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Legal Action Group – Community Care Conference, Tuesday 21 October 2025 4.15pm-5.05pm

Health Justice Partnerships (HJP) – Why in the UK?

Australia – what can we learn at home here in the United Kingdom?

Dr Liz Curran, Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University



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Why Health Justice Partnerships? -Justice interventions to address inequality, discrimination, social determinants of health outcomes, and poverty

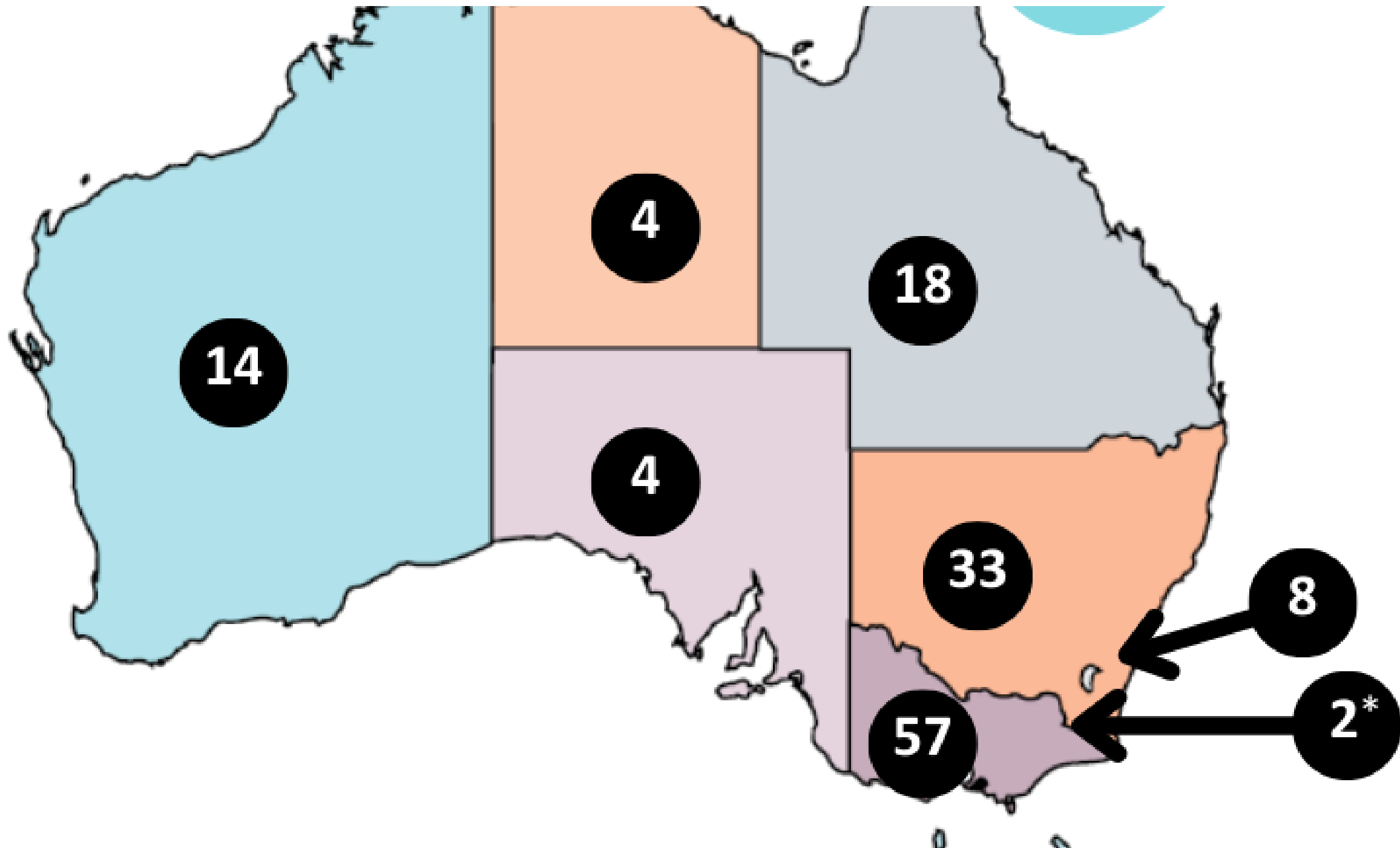
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDGs, poverty (SDG 1), good health and wellbeing (SDG 3) inequality (SDG 10), collaboration (SDG 17) justice and strong institutions (SDG 17).

Also in 2019 and 2023 the UN identified five pillars for *people-centred justice* which require addressing people's everyday justice and needs through access to effective and efficient dispute resolution mechanisms, the legal protection of human rights and the ability for all people to live in safety and security.

