

# MACP System Guideline

## Referrals to MACP System

In accordance with section 282L of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (YJA), the category of children charged with offences, or at risk of being charged with offences, who may be referred to the MACP are those young people assessed by the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support (DYJVS) to be a Serious Repeat Offender (SROI 6+).

It may be determined that a young person assessed to be a Serious Report Offender (SROI6+) would benefit from a collaborative response due to their assessed level of risk. In these circumstances, with the endorsement of the Youth Justice Service Centre Manager, a referral to the MACP system can be made and a multi-agency response can be applied.

## Notification to Core Members

The DYJVS will provide MACP core members:

- Centrally, a complete list of SROI young people eligible to be referred to MACP, each month
- Locally, a list of the SROI young people to be panelled at each MACP.

DYJVS may share other relevant information about a young person referred to the MACP system with core member agencies to support the operation of the MACP system, as required, and within Part 9, Division 2A of the YJA. In accordance with youth justice principles, whenever possible and practical, a person's consent should be obtained before disclosing confidential information relating to the person to someone else.

## Purpose of MACP System

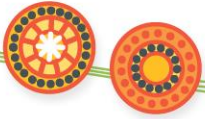
The purpose of the MACP system under section 282J of the YJA is to coordinate the provision of services, including assessments and referrals, to meet the needs of particular young people (SROI 6+) charged with offences or at risk of being charged with further offences.

## Response to SROI Young People Referred to the MACP System

### Young People not Subject to a Supervised Youth Justice Order

Each month, MACP Coordinators will identify any young people who have a SROI score of 6 or more and are not subject to an active supervised youth justice order and:

- Identify whether another agency has case management responsibility for the young person
- If so, liaise with that agency to seek their agreement to lead the collaborative response to address the risk of offending by the young person including leading regular Tier 1 care team meetings.
- If not, DYJVS will seek the agreement of the young person to open an informal voluntary response until such time as an alternative appropriate lead agency can be identified through the MACP system.



## Young People Subject to a Supervised Youth Justice Order

A Tier 1 care team will be established to support the implementation of a youth justice Service Response Plan for all SROI young people subject to a supervised youth justice order.

MACP Coordinators will provide timely support to DYJ caseworkers by facilitating discussions with MACP core members when barriers are identified at the Tier 1 level to assist them to exercise their responsibilities to reduce the risk of offending by the young person.

## Responsibilities of Core Members of MACP

MACP core members have the responsibilities outlined in section 282M of the YJA including:

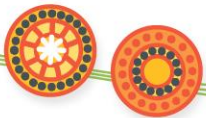
- To contribute to the operation of the MACP system through representatives who have appropriate knowledge and experience and decision-making authority
- To use their best endeavours to agree on recommendations to each other, about assessing and responding to the needs and offending behaviour of young people referred to and accepted by members and, for that purpose, to—
  - share information about the young people, under an arrangement established under Part 9, division 2A of the YJA, and
  - identify relevant resources of members or other entities, and
  - take the action required under the recommendations, and
  - monitor the implementation of the recommendations and review their effectiveness, and
  - invite and facilitate contributions from prescribed entities or service providers with knowledge, experience or resources that would help achieve the purpose of the MACP system.

## MACP Meetings

### Prioritisation for Discussion at a MACP Meeting

A MACP Coordinator will prioritise a young person who has been referred to the MACP system for discussion at a MACP meeting (Tier 2) if:

- The Tier 1 care team is not able to address an identified criminogenic need for the young person or their family to reduce the risk of offending, including:
  - There is a lack of engagement by a relevant core member of the Tier 1 stakeholder group, or
  - Access is not able to be provided to an appropriate service or support to address an identified need for the young person or their family, or
  - An appropriate service or support to address an identified need for the young person or their family is not available, or
  - For another reason the care team is not able to address the needs of the young person, or



- There is an increase in the volume or seriousness of offending or risk of offending for the young person, or
- A core member of the MACP nominates and the MACP Coordinator agrees, a young person who has been referred to the MACP system being prioritised for discussion at a MACP meeting. If the coordinator does not agree to prioritising the young person for discussion, an explanation of the decision should be provided back to the referring agency. Consideration should be given to out of session meetings if there is a significant number of young people requiring discussion.

MACP Coordinators will provide advice and relevant information to the core members of the relevant MACP about which young people have been prioritised for discussion at a MACP meeting at least 3 business days prior to the meeting.

A young person referred to the MACP system can be prioritised for discussion at a MACP meeting from time to time as required.

