Youth Justice Conferencing for youth misuse of fire
A case study of collaboration

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Youth Justice Conferencing
- A juvenile justice mechanism
- Informed by restorative justice
- That brings the stakeholders of an offence together
- To determine an outcome plan for a young person to complete
- To make reparation for an offence

Youth misuse of fire
- Any illegitimate use of fire or incendiary materials by a person under the age of 18 years
- A multifaceted and complex behaviour
- That presents a significant risk to life and property
Youth Justice Conferencing for youth misuse of fire
Youth Justice Conferencing with fire-specific inclusions:
- A firefighter
- The provision of fire safety education
- The inclusion of fire-specific outcome plan tasks

In New South Wales
- Formally in operation since May 2006
- No independent empirical evaluation conducted prior to this research
Research-oriented evaluation

Context, Theory, Literature Review

Post-Positivism

Theory Approach Logic Model

Context, Theory, Factors, Activities, Output, Outcome, Impact

Retrospective

Records
- Quantitative
- Descriptive
  - Chi square
  - Mann Whitney

Exploratory

Interviews
- Qualitative
- Content/relational

Descriptive
- Survival
- Chi square
- Mann Whitney
- Cox regression
What works?

Collaboration between urban fire and juvenile justice services
- A Memorandum of Understanding
- Strong interagency cooperation
- To meet mutual legislative obligations

Collaboration between government and non-government entities
- Bringing stakeholders of an offence together
- Through government-community collaboration
- To provide fire safety education to at-risk groups

Collaboration between young people and adults
- Adult initiated and mediated program
- In which young people possess the right to express their opinion, make decisions, and determine outcomes
What is missing?

**Collaboration with the rural fire service**
- So that all young people have the opportunity to participate with a firefighter
- So that all firefighters have the opportunity to participate as a stakeholder
- So that conference convenors can access a larger pool of firefighters

**Collaboration between practitioners and researchers**
- So that firefighters are aware of the principles and purposes of conferencing
- So that researchers can collect practice-based evidence

**Collaboration between proponents of RJ, fire prevention, and CC-DRR**
- So that the unique program logic underpinning Youth Justice Conferencing for youth misuse of fire is acknowledged
- So that evaluation and modification takes into account all of the mechanisms operant within the program
Conclusion

What works?
- Collaboration between urban fire and juvenile justice services
- Collaboration between government and community entities
- Collaboration between young people and adults

What is missing?
- Collaboration with the rural fire service
- Collaboration between practitioners and researchers
- Collaboration between proponents of restorative justice, fire prevention, and child-centred disaster risk reduction
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Questions?