

Expression of Interest: Justice Reinvestment Community Readiness Support

Background

The Australian Government's commitment to justice reinvestment

The Australian Government is partnering with Ninti One, the Justice Reinvestment Network Australia and the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research to deliver practical readiness support to First Nations communities interested in developing justice reinvestment.

This community readiness partnership is the first phase of the Government's historic \$81.5 million commitment in justice reinvestment in the October 2022-23 budget, the largest funding package for justice reinvestment ever committed by the Australian Government.

This support is being delivered alongside national consultations with First Nations communities and organisations, justice experts and non-government representatives to inform the design and delivery of a national justice reinvestment grants program to be launched later this year during the second phase of this work.

This investment reinforces the Government's commitment to national action on First Nations justice as a priority under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, as well as its commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

What is justice reinvestment?

Justice reinvestment is a way of working that shifts power and decision making to First Nations communities to self-determine the best way to improve justice outcomes in their community. It works by bringing together local First Nations people to share data, evidence, their lived experiences and expertise to design and develop a holistic justice response that is unique to their local community.

Although the specific priorities of each community may vary each JR initiative will commonly adopt a life course approach to crime by focusing on early intervention and prevention in intersecting areas of justice. These include but are not limited to policing, health, housing, education, employment, family support along with access to culture and language. Whilst working primarily at the local level JR also provides communities with the tools to advocate their experiences into broader calls for systems change including within service delivery and law or policy reform.

They core elements of JR have been described as:

- **Community-led** - having strong local First Nations community leadership.
- **Place-based** - focused on achieving positive change in a particular place.

- **Data-driven** - using both government data and community expertise to inform decisions.
- **Justice-focussed** – working to address drivers of offending and incarceration.

For further information on justice reinvestment, [visit the Justice Reinvestment Network Australia's website](#).

How to access support for justice reinvestment

Integrative justice reinvestment support being offered to communities

Responding to community's consistent calls for a more integrative approach to community-government partnerships, the justice reinvestment funding package is offering access to both financial and non-financial support from an experienced, First-Nations justice reinvestment partner (JR partner). Each opportunity for support can be accessed separately or jointly to meet the unique needs of each community.

- i) The first opportunity for support is being *launched now* and will offer practical capacity-building support from the JR partner team, aiming to address the immediate, short-term justice reinvestment needs of communities as they await the design and implementation of the national grants process. This opportunity will include access to flexible micro-funding along with strategic advice, training and relationship-building opportunities.
- i) The second opportunity for support will be *released in July* and will offer more-substantive funding implemented under a national grants process which seeks to embed the experiences, expertise and feedback from First Nations communities and justice experts shared during the national consultations.

The integrative approach aims to support the immediate needs of community, whilst working to transform the Australian Government's long-term approach to funding and supporting place-based community-led initiatives through the justice reinvestment program.

What types of support are being offered by the JR Partner?

The type of support offered by the JR Partner will differ from community to community and will be unique to each local context. It may include but is not limited to supporting:

- Relationship-building and knowledge sharing to build awareness of justice reinvestment;
- Training and development opportunities for First Nations communities in key enabling areas for justice reinvestment (e.g., grants writing, governance, facilitation, advocacy, communications);
- The development of justice reinvestment plans, strategies and priorities for each local context;
- Recruitment of a local First Nations JR lead on a casual basis; and
- Access to a small amount of flexible funds e.g. financial support to host community workshops.

Ultimately each community will be able to identify and prioritise the types of support they would like to receive. The JR partner team will then work directly with community to implement practical support in those area(s).

How will applications for support from the JR Partner be prioritised?

Expressions of interest received will be selected based on the following principles.

