



# Innovation Youth Centre & Melbourne Polytechnic Cert IV Youth Justice - Focus Group Crime Awareness Report

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**Co-creators: Jessica Salamah, Simbarasite Goverwa, Amanda Fulton, Abbie Davis – Youth Justice  
Students & Paul Papadatos Director/Founder Innovation Youth Centre**

**ABN: 71 613 909 427**

## Executive Summary

Innovation Youth Centre and Melbourne Polytechnic working in partnership to support Cert IV Youth Justice Placement students to undertake research and conduct an interview with Innovation Youth Centre youth reference group young people about what makes a young person at risk of being involved in crime and what support services exist in the northern metro area of Melbourne to support young people at risk or involved in crime. Cert IV placements students will attend a youth forum about young people rights at work and discussed prevention of crime for young people to gain feedback to reduce the risk of being involved in crime.

Specific outcomes anticipated to be achieved through IYC include; young people:

- Having a positive voice that is highly regarded in their community
- Achieving measurable social change via innovation and participation
- Experiencing deeper sense of connection with their community through a legal lens
- Working in collaboration with legal service providers
- Building positive connection with authority bodies (Police, Local, State, Federal Government)
- Advancing themselves through greater awareness of, and access to legal services
- Deepening understanding of what constitutes respectful attitudes and behaviours
- Developing higher self-reliance through greater awareness of, and access to health services
- Gaining employment and subsequently building careers more in line with their aspirations
- Developing an awareness of what causes a young person to commit or be at risk of committing a crime

