

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Australian
National
University

Restorative justice is an approach to harm that focuses on healing, it is utilised in a range of areas including crime, conflict, peacebuilding and more recently environment.

It involves dialogue between those who have caused harm and those who experienced harm, focusing on who has been impacted and how, and what can be done to heal and move forward.

This dialogue can be face to face, via written communication, via intermediaries or tele or video conference. These forms of dialogues are called conferences.

RJ conferences were implemented in the ACT through the introduction of RJ legislation (the first in Australia) and the Restorative Justice Unit since 2005.

John Braithwaites's work was a key reference in the recommendations for the ACT RJ legislation and he was involved in its development.



The introduction of the Restorative Justice Act in 2004 in the ACT inspired a vision of Canberra as a Restorative City.

In July 2015, the ACT Government officially launched the Canberra Restorative Community. The Community comprises restorative practitioners, interested civil society, professionals from all areas and academics, mainly based in Canberra. Holding regular meetings twice a month and special events

several times a year, the Canberra Restorative Community aims to address our city's social problems through building just and principled relationships and exploring restorative approaches to the issues that affect our community.

 **ACT LAW REFORM
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

In 2016 the ACT government tasked the ACT Law Reform Advisory Council (an ANU CoL/ACT Government collaboration) to produce a report on fostering restorative practices across the ACT. The report (2019) drew heavily on the work of the Centre for Restorative Justice from 1995 which was first led by Heather Strang, then Brenda Morrison, then Miranda Forsyth. Its influence continues through government submissions and reform initiatives within the Canberra Restorative Community Network.

Today, the ACT uses restorative practices across a number of sectors – in our justice system, in our schools, in family support programs and in healthcare initiatives.

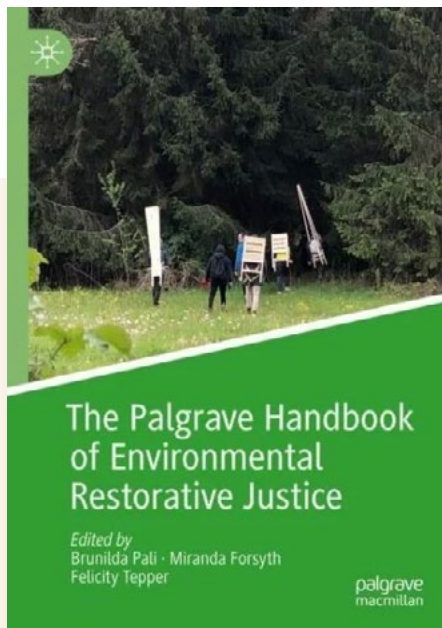
In September 2021, WA was the first jurisdiction to implement a Charter of Rights for parents and family members involved with child protection systems.

This initiative used as reference the research undertaken by RegNet (Professor V Braithwaite and former Dr S Hamilton) and the principles from their report "Parents and Family Members Matter: A Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for Parents and Family Members with Children in the Care of Child Protection Services in Australia".



Power to Persuade
@PowerToPersuade

It's happened! WA is the first jurisdiction in Australia to have a Charter of Rights for Parents and Families. We have published @SharynneHamilton1's speech from the launch event. Congratulations to all involved. <https://www.powertopersuade.org.au/blog/australias-first-charter-of-rights-for-parents-and-families/28/9/2021>



RegNet has worked closely with the Victoria Environmental Protection Agency to explore ways in which restorative justice can be utilised across the domain of environmental regulation.

The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Restorative Justice, explores the dynamic new field of Environmental Restorative Justice.

[Click here to learn more about RegNet Centre for Restorative Justice.](#)



ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
Coombs Extension Building 8
8 Fellows Road
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2600

+61 (0)2 6125 1501
regnet@anu.edu.au
regnet.anu.edu.au

@ANURegNet on Twitter