



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Our ref: IIC/EEvk:1622276

9 January 2019

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier,

Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project

The Law Society of NSW has long supported the justice reinvestment approach undertaken in Bourke, under the auspices of the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project, and is delighted that the KPMG impact assessment report demonstrates that this approach has yielded measurable benefits.

We understand from the analysis carried out by KPMG that the changes in Bourke have resulted in a gross economic impact of \$3.1 million in 2017. KPMG estimates that if just half of the results achieved in 2017 are sustained, Bourke could deliver an additional economic impact of \$7 million over the next five years.

We also understand that the following improvements have been quantified in three key areas:

- Family strength: a 23% reduction in police recorded incidence of domestic violence and comparable drops in rates of reoffending
- Youth development: a 31% increase in year 12 student retention rates and a 38% reduction in charges across the top five juvenile offence categories
- Adult empowerment: a 14% reduction in bail breaches and 42% reduction in days spent in custody.

Other less quantifiable, but nonetheless crucial, benefits include that Maranguka has, together with Just Reinvest NSW and through Aboriginal leadership, facilitated the empowerment of the local community; the delivery of community based programs and service hubs; collaboration and alignment of services; and, in partnership with justice agencies such as the police, reorientated behaviour and operations towards a justice reinvestment approach.

We note the Just Reinvest NSW Policy Platform at <http://justreinvest.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Policy-Platform-2019-.pdf> sets out proposals to support community-led solutions to break the cycle of offending, keep communities safe and build vibrant futures for children and young people.

We understand that the efforts in Bourke have to date been largely supported by philanthropic commitment. Given the demonstrated and significant benefits of the justice reinvestment approach, the Law Society now writes to recommend that the NSW Government:

- Provide support for the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke
- Provide support for the roll out of the justice reinvestment model in other Indigenous communities
- Provide support for an independent Justice Reinvestment body to provide technical and strategic assistance to those sites
- Redirect the savings into the delivery of effective services that continue to build on the strengths of the community, in partnership with the local Aboriginal leadership and community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Espinosa', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Espinosa
President

CC: Attorney General, Opposition Leader, Shadow Attorney General