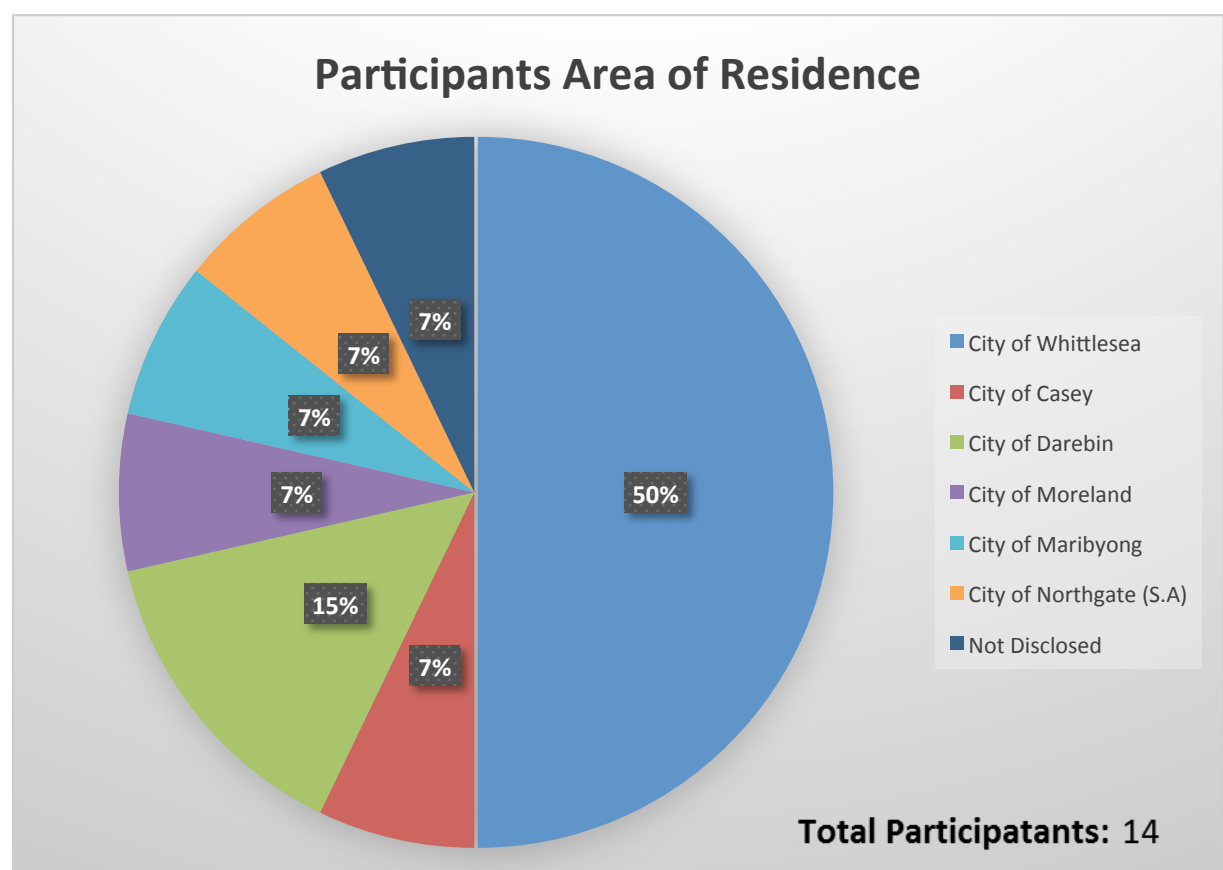
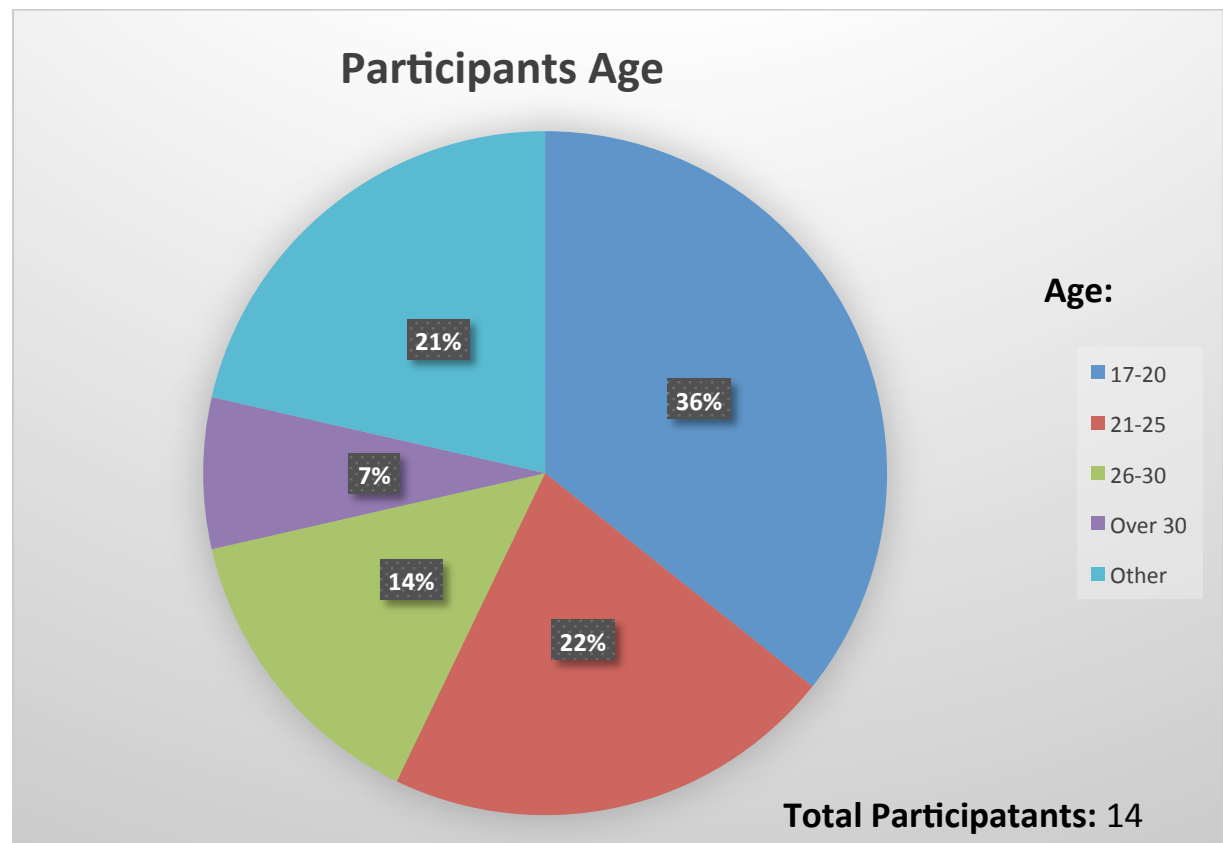
## Methodology

Innovation Youth Centre and Melbourne Polytechnic conducted a focus group on 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 where fourteen (14) participants were asked a series of questions (via a questionnaire, viewable in Appendix to explore opinions regarding the degree of need for youth legal related services.

The focus group, (Young Workers Forum, held at Panagia Soumela Pontian Association on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) involved fourteen (14) participants ranging in (stated) age from 17 to 49 years. There was a series of 4 questions in the survey.

Note: all participants answered every question. One question required a Yes/No answer and provided a space below for comment if the participant wished to elaborate. The other three questions required the participant to make a selection from listed options.