### **Purpose of the Discussion at a MACP Meeting**

The purpose of a young person being discussed at a MACP meeting is for core members to exercise their responsibilities to reduce the risk of offending by:

- Identifying key issues for the young person that need to be addressed to reduce the risk of offending, and
- Providing progress updates to MACP members on actions taken and any changes in circumstance for the young person and/or their family, and
- Identifying key themes and trends for the local SROI cohort, and
- Agreeing on recommendations to give DYJVS, and each other, about assessing and responding to the needs and offending behaviour of individual young people or the local SROI cohort, and
- Agreeing on actions to be taken by core members for their areas of service, and
- Considering the effectiveness of actions taken to address the young person's needs and whether the young person should be further escalated.

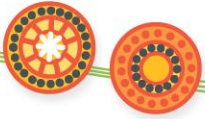
Panel members cannot direct other entities on how to conduct their business and operations, but the MACP will aim to work in a collaborative way to ensure that the current and emerging needs of young people and their families are being met.

### **When a MACP is not Able to Address an Identified Need for a Young Person**

When a service response is not able to be identified at a MACP meeting to address a young person's needs to reduce the risk of offending, core members of the MACP have the responsibility to escalate the issue within their agency.

The purpose of this escalation within a core member agency is to reduce the risk of offending by the young person by:

- Providing access to an existing service response that is the responsibility of the core member agency, or



- Providing an alternative service response within the core member agency's responsibility to meet the identified need.

When a MACP has been unable to address the identified needs of a young person, with the panel's agreeance, the young person must be escalated in the first instance to the regional director, or equivalent, of the relevant department, or to a regional oversight group (Tier 3) to attempt to address the young person's needs. Core members should work within their agencies established escalation pathways to identify and escalate matters internally as required. Depending on the urgency of the issue, escalation to a regional oversight group may occur outside of formal meetings.

### **Regional Oversight Group (Tier 3)**

The purpose of the Regional Oversight Group is to receive and address regional escalations from MACP and provide a level of oversight on the functioning and effectiveness of the regional MACP system.

Upon receiving an escalation from a MACP, the relevant agency's regional oversight representative is to liaise and collaborate with the regional oversight representative within the agency or agencies relevant to the escalation and attempt to address and resolve it at a regional level. This is intended to occur as soon as possible upon receiving the escalation and is not required to occur in a formal meeting structure.

The Regional Oversight Group should meet on a regular basis to ensure opportunity for oversight and updates on the functioning and effectiveness of the regional MACP system. These meetings are also an opportunity for the group to share updates and outcomes on escalations received, however, it is not intended that representatives will wait until these meetings to commence collaboration on escalations.

### **Senior Practitioners' Group (Tier 4A)**

#### **Escalation to the Senior Practitioners' Group (Tier 4A)**

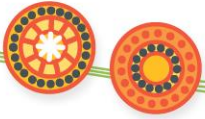
A young person who is discussed at a MACP meeting may be escalated to the Senior Practitioners' Group (Tier 4A) if the MACP (Tier 2) and Regional Oversight Group (Tier 3) has made active efforts to address the identified needs for the young person or their family and:

- Is not able to effectively address an identified need for the young person or their family to reduce the risk of offending, or
- Has identified a service system trend or issue demonstrated by the response to the young person.

#### **Purpose of Senior Practitioners' Group**

The purpose of the discussion of a young person by the Senior Practitioners' Group is to:

- Identify key issues for the young person or their family that need to be addressed to reduce the risk of offending, and
- Consider the effectiveness of efforts made to address the young person's needs, and



- Authorise alternative access or actions to address to reduce the risk of offending by the young person, and
- Identify and monitor service system trends or issues demonstrated by the response to the young person that should be further escalated,
- Monitor the effectiveness of MACPs in addressing key issues for young people to reduce the risk of reoffending, and
- Discuss and coordinate the provision of services, including assessments and referrals, to meet the needs of particular children beyond the SROI cohort, charged with offences or at risk of being charged with offences.

A young person can be escalated from a local MACP or Regional oversight group to the Senior Practitioners' Group for discussion from time to time as required. This escalation requires the completion of the 4A escalation form template to ensure appropriate level of information is provided to the group. Actions and outcomes to the escalated issues will be shared back with the Tier 3 and Tier 2 representatives after each 4A meeting.

## **Director General Interdepartmental Committee (Tier 4B)**

### **Escalation to the Director General Interdepartmental Committee**

A service system trend or issue may be escalated to the DG Interdepartmental Committee if the trend or issue:

- Is identified across one or more cases discussed by the Senior Practitioners' Group, or
- Arises in one or more MACP location.

Escalations to Tier 4B occur from the Tier 4A Senior Practitioners' Group only.

### **Purpose of Director General Interdepartmental Committee**

The purpose of the DG Interdepartmental Committee in considering a service system trend or issue identified by the Senior Practitioners' Group is to:

- Consider the scope and scale of the trend or issue, and
- Identify appropriate service system reform to address the trend or issue to reduce the risk of offending by young people.

It is not the role of the DG Interdepartmental Committee to discuss individual young people.