

Dear Committee members,

Re: Additional details around how much it would cost to implement a program in the current facilities (page 33/34).

In relation to costing a peer-mentoring project in the current youth justice facilities, I have provided examples / suggestions for your consideration based on my research and recent consultation with overseas and Australian colleagues. As mentioned, the size, scale and reach of the projects determine the amount of resources required. Mentoring programs for adult offenders could also be tailored to youth. In the Australian context, as mentioned I have spoken to both Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Justice Centres regarding introducing custodial peer mentoring, through-the gate mentoring and custodial 'councils' similar to overseas models.

Le Chéile's (Ireland) Youth Mentoring Program is funded by Irish Youth Justice Services through the Probation Service, as part of Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020, which is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union. Le Chéile also received funding and grants from the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime, HSE Lottery Grants, the Loreto Foundation Fund, and the JP McManus Benevolent Fund. See detail in footnote link below.¹

In July 2016, the UK's National Offender Management Service (NOMS) announced a £1.7 million voluntary sector grants programme to support work in six 'reform' prisons. Each Grant ranging £30,000 - £150,000 to support organisations providing innovation across the prison system. Reform prisons are those where Executive Governors have greater autonomy over the way their prison operates.² In December 2016, 23 new grants to support prison reform were announced, including peer support programmes. Some of the previous grant projects have developed into successful programmes and have been embedded as part of the NOMS strategic approach, including these services referred to in my Churchill Fellowship report: the Prison Listener Scheme, run by Samaritans across the prison estate; Unlock, who supported prisoners to open bank accounts, which was then rolled out, and Mentoring schemes.³

User Voice (England) ⁴ now focuses more on providing platforms for people (ex-offenders, people in custody and on probation) to have a voice and influence change at all levels from a local prison or probation level to regional (state) and national. This would include the Prison/ Probation Councils I referred to. The costs for this vary from around £25,000 to over £100,000 depending on the size of the area and the number of people they need to work with.

The Wise Group New Routes (mentoring) project (Scotland) ⁵ is currently funded at £1.45m annually. This is on the basis of employing 32 mentors and takes into account the on-costs of management, travel, governance premises etc. It provides service to approximately 800 customers per annum (i.e.: the cost per mentee is just over £1800 for a mentoring service of 12 months). When compared with the annual cost of incarceration (approx. £35,000) they believe that it not only represents better value for the public purse, but also tackles the underlying issues which lead to recidivism and the revolving door of re-offending.

¹ <http://www.lecheile.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Le-Cheile-Annual-Report-2015-web.pdf>

² <http://www.clinks.org/community/blog-posts/grants-noms-work-reform-prisons>

³ <http://www.clinks.org/community/blog-posts/23-new-grants-support-prison-reform>

⁴ <http://www.uservoice.org/about-us/our-services/>

⁵ <https://www.thewisegroup.co.uk/helpforyou/prison-to-payslip/>

St. Giles Trust⁶ in the UK also advise that the level of funding depends very much on what agencies would be offering/delivering as part of their peer mentoring package. St. Giles Trust qualification costs alone come to £500 per person, not including the trainer, verification, assessing etc. When they do spot purchase arrangements they tend to charge around £1500 per peer advisor to train, assess and for qualification costs. The qualification they deliver tends, on average, to take around six months to complete. On top of that they cover travel and luncheon vouchers for each peer in the community. The St. Giles Trust peer mentoring project funding covers the Peer Adviser Lead, a Trainer Assessor, an employability support worker and 120 qualifications over three years. St. Giles Trust advise that if an agency is going to deliver something like the Peer Hub the required funding would be hefty.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) funds and administers the Second Chance Act grants. The Second Chance Act (SCA) supports state, local, and tribal governments and non-profit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people returning from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities. Passed with bipartisan support and signed into law on April 9, 2008, SCA legislation authorizes federal grants for vital programs and systems reform aimed at improving the re-entry process. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) funds and administers the Second Chance Act grants. Within OJP, the Bureau of Justice Assistance awards SCA grants serving adults, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awards grants serving youth. Since 2009, more than 700 awards have been made to grantees across 49 states. Arches: A Transformative Mentoring Program is an excellent youth example.⁷ The Second Chance Act: Responding to the FY 2016 Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Re-entry Program Utilizing Mentors Grant Solicitation provides up to \$1,000,000 (US) each (seven awards) for a 36-month project period.⁸

I have worked closely with Deakin University for several years (presenting at the Reintegration Puzzle Conferences⁹ etc). Deakin have been very supportive of my Churchill Fellowship project and research and since my return with the evidence, very keen to trial and evaluate a peer mentoring model in the Australian context. We are currently negotiating with a number of partners, including Corrections Victoria to fund and develop such a trial in Geelong, targeting people returning from prison to the highly disadvantaged northern suburbs. With the support of Corrections, a local prison and community corrections we have potential to trial peer mentoring, also engaging other stakeholders such as youth justice clients and the broader community sector. It is estimated that such a trial and evaluation would require \$300,000 funding over two years. If funded and agreed to by the committee, this would become an Australian first peer mentoring action based research trial.

In conjunction with the peer mentoring project trial, Professor Joe Graffam from Deakin University is proposing to trial in the Corio area a 'Reintegration Hub' which would provide a holistic one stop shop model of reintegration support to people leaving prison and youth justice centres. It is known that many people leaving custody experience discrimination when accessing community based services. The Hub would be available to young people leaving youth justice services and adult prison and provide wrap around services that includes employment, training and housing support, access to counsellors, mental health professionals, drug and alcohol services, mentoring and throughcare support (i.e. cooking and meal preparation courses, using computers etc). For further information, you are welcome to contact Professor Joe Graffam, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Training & Performance Enhancement, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Deakin University: ph.: 03 52273113 or email: joseph.graffam@deakin.edu.au and Jenny Crosbie, School of Psychology, Deakin University on ph.: 03 9251 7887 or email: jcrosbie@deakin.edu.au.

Kind regards,

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[Churchill Fellowship](#)

⁶ <http://site.stgilestrust.org.uk/what-we-do/peer-advisor-programme>

⁷ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/prob/html/community/arches.shtml>.

⁸ <https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/webinars/responding-to-the-fy16-second-chance-act-adult-reentry-mentoring-grant-solicitation/>

⁹ <http://rpc.conferenceworks.com.au/>