Children's Court of Victoria

Statement of Priorities

2022-2025

Vision

Consistent access for all Victorians to a dedicated, specialist Children's Court where cases involving children and young people are heard in safe and culturally appropriate environments.

Role

The Children's Court expertly and fairly applies the law in cases involving children and young people. We work closely with youth justice, legal services, child protection and other community-based services to provide a multi- disciplinary court response to address the best interests of children in need of protection. We promote the accountability and rehabilitation of young offenders and in doing so, improve community safety.

Strategic Priorities

Implementation of self determination strategy



Demonstrate a commitment to Aboriginal self-determination and innovative approaches that better meet the needs of Koori children and families.

Increase the number of specialist Children's Courts

Expand the reach of specialist Children's Courts to better meet the needs of Victorian families and young people.



Improve the court user experience



Improve the experience of children, young people, and their families who have contact with the Court, ensuring our response is child-focused, inclusive and culturally appropriate.

Develop and support our people

Maintain a united workplace culture and strengthen capability to support the needs of our court users.



Engage with the community



Engage with court users and adapt practices to meet the changing needs of the community.

Embrace new technology

Embrace new technology to enhance court user participation and increase productivity.



Strategic Priorities

01

Implement Self Determination Plan

- Ensure the delivery of all initiatives in the Children's Court Self Determination Plan that sits within the CSV Self Determination Plan - Yaanadhan Manamith Yirramboi: Striving for a Better Tomorrow.
- This plan sits across all the Court's Strategic Priorities, ensuring that Koori self-determination underpins all aspects of the Court's planning and operations.

02

Improve the Court User Experience

- Review and adapt service models based on sound evidence to meet the changing needs of Victorian families and young people.
- Undertake an evaluation of online hearings to guide future operating models.
- Explore and identify Family Violence best practices and improve Family Violence responses.
- Refresh the Children's Koori Court Model to ensure it continues to be tailored to meet the needs of Aboriginal young people and look for opportunities for expansion to more locations across the state.
- Support the implementation of the Disability Advice and Response Team (DART), a new support service which will assist in screening for disability and referral to services to address the young person's disability needs.
- Establish the Children's Court Online Bail and Remand Court.

03

Increase the number of specialist Children's Courts

- Use existing and new assets to deliver high-quality Children's Court services.
- Develop, design, and deliver dedicated Children's Courts at Bendigo and Wyndham.
- Deliver a dedicated specialist Children's Court at Dandenong to strengthen access to justice services in Melbourne's South-east.
- Redevelop the Moorabbin Children's Court to improve access to Children's Court services.
- Identify priority locations and plan for new dedicated specialist Children's Courts.

Strategic Priorities

04

Engage with the Community

- Explore ways to increase and improve the way the court engages with court users.
- Undertake regular court user surveys and targeted evaluations to understand and respond to court user needs.
- Make information easily available and tailored to the communication needs of court users.
- Promote better understanding of the unique role of the Children's Court to improve public confidence in the justice system.

05

Develop and support our people

- Design and implement a workforce plan that ensures we have the roles and structures to achieve our vision and fulfil our unique role.
- Develop safety and wellbeing strategies that define the foundations for maintaining a healthy workplace.
- Ensure access to high quality and contemporary education and training for staff to maintain and further enhance specialist capabilities.

06

Enhance participation and efficiency through technology

- Design and implement a modern end-to-end Case Management System.
- Improve wayfinding and information provided to court users.
- Update Children's Court courtrooms with the latest technology to enable greater accessibility and flexibility in the way matters are heard.