



Juvenile Justice
Attorney General & Justice

NSW Bail Assistance Line

NSW Child Protection and Wellbeing

Interagency Conference, Two Years On
November 2011



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The Bail Assistance Line is an after hours phone service for Police, provided by Juvenile Justice.

It has been established as a result of recommendations made in the Wood report into the Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW (2008).



- It aims to help young people who have been charged but cannot be released from police custody as they are unable to meet particular conditions of their bail.
- These conditions may include the young person not having anywhere safe to live or being unable to locate or even identify a responsible person to attend the police station.





PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Project Team established June 2009 to devise model for service provision in NSW.

Visits to Western Australia and Victoria to research their models.

Review of literature both in Australia and overseas on 'what works'.

Expressions of Interest sought from NGO services.

Meetings with NSW PF and CS as well as internal and external stakeholders.

Staff recruited and trained to commence service delivery in June 2010





NGO Agencies selected by competitive tender process from pilot locations identified.

- Western Sydney CatholicCare
- Dubbo and Newcastle Life Without Barriers
- Western Sydney Aboriginal Link Up Aboriginal Corporation

Range of service models, foster care, refuge accommodation, transport and case support to allow flexibility and be responsive to individual need





Service commenced in a staged roll out:-

Dubbo (far West) June 2010

Western Sydney August 2010

West/South West Sydney October 2010

Newcastle/Hunter November 2010





The Bail Assistance Line operates from Juvenile Justice Central Office Sydney.

If Police are considering conditional bail for a child or young person but can't find a parent, accommodation or transport, they can telephone a 1300 number between 4pm and 3am 7 days a week (including public holidays).

Police will be able to speak with a Bail Coordinator who can arrange a continuum of services for the young person with the aim of facilitating bail in the community rather than remand in a detention centre where appropriate.





Experience so far

high take up rate in western sydney
high admission rate for breach of bail continues
age range from 12 to 17 years
female young people highly represented
accommodation mostly required short term
significant representation of children/yp with
prior/current Family & Community Services
involvement





Partnership development – the crucial factor

NSW PF

promotion of service and development of ongoing relationships

Family & Community Services

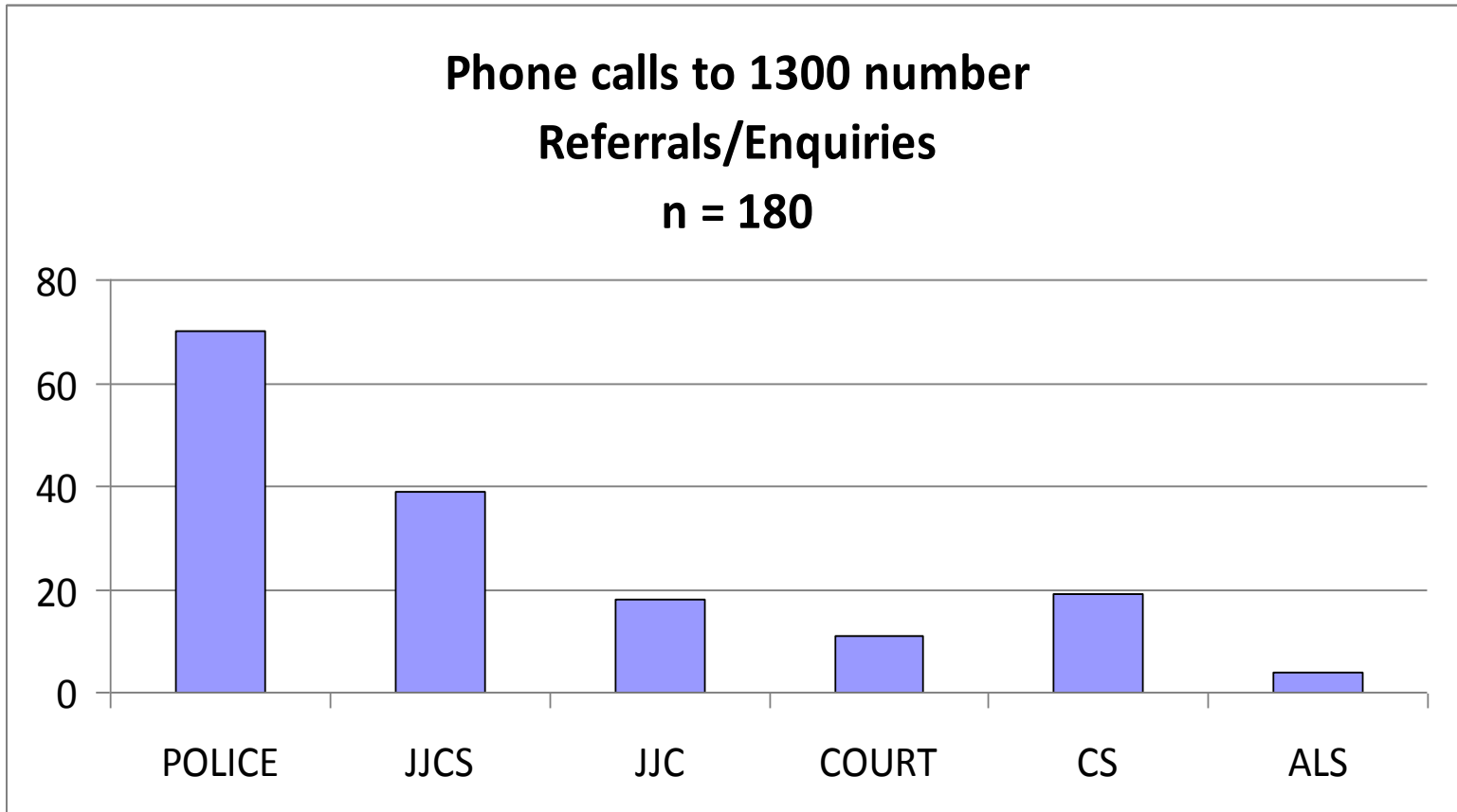
developing linkages to provide seamless service delivery after hours
via Helpline and Crisis Response Team