## Demographics



### **Gender**

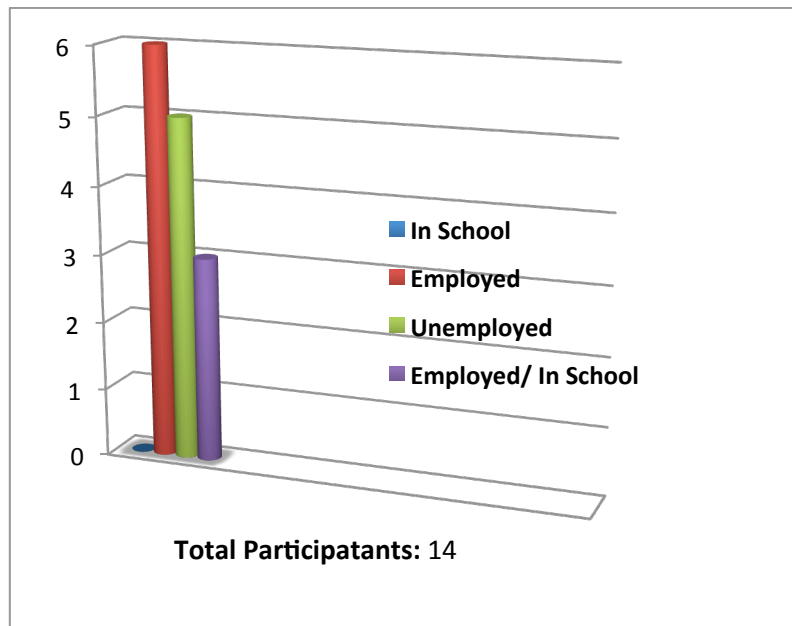
- Male: 7
- Female: 6
- Other: 1

### **Cultural Background**

The fourteen (14) participants identified as culturally diverse. Six (6) participants identified as having an Australian Cultural Background. The remaining participants identified as: Italian, Iraqi, Chinese, ATSI and British.