- *First Nations community leaders are coming together and authorising change.*
- *Current and/or emerging community consensus that a new approach to justice is urgently needed.*
- *Strong interest and/or existing knowledge of the principles and practices of justice reinvestment.*
- *Evidence of community buy-in and/or readiness to work in partnership – noting:*
 - This may include evidence of collaborations or willingness to collaborate, potentially with/between other local initiatives, First Nations leaders, youth leaders, local organisations, service providers and/or government.
 - The panel does not expect a community to be immune from politics or differing opinions, but rather is interested in communities that can demonstrate a willingness to come together despite these differences.
- *Whether or not there has been prior funding for other similar place-based, community-led initiatives - noting:*
 - This aims to ensure that short-term capacity building support is provided to those communities who need it the most, to enable their participation in the national grants process.
- *Communities that would facilitate a wide national spread of justice reinvestment sites – including:*
 - Selecting communities across different states and territories.
 - Prioritising a greater number of communities in jurisdictions without a JR peak body (Qld, NT, ACT, Vic, and Tas).
 - Prioritising emerging JR sites in jurisdictions with a JR peak or supporting body (NSW, WA, SA) and leveraging opportunities to partner with the local JR peak to provide support to these communities.

Where can communities access additional information?

If you are interested in learning more about the process for expressing interest in community readiness support, please refer to the FAQ document on the [Justice Reinvestment Network Australia's website](#) or contact justicereinvestment@nintione.com.au.

How do communities apply?

The expression of interest process will be **open from 3 April to 1 May**.

Please complete the below form and return to justicereinvestment@nintione.com.au. Alternatively, reach out for a yarn and the team can document your community's expression of interest.



Expression of interest form

Expressions of interest are intended to be brief and an opportunity for communities to share their views, expertise, experiences and knowledge on why their community would benefit from support to progress justice reinvestment. It is not expected that government data (for e.g., data that measures local justice and other outcomes) will inform this process. It is also not expected that communities need to answer every question, they are included as prompts to share your own story.

Community / location	
Contact name (person)	
Contact name (organisation – if applicable)	
Contact details	

<p>Can you briefly tell us about your community?</p> <p>For instance, you may include your local mob, the demographic of the area (urban/regional/remote), dominant language of the area, etc.</p>

<p>Can you briefly tell us how likely your community would be to <u>access the below types of support.</u></p> <p>One represents ‘least likely’ and five represents ‘most likely’.</p>					
Strengthening partnerships and collaborations <i>within</i> your community	1	2	3	4	5
Strengthening partnerships and collaborations <i>outside</i> your community	1	2	3	4	5
Building awareness of justice reinvestment	1	2	3	4	5
Skill-building in grants writing	1	2	3	4	5
Skill-building in governance	1	2	3	4	5
Skill-building in facilitation	1	2	3	4	5
Skill-building in advocacy	1	2	3	4	5
Skill-building in strategic communications	1	2	3	4	5
Other areas of skill-building	1	2	3	4	5
Development of justice reinvestment plans, strategies and priorities for each local context;	1	2	3	4	5

Access to a small amount of flexible funds e.g. financial support to host community workshops.	1	2	3	4	5
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Can you briefly tell us about any other types of support your community would be interested in receiving?

Can you briefly tell us about any other areas of skill-building your community is interested in?

Can you briefly tell us about how you might like to use a small amount of flexible funding?

How would you describe your community's understanding of justice reinvestment?

Limited	Growing	Moderate	Advanced
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Can you tell us about any previous or current work in your community to progress justice reinvestment or other place-based community-led initiatives?

Can you explain how or why your community is interested in justice reinvestment?

Can you briefly tell us about some of the criminal justice challenges in your community?

E.g. spike in particular justice issue, high or increasing contact with police and/or prison

Can you briefly tell us about some of the other justice challenges in your community?

E.g. family support, housing, mental health, services and program delivery is not meeting community needs.

Can you briefly tell us about the First Nations leadership structures in your community?

E.g. are there any local First Nations leaders, Elders and/or Traditional Owners that are or are willing to come together to work collaboratively and to authorise justice changes in your community.

Can you briefly tell us about who in your community is interested in being part of a justice reinvestment approach?

E.g. key groups or organisations.

Any additional comments?

Please return this form to justicereinvestment@nintione.com.au.