

Department of Human Services

a career in youth justice



Be part of one of the world's most innovative and effective youth justice programs. Victoria is renowned for its contemporary approach to working with young people involved with the criminal justice system.

We are looking for people who share our commitment to making a real difference to the lives of young people involved in youth justice.

Our main goal is to divert young people from entering a youth justice centre and to rehabilitate those who do find themselves in the criminal justice system. We aim to prevent young people becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system.

What is the youth justice program?

The youth justice program works with young offenders aged between 10 and 20 years who will generally be on a Children's Court, or in some cases, adult court order. Youth justice workers work across three main areas: youth justice custodial centres, youth justice units and courts.

Youth justice centres are secure environments for young people on custodial court orders. Here young people are supported to address their offending behaviour while being held accountable for their crime and lifestyle. Victoria's three main centres are Parkville Youth Justice Centre, Melbourne Youth Justice Centre and Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre.

Youth justice units are a highly effective means of providing supervision and support to young people on community-based orders.

Youth justice workers also provide assessment and court advice, and support young people attending court.

What does the work involve?

Many young people involved with youth justice come from troubled backgrounds. As a youth justice worker you will help address their underlying problems, understand the impact of their offending and learn to be accountable for their actions.

Youth justice workers really can make a difference to help a young person turn their life around.

Youth justice centres

Youth justice centre workers engage young people sentenced or on remand in positive change, providing care, supervision and support to develop practical and interpersonal skills.

They support young people in their personal development through individual casework, structured programs, interaction and the modelling of appropriate behaviours as well as maintaining a safe and secure environment.

Youth justice units

Youth justice unit workers supervise young people to comply with their community-based orders; providing intensive case management, advocacy, support, and referral to health and welfare services, education, employment and accommodation. They also provide advice to courts to assist them in making informed decisions.

Community-based staff work closely with youth justice custodial staff, other professionals and agencies to help young people to comply with their orders and get their lives back on track.

Youth justice workers also write a broad range of reports, assessments for courts and the Youth Parole Board and client files.

more choice *professional development*

great prospects **secure employment**

work with great people **responsibility**

socially responsible jobs **appreciation** *team work*

job variety **jobs to suit my lifestyle**

Jobs that make a difference

What are we looking for?

Personal attributes

We want people who are positive and energetic and are good at making assessments, planning, organising, gathering and analysing information as well as advocating for, engaging, supervising and monitoring young people.

If you display commitment, integrity, resilience, empathy and cultural awareness you possess the qualities essential for this role. We strongly encourage Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people to apply for positions within youth justice.

Qualifications

As an ideal candidate to work in a [youth justice centre](#), it is highly desirable to have a minimum of Certificate IV in Youth Work (Juvenile Justice/Youth Justice) or Certificate IV in Juvenile Justice/Youth Justice or equivalent.

We also welcome people with qualifications in social work, welfare work, psychology and criminal justice.

As a youth justice worker in a community-based [youth justice unit](#) you will need a Bachelor of Social Work or Diploma in Welfare Studies. Other tertiary qualifications at diploma level or above will be considered if they include units of study in case management/casework practice and supervised practical work placements.

Youth justice workers are required to undergo safety screening, which includes a police check and a working with children check.

What do we offer?

Apart from the opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of young people, we offer:

- extensive on the job training
- professional development programs tailored to suit youth justice practitioners
- mentoring or shadowing opportunities
- regular supervision meetings and individual development plans to maximise work performance and contribute to professional development and wellbeing
- access to support services such as confidential individual and group peer support
- career advancement opportunities within youth justice or in other disciplines across the department
- flexible work arrangements and attractive employment benefits.

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please phone (03) 9096 7614 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required.

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Want to know more?

Visit the Department of Human Services careers website:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/careers

Or the Victorian Government careers website:

www.careers.vic.gov.au

Or contact the appropriate area of interest about employment or student placement opportunities:

Youth justice custodial centres

Human Resources Consultant, Youth Justice Custodial Services on (03) 9096 7768 or (03) 9096 7767.

Youth justice units

Phone one of the regional youth justice units listed below:

Metropolitan regions:

Eastern Region (Box Hill)	(03) 9843 6481
North and West Region (Preston and Footscray)	(03) 9479 0379
Southern Region (Frankston and Dandenong)	(03) 9784 3280

Rural regions:

Barwon/South West Region (Geelong and Warrnambool)	(03) 5221 4466
Grampians Region (Ballarat and Horsham)	(03) 5333 6530
Loddon Mallee Region (Bendigo and Mildura)	(03) 5434 5555
Hume Region (Shepparton, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Seymour)	(03) 5832 1500
Gippsland Region (Sale, Bairnsdale and Morwell)	(03) 5144 9100

Further information

For more information about youth justice visit:

www.cyf.vic.gov.au/youth-justice, and

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/operations/youth-justice-custodial-services