Non-government sector

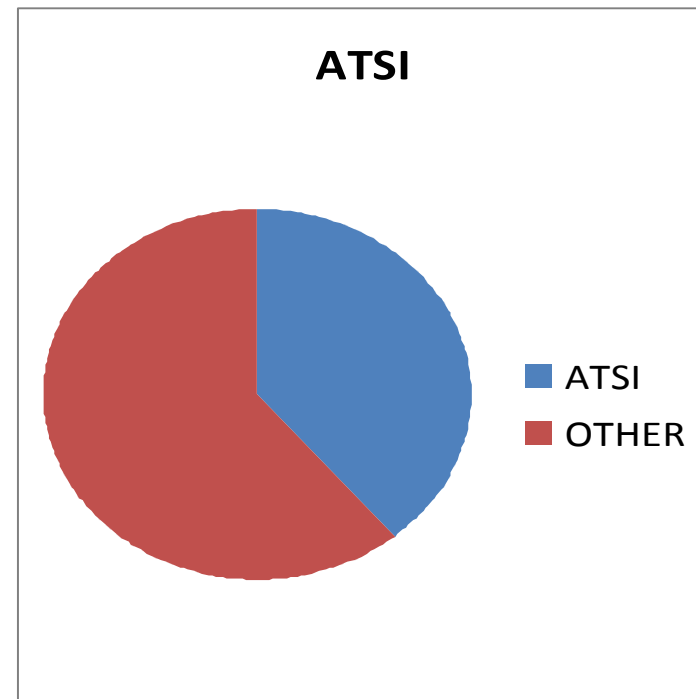
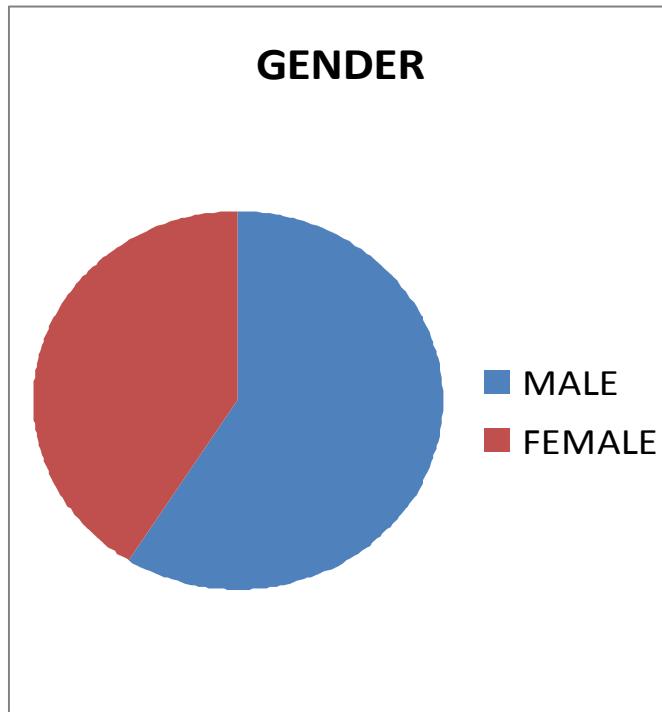
Recognising and developing strengths of government working in
partnership with ngo sector. Flexibility, responsiveness, effectiveness.



