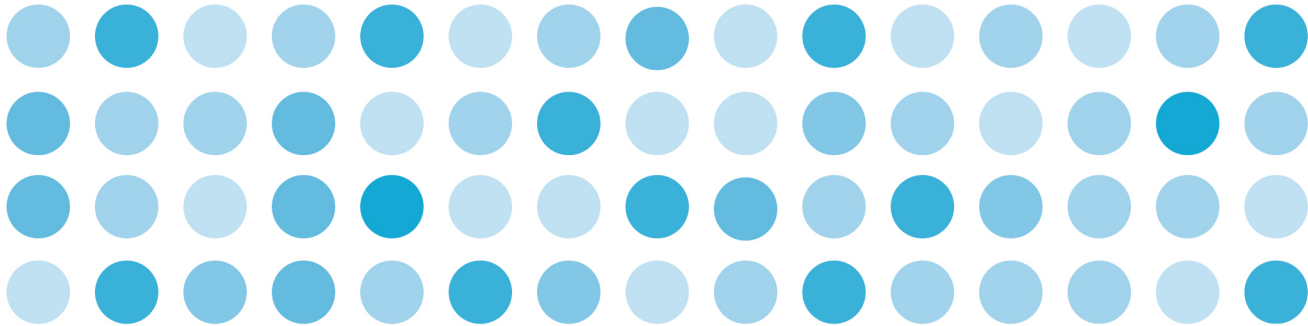


25-26 October 2010
Melbourne Cricket Ground



Anex 2010
**AUSTRALIAN
DRUGS
CONFERENCE**
Public Health and Harm Reduction

Nicky Weynen





NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: Program

Nicky Weynen, Senior Project Officer, Community Services

NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: implementation of trial program BACKGROUND TO THE PROGRAM

- ✦ Recommendation of the 1999 NSW Drug Summit – which emphasised diversion of drug related offenders
- ✦ Mix of NSW and Commonwealth funding
- ✦ Trial developed through interagency working group
- ✦ Trial commenced in July 2000
- ✦ Catchments area extended into Blue Mountains in 2003
- ✦ Catchment area further extended into Eastern Sydney in July 2004.



NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court : implementation of trial program UNIQUENESS OF THE PROGRAM

- ✦ Program combines four human service agencies and the criminal justice system
- ✦ Program addresses not only the legal factors, but the holistic and systemic health and welfare issues which have affected the young person's ongoing substance misuse and associated offending.

