

Local Solutions To Local Problems

- ❑ Marita Delany and Kate Pratt
- ❑ Wednesday 26/11/2008
- ❑ Diversion and early intervention

DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

Victoria
The Place To E

Neighbourhood Justice Centre

241 Wellington Street, Collingwood, 3066



Background

- Three year pilot program – June 2009
- Modelled on overseas community justice centres and the Victorian Specialist Courts experiences.
- Focusing on Therapeutic and Restorative approaches to justice.

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The Broad Goals of The NJC

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- ❑ Lower the crime rate
- ❑ Increase the participation of the community in the justice system
- ❑ Increase offender accountability, improve justice outcomes by reducing breach rates
- ❑ Improving the confidence of the community in the justice system

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Service Delivery Principles of the NJC

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- ❑ Proactive, responsive and timely justice
- ❑ Visible and accountable justice
- ❑ Holistic justice
- ❑ Community involvement in justice
- ❑ Innovation in justice
- ❑ Local opportunities
- ❑ Building on existing networks
- ❑ Continuity in staff and volunteers
- ❑ Collaborative/coordinated activities between agencies

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Jurisprudence

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- Merging therapeutic jurisprudence with restorative justice principles
- Using a 3 dimensional approach:
 - Restoring the person to themselves
 - Restoring the person to their immediate relationships
 - Restoring the person to the community and preparing the community

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Why the City of Yarra?

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- ❑ The City of Yarra has a well established network of effective and mature service agencies
- ❑ The City of Yarra is responsive and involved in community activity
- ❑ The City of Yarra has the 2nd highest crime rate in Victoria

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1.5 km

Brunswick

Northcote

ALPHINGTON

YARRA RIVER

FITZROY NTH

FAIRFIELD

CLIFTON HILL

EASTERN FLUY

PRINCES HILL

CARLTON NTH

LYGON ST

RATHDOWNE ST

NICHOLSON ST

ST GEORGES RD

QUEEN'S PDE

HEIDELBERG RD

PRINCES ST ALEXANDRA PDE

Carlton

Kew

ABBOTSFORD

BRUNSWICK ST

FITZROY

SMITH ST

COLLINGWOOD

HODDLE ST

YARRA RIVER

Melbourne CBD

East Melbourne

VICTORIA ST

Hawthorn

ST

ST

BRIDGE RD

RICHMOND

BURNLEY

SWAN ST

PUNT RD

CHURCH

BURNLEY

CREMORNE



Melbourne

The City of Yarra



The Court

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- ❑ One Magistrate
- ❑ Community representation on selection panel
- ❑ Magistrates Court
- ❑ VCAT
- ❑ VOCAT
- ❑ Childrens Court – criminal division
- ❑ Justice Officer
- ❑ Registry

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Access to the NJC Court

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- ❑ Defendant resides in City of Yarra; or
- ❑ Defendant is homeless but resides in short-term accommodation in the City of Yarra; or
- ❑ Defendant is homeless and is alleged to have committed an offence in the City of Yarra; or
- ❑ Defendant is a Koori person with a close connection to the City of Yarra and is alleged to have committed an offence in the City of Yarra.

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Services on-site

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- ❑ Victorian Legal Aid
- ❑ Fitzroy Community Legal Service
- ❑ The Brotherhood of St Laurence – employment, toys
- ❑ Carlton/Fitzroy Financial Counselling Inc
- ❑ Moreland CHC and Berry Street – Victims Support
- ❑ St Vincent's Hospital – mental health
- ❑ North Yarra CHC – generalist counselling
- ❑ Salvation Army/VACRO/Court Network – volunteers and emergency relief and general support

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Services on site cont'd

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- ❑ Community Corrections
- ❑ Homeground – housing
- ❑ DOJ- Aboriginal Justice Worker, Court Justice Officer, Alcohol and Drug Case Manager, Dispute Settlement Centre – Mediation Coordinator, Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee
- ❑ Crime and Violence Prevention project worker
- ❑ Department of Human Services – Youth Justice
- ❑ Neighbourhood House
- ❑ Police Prosecutions
- ❑ Community Engagement

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Client Services

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Client Services have a holistic approach to case management and service delivery and have the capacity to respond to

