

ACT Party positions on JR

Australian Prison Reform Journal

Volume 5, Issue 4, Article 1, 2025

© APRJ 2025 All Rights Reserved

Cameron I Russell

 [View ORCID profile](#)

URL: [www.aprj.com.au/articles/APRJ-5\(4\)-1-ACT-Party-JR-positions.pdf](http://www.aprj.com.au/articles/APRJ-5(4)-1-ACT-Party-JR-positions.pdf)

Abstract

Australian Prison Reform Journal is endeavouring to publish the policy positions of the major parties on justice reinvestment. We will progressively publish these positions soon after receiving at least two of the party positions in a particular jurisdiction. If a party adds or amends their policy at any time, APRJ will amend the publication.

Policies on justice reinvestment

[Australian Prison Reform Journal](#) is asking the major parties for their policy on justice reinvestment, which is considered by the [Journal](#) to be the main way in which the root causes of crime can be addressed and our high rates of incarceration reduced. It is also the main way in which the overrepresentation of First Nations peoples in the criminal justice system can be addressed and the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people closed. The policies of the three major parties in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) have been sought. Two parties have responded so far:

Australian Labor Party

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General

Party position:

Within the Attorney-General's portfolio, the ACT Government has a long-term commitment to justice reinvestment and understands that it is a vital component in providing a holistic response to addressing the underlying causes of crime. Since 2014, the ACT Government has been implementing, funding and delivering numerous justice reinvestment initiatives, highlighting the importance the ACT Government places on justice reinvestment as an effective way to reduce crime and build a stronger community in the ACT. The *RR25by25 and Beyond — A Justice Reinvestment Strategy for the ACT* was released in 2024 and is the

current overarching strategy for justice reinvestment in the ACT. The strategy takes a data-driven approach to guide future justice reinvestment initiatives and to provide support for community-based programs. Specifically, the *RR25by25 and Beyond strategy* aims to reduce offending, reoffending and lower rates of incarceration by investing in evidence-based justice reinvestment programs. There are a number of initiatives underway as part of this strategy, including projects to improve data collection in the criminal justice sector, research identifying factors associated with desistance from offending and an evaluation on the effectiveness of current justice programs in the ACT (including housing and bail supports). You can find further information about these and other justice reinvestment initiatives delivered by the ACT Government on the ACT Government's webpage:

<http://www.act.gov.au/open/Justicereinvestment-strategy>.

Liberal Party of Australia

Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA, Shadow Attorney-General

Party position:

The Canberra Liberals have a strong commitment to prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation as part of a balanced approach to justice in the ACT.

At the 2024 election, the Canberra Liberals made a pledge of \$3,000,000 for crime prevention, including education, prevention, and restorative justice programs.

The Canberra Liberals are also leading the way with vital reforms in the areas of coercive control and domestic violence prevention, promising legislative reform and \$1,600,000 investment in education and prevention programs.

The Canberra Liberals continue to believe these programs work best with strong support for front line workers and remain committed to restoring the balance of justice using a combination of adequate, well-resourced front-line staff and a suite of programs to address the underlying causes of crime.

Australian Greens

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Spokesperson for Justice & Leader of the ACT Greens

Party position:

Our 2024 community safety election initiative that speaks to justice reinvestment can be found below -

https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/2024%20Initiative%20-%20Community%20Safety_0.pdf

And also, the second last page of the supply and confidence agreement between Labor and the Greens outlines further at Point 10, the Justice Reform and Gambling Harm commitments-

https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/Supply%20and%20Confidence%20Agreement_0.pdf