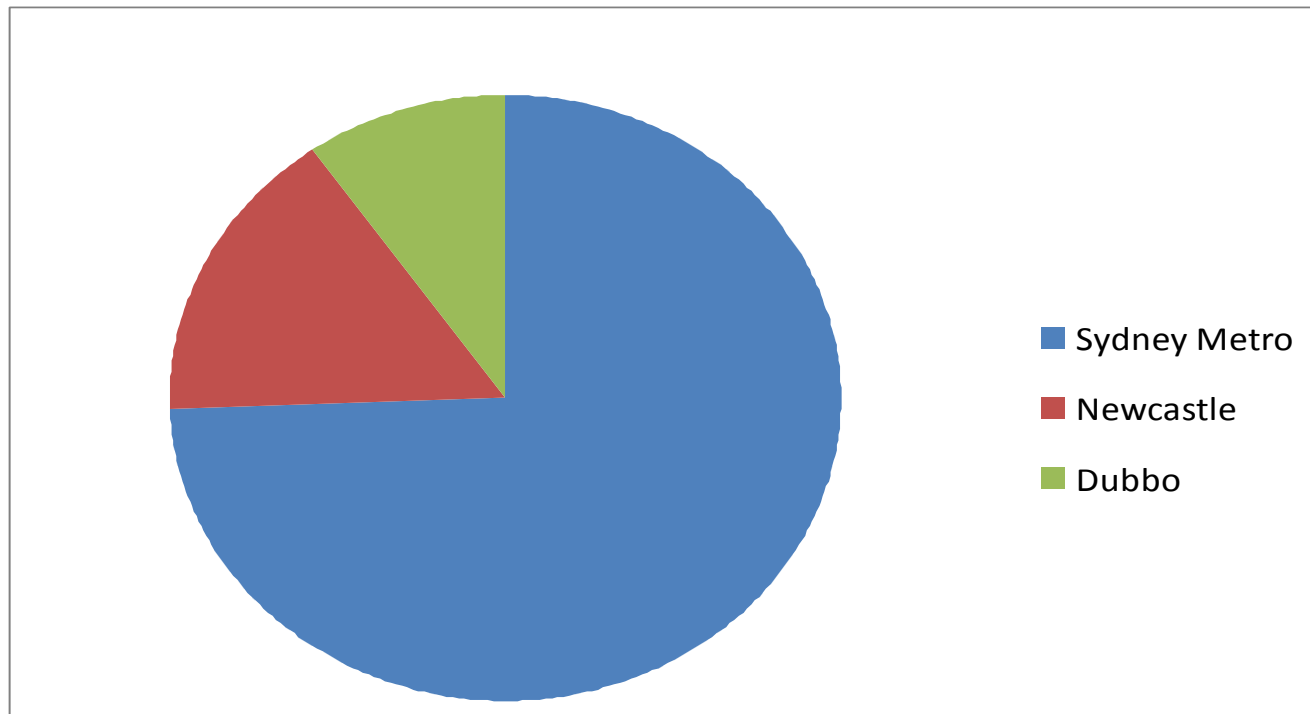
Phone calls to 1300 number Referrals/Enquiries n = 180



Young people details n = 50



Referrals by NSW Police Region





Future Directions

Referrals from Court

Further partnership building with NSW Police
and Community Services

Potential to expand to further areas in NSW

