



Radicalisation and Violent Extremism: Early intervention opportunities at the juvenile justice frontline

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OVERVIEW



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- The Contemporary Challenge
- Current Operating Context in NSW
- Radicalisation and Extremism Awareness Program
- Key Lessons - staff, facilitators and agency perspectives
- Implications
- Conclusion

The Contemporary Challenge



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- Modern expectation of government – prevent crime
- Post 9/11: prevent terrorism, avert significant harm
- Australian CT Strategy – detect and disrupt
- Evolution of the terrorism threat
- Emergence of Australian children and young adults
- Policy shift – earlier intervention + CVE
- What role do Youth Justice professionals play?

Current Operating Context



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- Managing juvenile terrorism related offenders
- Centralisation versus dispersal strategies
- Other young people present a risk to the community
- Changes to the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*
- Involvement of previous clients in terrorism
- Highlights a staff development need



RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM AWARENESS PROGRAM **(REAP)**



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REAP – Overview



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- In 2018, 1200+ staff trained face-to-face across NSW
- Evaluation conducted
- All five desired learning outcomes were achieved:
 - Provided a greater awareness of violent extremism;
 - Helped staff identify individuals at risk of radicalisation;
 - Was relevant to staff needs;
 - Taught how to refer individuals suspected of being at-risk; &
 - Addressed the importance of professional behaviour.

REAP – Key Lessons from staff



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- Frontline staff uniquely positioned
- Professional development opportunities can help intervention efforts
- Greater awareness and vigilance
- Clearer understanding of reporting lines & legal processes
- Improved supervision – uniform approach
- Improved reporting – better information sharing

Two Sydney teenagers on trial for alleged terror plot

REAP – Key Lessons from facilitators



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- Face-to-face instruction preferable
 - Less distractions if rostered on for training
 - Important conversations in a safe environment
 - Tailored examples to suit participants
 - Coaching opportunities on the spot (actions/responsibilities)
 - Built trust and identified a network of champions
- Use a team of multi-disciplinary specialists
 - Authentic delivery of material; built trust to affect change
 - Coaching; normal expressions and violent extremism

REAP – Key Lessons from agency



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- Early evidence shows REAP has improved practice
- Following REAP, quality reporting increased
 - Case Study
- Need for professional development re: fair treatment, self-awareness and impartiality working in this space
- Ongoing training needs – blended?
- Issue of manipulation and conditioning of staff members

Implications



- Frontline staff have a unique opportunity to help early CVE intervention efforts
- Approach once at-risk individuals are identified?
- Next steps in your jurisdiction?

Conclusion



- The emergence of children and youth as terrorism offenders in Australia is significant
- Threat likely to remain for foreseeable future
- Decentralised threat more difficult to detect
- Highlights the need for earlier intervention/ diversion, particularly for children and young adults
- The roll-out of REAP in NSW has demonstrated there is a role for juvenile justice professionals in early intervention, diversion and prevention efforts