Joining forces: Looking to CLCs and beyond for effective advocacy

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Characteristics of a Coalition

- Broad representation
- Formal ties
- Advocacy and outcomes-oriented
- Community involvement
- Recognition & public profile
- ‘Coalition first’ mindset
- Leader & membership structure
The Theory

Reasons organisations form coalitions:

- Limited resources
- Common interests
- Knowledge sharing
- Impact
  - More voices
  - Networks
  - Minimise duplication
Coalitions are appropriate when:

- Common goal
- Inadequacy of current efforts
- Benefits outweigh costs
- Goals are beyond capacity of a single organisation
Costs & Benefits

Costs:
- Recognition
- Slower pace
- Funding & resources
- Administration

Benefits:
- Influence & leverage
- Shared skills & knowledge
- Larger networks
- Success!
Examples of collaboration

- Union movement
  - Your Rights At Work
  - Fairwear
  - Equal Pay campaign
- Criminal Justice Alliance, United Kingdom
- Youth Justice Coalition, NSW
The Victorian Context

- Law and order election campaigns by both parties (2006 & 2010)
- Conservative government elected November 2010
- Expansion of police powers and weaponry
- Police-related deaths
- Changes to sentencing
- Rising prison population
About us

Smart Justice is supported by a coalition of organisations led by the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) Inc., the peak body for Victoria’s 49 community legal centres. Smart Justice was made possible with funding support from the Victoria Law Foundation and the Reichstein Foundation.

The organisations involved in Smart Justice have a vast array of experience working in the criminal justice system with those affected by it; victims, offenders and others. We know the impact of crime and we are passionate about promoting safe and vibrant communities. That’s why we support Smart Justice.

The following organisations support Smart Justice (Click on each of the organisations logos below to go to their websites):

Quick Links
- Smart Justice overview
- Smart Justice overview
- Public opinion and sentencing
- Mandatory sentencing
- Reducing alcohol-related violence
- Reducing knives carrying and knife violence
- More prisons are not the answer to reducing crime

News & Media
- Stalled prison project cause to rethink flawed policy
- Campbell’s Tick and Plick Government
- Time for prison reform across Australian states
- Victoria: on the move to become the ‘prison state’?
- More media...
Smart Justice

Successes:

◦ Significant media profile
◦ Expanded resources
◦ Strengthened coalition
Smart Justice for Young People

Work to date:
- Cassidy Inquest-related advocacy
- Protective Services Officers & Your Rights on Track
- Diversion working group
- Fact sheets & CLEs
Smart Justice for Young People

- Successes:
  - Engaging with diverse sectors
  - Joint lobbying
  - Your Rights on Track project
  - Media on issue of Tasers
Tips for Your Campaign

- The power of silent partners
- Steering Groups
- Agreed set of principles
- Allocate time for coalition growing
- Think big but start small
- Incorporate evaluation into every stage of planning
Tips for Your Campaign

- Working Groups
- Choose your moment
- Adequate funding
- Well-picked volunteers & student interns
- Communication with members
Suggested Reading

- *Forces for Good* – Crutchfield & Grant
- *The Activists Handbook* – Randy Shaw

More info at: [www.smartjustice.org.au](http://www.smartjustice.org.au)
Twitter: @SmartJusticeAus @SmartJusticeYP