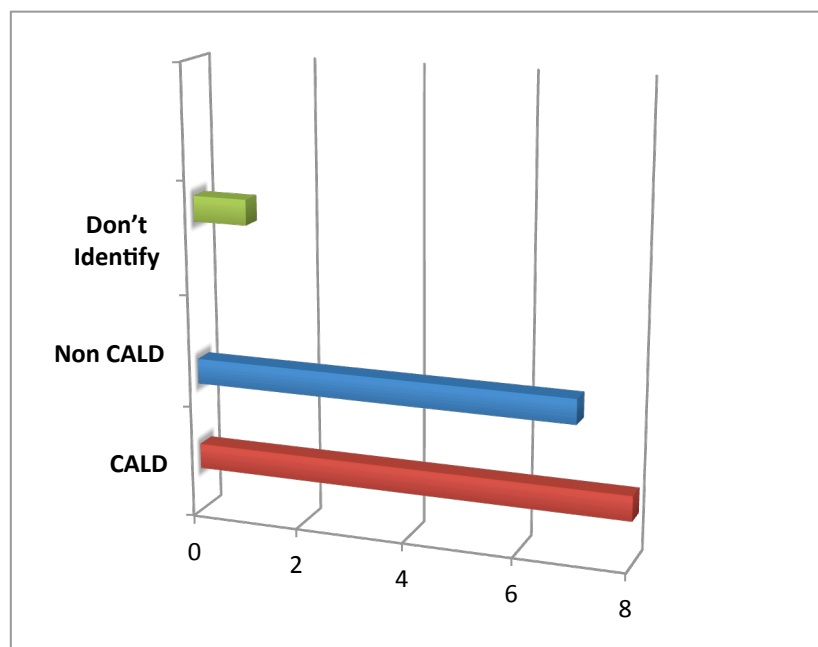


## Focus Group Participants Work and School Status



## IYC Consult Participants Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community (CALD) Status

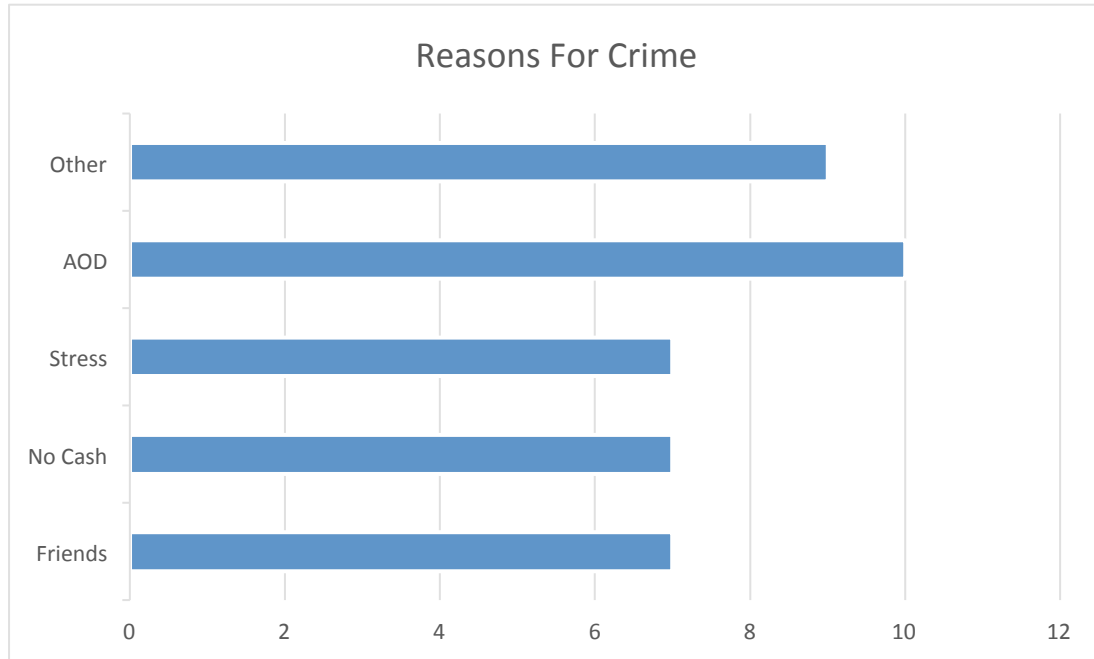
Total Participants 14





## Results

### Question 1: What makes a young person commit a crime?

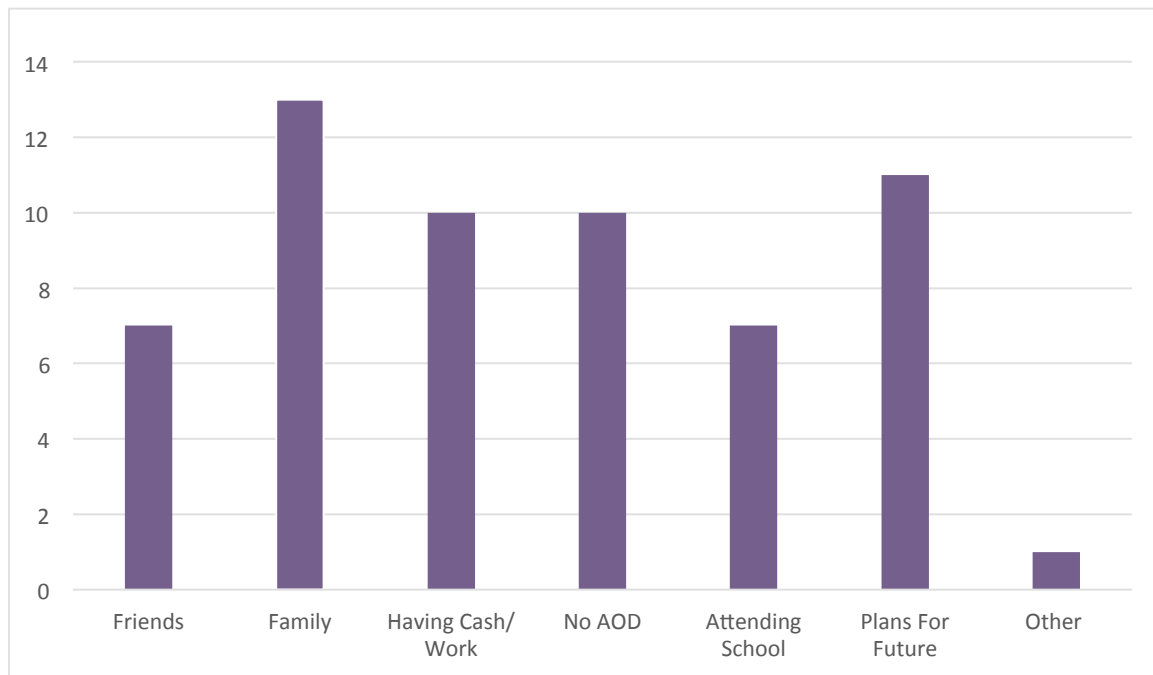


#### Additional comments:

- No access to employment
- Mental Illness
- Social exclusion
- Boredom
- Lack of support



## Question 2: What stops a young person from committing a crime?



### Additional comments:

- Having financial security helps youths to stay out of crime.
- Access to good community/ social supports could deter young people from committing crimes.
- Feeling connected to society. Being accepted and feeling useful.



