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Creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement in ACT Restorative Justice's Evaluation

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



Today we will cover

- RJ Data
- What is Evaluation?
- Why Evaluation Matters?
- Program Logic Model
- Our Future Directions



Current Evaluation Environment

- RJ main sources of data:
 - RJ surveys and questionnaires
 - direct data from convenors such as assessment outcomes, conference outcomes and agreement outcomes
 - data from Government sources from referring agencies including demography data, court outcomes and offences referred.
- What is Evaluation?

"Evaluation is a process of examine the performance of an organisation, program, or any other intervention to determine its relevance, adequacy and effectiveness".



Current Evaluation Environment

- Why Evaluation Matters?
 - Improve effectiveness, enhances learning, demonstrates impact, accountability and informs decision making.

Evaluation Mindset.



RJ Scheme Program Logic Model

- Developed RJ Scheme Program Logic Model so we can have clear and systematic way to measure our program.
- A useful tool for identifying problems and determine the best actions we need to do.
- Visually show the relationship between our resources, activities, output and impacts we can offer to our target participants.
- It also sets up what needs to happen for short-term, medium-term and longer-term outcomes.



RJ Scheme Program Logic Model

Program Logic – Restorative Justice Scheme

Program Needs: Providing a flexible and responsive forum for people harmed by crime to hold the person responsible accountable for their actions in a way that directly meets their needs.

Program Priorities: To deliver an inclusive, culturally appropriate, safe and effective restorative justice conferencing program to people and communities affected by crime in the ACT.

Short-term Outcomes Long-term Outcomes Outputs Medium-term Outcomes Inputs Activities Victims (Person Harmed - PH) Victims (Person Harmed - PH) People, incl. offenders, victims, staff, Determine Eligibility and Suitability Incoming Referrals Increased prioritization of the needs Have had their immediate justice needs Experience healing, including: volunteers and community members met, including to: Decreased negative emotions in justice responses Prepare and run RJ Conferences have a say over the process and the Outgoing Referrals to support agencies relation to the offence outcome Increased community confidence in Physical resources, including office space Increased wellbeing tell their story the criminal justice system and vehicles Increased degree of having 'closure' Monitor compliance with Agreements Conferences experience support from their Decreased experience of self-blame community of care Increased connection with Legislation, incl. Crimes (Restorative have their experience acknowledged communities of support Ongoing engagement and reporting Conference itself satisfied the victim's for crime Justice) Act 2004 and referrals linking with useful supports Increased familiarity/connection with activities, incl. liaison with key need (no formal agreements) Increased flexibility and receive moral or substantive support services stakeholders, referring agencies and responsiveness in the criminal justice reparations Increased confidence in/satisfaction Training, incl. convenor conferencing professional bodies Formal Agreements experience some relief and sense of with the criminal justice system. training, sexual offence and family closure. Offenders (Person Responsible - PR) More harm in the community is violence, ad hoc professional development Offenders (Person Responsible- PR) Review the Restorative Justice Scheme Increased general insight into causes Survey responses training and external supervision Experience healthy responsibility with and impacts of harmful behaviour to these are prioritized (including respect to the offending behaviour, Increased connection family violence and sexual violence) including by: with/accountability to communities of Choices for participants (more control taking responsibility for the offence Increased feeling of safety amongst over and flexibility in the justice response) having a say over the process and Increased familiarity/connection with Canberrans support services Reduced criminalization of increasing their understanding of the reduce frequency and seriousness of Assumptions: causes and impacts of their actions on re-offending. People referred to the RJ Scheme can exercise their free will about whether or not to participate from culturally and linguistically Families and Communities Participants who do not access a restorative justice conference are not harmed by their contact with the Restorative taking steps to address the harm diverse communities, young people A greater appreciation for the causes experiencing accountability and and people with disability and impacts of crime Participation in the RJ Scheme does not harm the human rights of any participant support from their community of care First Nations People are not Broader increase in appropriate help- The rights of participants of participants should be respected and protected and their safety reassured. linking with useful supports seeking behaviour Conferences should aim for positive outcomes for all participants. experiencing some relief and sense of system closure Participants will be provided sufficient time for making decision in participating in the process Reduction in the negative impacts of more people diverted to criminal Reductions in recidivism Offenders should be encouraged to accept responsibility for their behaviour and acknowledge the impact of their offences. punitive justice systems justice system The RJ Scheme has the support of referrers and stakeholders in the community Reduction in costs incurred by police, Families and Communities The RJ Scheme will continue to enjoy the support of the ACT Government and Legislative Assembly.



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 Increased/more dispersed support for loved ones

denunciation of harmful behaviour

 telling their story and having their experience acknowledged strengthened relationships or support with people harmed and people

affirmation of the values of taking responsibility and repairing harm.

responsible

- and experiences of victims of crime in
- Decreased stigmatization and isolation of people who have been responsible
- recognized and justice needs relating
- marginalized groups including people
- overrepresented in the criminal justice
- courts and corrections.



Program Logic Model Components

- Key components: Program Needs and Priorities, Inputs, Activities, Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts
- Inputs: funding, staff, resources we have invested in the program
- Activities: Actions we have undertaken to achieve our program needs and priority
- Outputs: results from the activities. Outputs include referrals, conferences, satisfaction rate and agreements.
- Impacts: Theory of Change
- Assumptions



Program Logic Model Outcomes

- Short Term, medium term and long-term outcomes –
 How our program will create change or achieve.
 - The shorter-term and medium-term outcomes for victims have their experience acknowledge, linking with useful supports and increase their wellbeing etc.
 - The longer-term outcomes including satisfaction with the process and increased feeling of safety.
 - These outcomes can be achieved through offender taking responsibility of their offence and taking steps to address the harm such as attending counselling, voluntary work and restitutions.



Program Logic Model Outcomes – Cont

- For families and communities, through RJ process, they can tell their story and have their experience acknowledged and in a longer term to increase community confidence in the criminal justice system.
- The shorter-term for offender as a direct result of RJ activities including taking responsibility for the offence, taking steps to address the harm.
- The longer-term outcomes such as reduction in recidivism



Future Evaluation Environment

- We will use logic model test and evaluate the effectiveness of ACT RJ Program.
- Promote reflective thinking.
- Determine what works, what doesn't and what needs to be improved.



Future Evaluation Environment - Cont

- Interpret and act on the findings.
- Case Management System and Database.
- Continuous learning and improvement.



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Thank You.

Any Questions?

If there's a feedback or ideas you'd like to share, please contact me at suitlean.siah@act.gov.au