- ❑ Homelessness
- ❑ Drug and Alcohol use
- ❑ Mental Health
- ❑ And a range of other issues

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Best practice administration of case management recognises the need for a high level of engagement and the active involvement of the wider community

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Client Services Practising Principles

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- Flexible, responsive and innovative case management and engagement practice - regardless of age e.g. outreach
- Working with local City of Yarra Service Providers to generate both a sustainable treatment plan and supportive referrals
- Collaborative work practices both internal and external to the NJC – e.g. Mental Health service

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Client Services Practicing Principles -

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- ❑ Client centred practice
- ❑ Good old fashioned Case work
- ❑ We work with defendants, victims, family members, individual help seekers and the community – aligned with the no wrong door principle
- ❑ Secondary consultation
- ❑ Effective and supportive transition from pre-sentence support to post sentence with either Community Corrections Victoria or the Short Sentence Support Program (a new NJC initiative)

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So What Does This Look Like

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NJC - NYCH

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- > The aim of this presentation is to increase the understanding of the inter-relationships between the Neighbourhood Justice Centre and the community.
- > My current role: Casework /Counsellor, employed by North Yarra Community Health based at The Neighbourhood Justice Centre
- > 4 days based at NJC , 1 day based NYCH
- > North Yarra has been based in the City of Yarra for over 139 years