**Question 3: If you are at risk of committing a crime/ have committed a crime do you know where to get help?**



**Additional comments:**

- Police/ Legal Aid
- Case manager/ Youth Worker/ Social Worker
- Community Centre
- Doctor
- Family Friend



#### Question 4: Do you know of the following organisations?

##### Organisation

- Whittlesea Community Law Service
- Northern Community Legal Centre
- Youth Law
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Darebin Community Legal Services
- Neighbourhood Justice Centre

##### Known By:

2 people  
3 people  
8 people  
8 people  
6 people  
5 people



## Conclusion

- There was a diverse group of participants surveyed ranging from 17- 49 years of age. The group consisted of those predominantly from the Northern area of Melbourne, one individual came from the Western area of Melbourne and a singular individual from Adelaide. Over 50% of participants were either employed or in school.
- The reasons given for why young people commit crime were fairly consistent; suggesting that alcohol and other drugs, as well as unemployment are the greatest precursors to crime.
- Comparatively, family support and solid plans for the future provided the greatest deterrents of crime.
- Results indicate the 57% of participants surveyed had some knowledge of where to get legal help, should they need it however, this is likely to be because over 50% of the surveyed participants were either in school or currently employed. 43% of participants surveyed were either at risk or had previously involved in crime.
- Feedback indicates a need for a greater awareness of available legal services in the Northern Metropolitan Area.



## REFERENCES

Cert IV Youth Justice Placement Program Plan.

IYC & Melbourne Polytechnic Cert IV Youth Justice – Young People’s Survey.

Legal Services to Help Young People – Flyer.

Innovation Youth Centre - Website and Social Media Pages 2016.

- <http://www.innovationyouthcentre.com.au> - Website
- <https://www.facebook.com/Innovationyouthcentre> - Facebook
- <https://www.instagram.com/innovationyouthcentre> - Instagram

## APPENDIX



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# IYC & Melbourne Polytechnic Cert IV Youth Justice – Young People's Survey

*A little info about you:*

Age:

Employed ☐      At School ☐      Unemployed ☐      (Please tick)

Cultural background:

Postcode:

Gender:

*A few questions from us:*

1) What makes a young person commit a crime? (Please tick)

- ☐ Friends
- ☐ No Cash
- ☐ Stress
- ☐ Drugs and/or alcohol
- ☐ Other

Please Comment:

**2) What stops a young person from committing a crime? (Please tick)**

- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Having cash/ work
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Staying away from drugs and alcohol
- ☐ Going to school
- ☐ Plans for the future
- ☐ Other

**Please Comment:**

**3) If you are at risk of committing a crime/ have committed a crime do you know where to get help?**

☐ No

☐ Yes      Please list:

- 
- 
- 

**4) Do you know of the following organisations? (Please tick)**

- ☐ Whittlesea Community Law Service
- ☐ Northern Community Legal Centre
- ☐ Youth Law
- ☐ Victoria Legal Aid
- ☐ Darebin Community Legal Services
- ☐ Neighbourhood Justice Centre

**Thank You**



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## Legal Services to Help Young People



### **Victoria Legal Aid**

1300 792 387

[www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)

### **Whittlesea Community Legal Service**

(03) 9401 6655

[www.whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au/community-legal-services.html](http://www.whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au/community-legal-services.html)

### **Northern Community Legal Centre**

(03) 9310 4376

[www.northernclc.org.au](http://www.northernclc.org.au)

### **Youth Law**

(03) 9611 2412

[youthlaw.asn.au](http://youthlaw.asn.au)

### **NJC- Neighbourhood Justice Centre**

(03) 9948 8777

[www.neighbourhoodjustice.vic.gov.au/utility/contact+us/](http://www.neighbourhoodjustice.vic.gov.au/utility/contact+us/)

### **Darebin Community Legal Service**

(03) 9484 7753

[www.communitylaw.org.au/clc\\_darebin/cb\\_pages/about\\_us.php](http://www.communitylaw.org.au/clc_darebin/cb_pages/about_us.php)



## Young Workers Forum Flyer - Location

