

## Theme: Programs for young people

### Police-led youth action meetings not working

In 2024, the NSW Government announced it was investing millions of dollars to expand police-led youth action meetings (YAMs) in nine police districts for young people who break the law or are at risk of offending. However, the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) compared the participants in the pilot program with similar young people from non-program areas. It was found that after the program ‘no significant differences were observed for school enrolment, mental health service usage, proven offending or police-recorded crime victimisation.’ Aboriginal Legal Action Service (NSW/ACT) Principal Legal Officer, Nadine Miles, said Police-led YAMs ‘don't work for children, families or communities.’

[Giovanni Torre \(28 August 2026\) \*National Indigenous Times\*](#)

[NSW Dept of Communities and Justice \(12 March 2024\)](#)

### Blue Light Victoria at risk due to funding

Although police-led YAMs have failed to make a difference (above article), police-led Blue Light has been making a difference over generations with over 12,000 young Victorians helped last year. 87% felt more positive as a result, 91% said they enjoyed interacting with police and there was improved school engagement. The difference in the two programs, as

suggested in both articles, may be the extent to which each is grounded in evidence. Unfortunately, Blue Light Victoria's funding is expiring, putting the program at risk.

[Laura Turner \(5 March 2026\) 7NEWS Australia](#)

[Blue Light Victoria website](#)

## **Victorian youth outreach program appears to be working**

A two-year evaluation of the Victorian Embedded Youth Outreach Program (EYOP) by the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science (CFBS) at Swinburne University has found the pilot program to be an effective youth intervention strategy. A collaboration between Victoria Police, referral services and youth workers, A police officer and a youth worker go out in the evening for an eight-hour shift, learning from each other in the process. This mobile response model delivered positive outcomes for Phase One, including: A 9% reduction in the annual rate of offending in EYOP clients with a history of offending following intervention; benefits of EYOP outweighing costs; and positive evaluations by the young participants.

[Katherine Danylak et al. \(n.d.\) Global EBP Conference 2024](#)

[YASTV \(14 November 2025\)](#)

[Victoria Police \(23 April 2026\)](#)

## **East Kimberley Little Footprints Big Futures Partnership**

A new partnership in Western Australia's East Kimberley region is aiming to transform outcomes for Aboriginal children and families. The partnership between local communities and Aboriginal organisations, federal and state governments and regional shires focuses on the critical early years of life—from before birth through to age seven—a period local communities say is vital for long-term health. In the *NIT* report, interviewed locals and four Ministers responsible for Indigenous Affairs or Social Services all stressed that there was a strong commitment to investing early and aligning services around community-led priorities

by ensuring the Aboriginal communities have a direct say in how services for their children are planned, coordinated, delivered and measured. In doing so, the partnership assists in implementing the Priority Reform areas under the National Agreement to drive progress against key Closing the Gap targets for children and families.

[Natasha Clark \(29 April 2026\) \*National Indigenous Times\*](#)

[East Kimberley Place-Based Partnership Agreement](#)

[Tanya Plibersek et al \(Ministers for the Dept of Social Services, etc\) \(29 April 2026\)](#)

[WA Department of the Premier and Cabinet \(29 April 2026\)](#)

[Don Punch and Sabine Winton \(Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs; and Education, Early Childhood and Preventative Health respectively\) \(29 April 2026\)](#)

[Life Without Barriers \(origin of “Little Footsteps, Big Futures” in partnership with SNAICC & other ACCOs on National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day 2025\)](#)

[Minutes \(25 September 2005\) The many from all levels of government involved](#)

## **Further reading**

[Jonathan Thurston Academy](#)

[Sacred Sports](#)

[Police Citizens Youth Clubs, Bourke](#)

[After the Siren report](#)

[Mounty Yarns: Official Film](#)