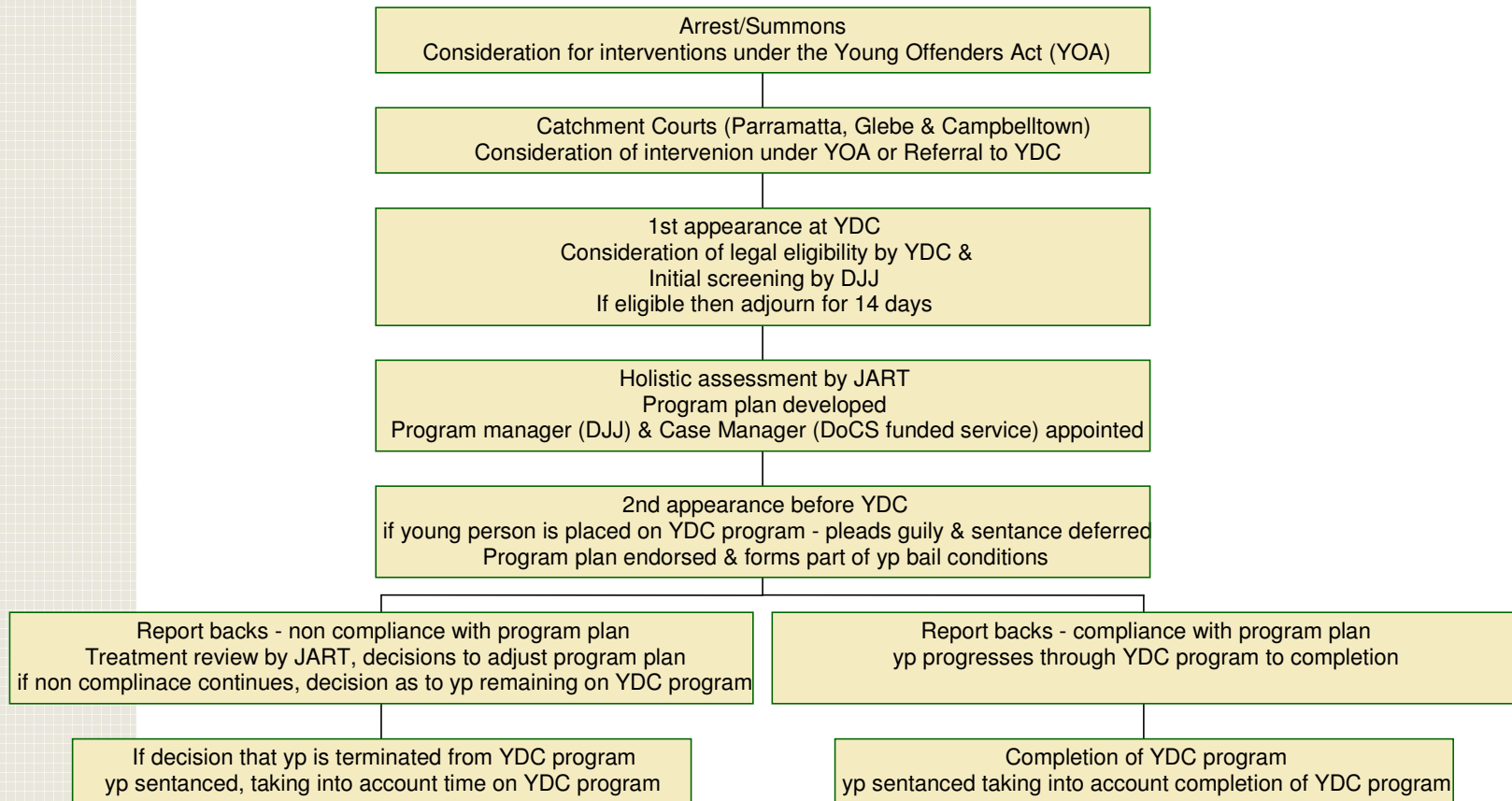


NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: implementation of trial program
MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH

- ✦ **Department of Justice & Attorney Generals**
- ✦ **NSW Police Service**
- ✦ **Legal Aid Commission**
- ✦ **Community Services** (Department of Human Services)
- ✦ **Justice Health & NSW Health**
- ✦ **Juvenile Justice** (Department of Human Services)
- ✦ **Department of Education and Training**

NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: implementation of trial program

FLOWCHART OF PROGRAM REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT





NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: implementation of trial program

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Initial Screen Assessment assesses Young People for eligibility to participate in the Comprehensive assessment. Eligibility for the program is limited to young people who:

1. Are ineligible for a caution or youth justice conference
2. Are charged with an offence dealt with by the Children's Court
3. Have a demonstrable drug and/or alcohol problem.
4. Live within the YDAC Catchment boundaries
5. Are not charged with a sexual offence.
6. Plead guilty or intend to plead guilty if admitted into the program.
7. Are aged 14-18 yrs, (some discretion for 10-14 yr olds)
8. Are not experiencing significant mental illness.



**NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: implementation of trial program
PROGRAM PARTICIPATION- Services provided**

- ✦ Multi agency holistic assessment**
- ✦ Residential Induction Unit**
- ✦ Collaborative Case management**
- ✦ Intensive Court based supervision**
- ✦ Therapeutic Services**
- ✦ Health services**
- ✦ Education/Vocational Pathways**
- ✦ Accommodation Links**



**NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: implementation of trial program
SENTENCING**

- ✖ If a young person is discharged from the program due to continuous or serious breaches, the young person will then be sentenced.
- ✖ It is expected that young people who successfully complete their program plan will be sentenced to community based orders (supervised orders) or suspended sentences



**NSW Youth Drug & Alcohol Court: implementation of trial program
EVALUATION**

The evaluation comprises five research studies:

- 1 Statistical Monitoring Reports
- 2 Implementation Reviews
- 3 Outcomes Study
- 4 Program Cost Analysis
- 5 Legal Issues Review.