and other funders?

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