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1.5 km

Brunswick

Northcote

ALPHINGTON

YARRA RIVER

FITZROY NTH

FAIRFIELD

CLIFTON HILL

ABBOTSFORD

Kew

YARRA RIVER

Melbourne
CBD

East Melbourne

Hawthorn

BRIDGE RD

RICHMOND

BURNLEY

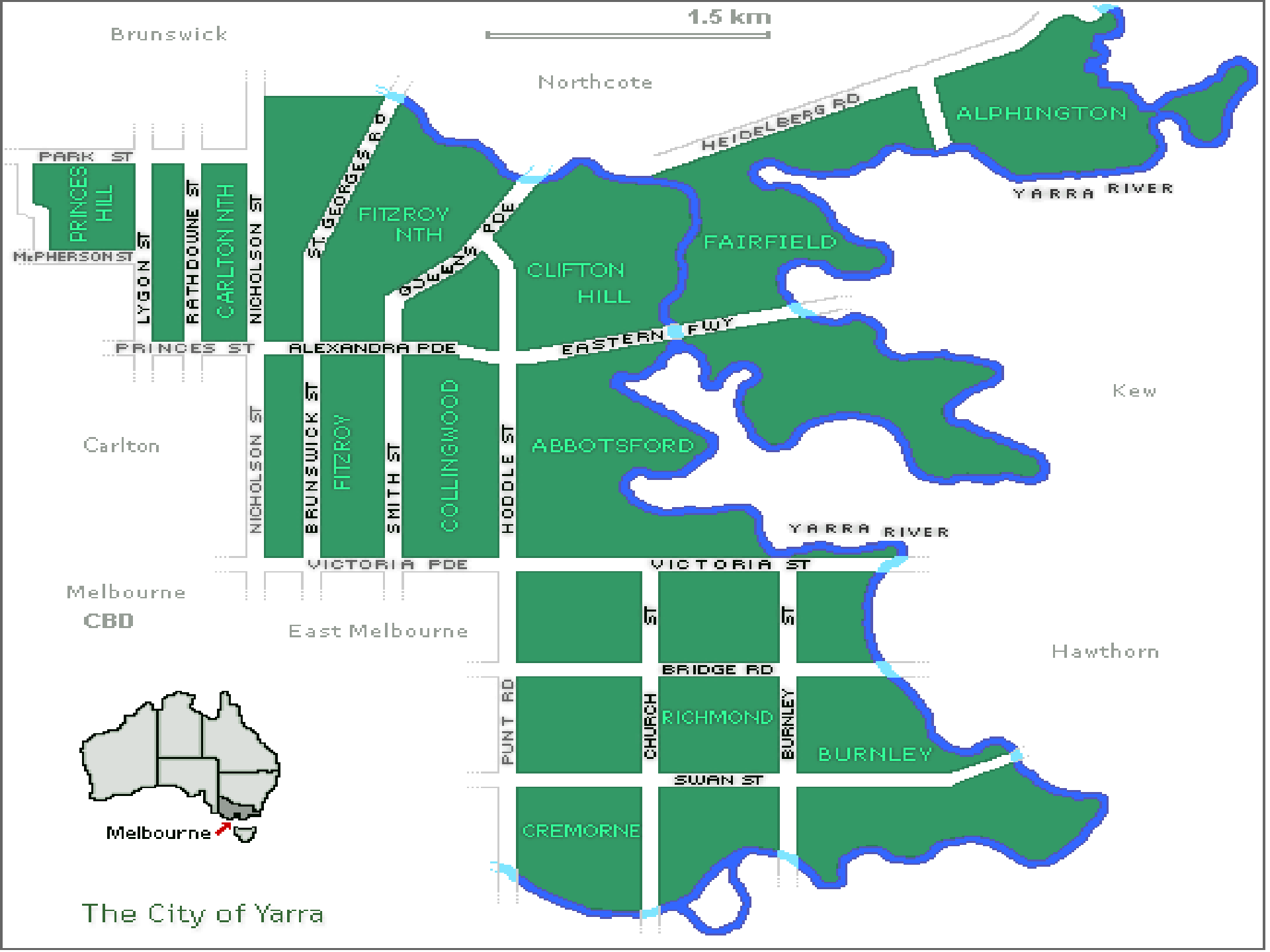
SWAN ST

CREMORNE



Melbourne

The City of Yarra



NJC - NYCH

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- Currently NYCH has four sites within the City of Yarra including services such as Needle syringe program, Dentist, Doctors, Physio's and extensive allied health and various group opportunities

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Case Study

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- ❑ I received a referral from the Legal Aid Lawyer based at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre.
- ❑ Sam had been homeless for approximately 2 years and had recently been charged with stealing coins from the parking meters in our local area.

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Case Study

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- ❑ Sam's presentation was dishevelled and had poor personal hygiene. During assessment, I noticed that Sam was doing a lot of self talking and could not keep his conversation fluid – this issue of assessment will be discussed soon.
- ❑ After a discussion with Sam's lawyers it was established that Sam had no previous history with either the court or the police.

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Case Study

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- I supported “Sam “ in court that day. The magistrate recommended that “Sam” engage with myself and other services.
- After court I accessed the psychologist based at the NJC, he assessed “Sam” and it was determined that he would be linked in with a GP from North Yarra Community Health for his immediate health and mental health needs.

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Case Study

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- In relation to housing I was able to secure crisis accommodation at a men's shelter approximately 10 minutes from the city.

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Case Study

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- ❑ Final outcome.....
- ❑ Sam has stable accommodation at a Salvation Army supported accommodation hostel. There is a completed housing application pending.
- ❑ Sam received a 12 month “Good Behaviour Bond”
- ❑ He is engaged with CHOPS – homeless outreach team for people with mental health concerns.

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Case Study

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- ❑ He is compliant with medication through his engagement with both CHOPS and NYCH
- ❑ He continues to walk around the "City of Yarra" during the day dropping into to different services for lunch.
- ❑ He comes every Wednesday for Lunch at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre for our "Community Lunch".
- ❑ He continues to be engaged.

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Children's Play Area



Asian Grocery
Ph: 428 8881

THY THY
Vietnamese Restaurant

Dan Hung
VIETNAMESE CUISINE

DOING JUSTICE
NEIGHBOURHOOD justice





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CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI
Happy New Year



Trung tâm tư pháp láng giềng

Happy
New
Year

Love Your Neighbourhood

New
Year

Experience
Indulge your senses

Fred White







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north
richmond
community
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www.nrxhc.com.au

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JUSTICE LOCALLY

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THIS WAY TO

DEMAND MORE PUBLIC HOUSING

NESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

WE WANT MORE AND BETTER HOUSING

EXIT

This mural depicts the path taken by the many tenants of the Dight St. Estate in their quest for better housing. The result of which is a tribute to their efforts and persistence. May our strength and determination that kept us going through these difficult years be remembered and



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DOING

There's so much you can

AP



MFB



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