Evidence HJP if done well do this – research and evaluation findings from Curran

- Reach underserved
- Engagement - community, clients, trusted intermediaries and organisational changes in practice informed by what works
- Trust -community, clients, trusted intermediaries and organisational changes in practice informed by what works
- Capability -community, clients, trusted intermediaries and organisational changes in practice informed by what works
- Legal Empowerment -community, clients, trusted intermediaries and organisational changes in practice informed by what works
- Collaboration – critical shared values of interdisciplinary and organic and ‘bottom-up’ driven focus on improving outcomes for people which overcomes professional differences – not funder or government driven – whilst effective, efficient and good use of resources and downstream savings it does not work if imposed! Right fit!!
- Enable key lessons what works and what does not if model uses reflective practice to inform and recalibration only which is to be encouraged to be effective
- Health and social outcomes & downstream savings
- Client outcomes – life improvements; Staff lower stress levels as more option from legal capability being enhanced



List in Australia

Source -Health Justice Australia Map web site

Show List - <https://healthjustice.org.au/health-justice-partnership/health-justice-partnerships-across-australia/>

Critical elements – professional development, reciprocity, respect, non- traditional lawyering styles, legal secondary consultations (critical to success in Australian & Canada – sadly underexplored in UK) see podcast Noble, P. and Curran, L., 2025. [Let's talk health justice with Dr Liz Curran.](#) [Digital or Visual Media]

HJP in difference community care settings!

Curran involved in start-ups and advised funders on many in Australia

- Hospitals Social and Wellbeing Teams (RWH – see video)
- Community health hubs – maternal and child health (Mabels – Eastern CLCs)
- Youth and child services (NESAY – Homelessness and DA) , multicultural agencies (In-touch)
- Domestic abuse etc

Some examples (these are ones I have had direct involvement in (from HJA web page))

- NSW – Bagaraybang Bagaraybang Mayinygalang HJP (a partnership between Hume Riverina Community Legal Service and Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service) Evaluator and Co-design/funding; Australian Disability Law Centre (Evaluation Adviser and Start-up adviser); Redfern Legal Centre and Sydney Local Health District Health Justice Partnership at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Sydney Dental Hospital (Early evaluator and start –up phase Aboriginal Clinic)
- Victoria- West Heidelberg Community Legal at Banyule Community Health (worked as Director and Clinical Legal Education Supervising Solicitor there for 10 years); Invisible Hurdles (partnership between Hume Riverina Community Legal Service, Albury-Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service, the Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre and North-East Support and Action for Youth, Wangaratta); Bendigo Family Violence Justice program (between Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre and the Centre for Non-Violence). Ran capability sessions 2015-2021 to HJPs across Victoria for the **Legal Services Board through its HJP funding stream – critical in getting HJPs up in Australia**

The point of the research (in a nutshell)

CURRAN, L., 2023. [Evidence - effective justice interventions making a difference.](#)

Link

<https://nottinghamtrentuniversity.wistia.com/medias/7fk20dcouc>

References (cont.)

- Gilboe, S., And Curran, L., 2025 'The Role Of Justice In Addressing The Social Determinants Of Health' *International Journal Of Social Determinants Of Health And Health Services*
<https://doi.org/10.1177/27551938251321973>
- CURRAN, L., CHING, J. and JARMAN, J., 2025. [Regulatory leadership on access to justice](#). London: Legal Services Consumer Panel.
- Zhao, J., Curran, L., Doak, J., Durdiyeva, S., Gallop, S., Hall, H., Henn, M., Lewis, T., Kellezi, B., O'nions, H. And TRICKETT, L., 2023. [Scoping The Future Law And Social Justice - Listening & Hearing From The Frontline: Final Report](#). Nottingham Trent University.
- CURRAN, L., 2024. [A missed opportunity to make health, education and social support savings through investment in early justice interventions](#). *Solicitors Journal*. ISSN 0038-1047
- CURRAN, L., 2024. [Strength and uniqueness - the ripple effect of the BBM Health Justice Partnership sharing of knowledge and increasing empowerment: second research and impact evaluation report of a Health Justice Partnership – Bagaraybang bagaraybang mayinygalang \(BBM\): Empowering & Alleviating: A Health Justice Partnership \(HJP\) of the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service \(HRCLS\) & Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service \(AWAHS\) offering legal support for social & emotional well-being with Aboriginal Peoples in Northeast NSW and Victoria](#). Nottingham: Nottingham Law School.

References (cont.)

- Curran, L. And ALICI, N., 2023. [Addressing The Torment Of Powerlessness: 2023 First Research And Impact Evaluation Report Of The Health Justice Partnership On Mental Health And Wellbeing \(BBM\) On Bagaraybang Bagaraybang Mayinygalang \(BBM\): Empowering & Alleviating: A Health Justice Partnership \(HJP\) Of The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service \(HRCLS\) & Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service \(AWAHS\) Offering Legal Support For Social & Emotional Well-being With Aboriginal Peoples In Northeast NSW And Victoria.](#) Nottingham: Nottingham Law School.
- Curran, L., 2022. ['Going Deeper' - The Invisible Hurdles Stage III Research Evaluation Final Report.](#) Nottingham: Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University.
- CURRAN, L., 2024. [Why it's time to embrace health justice partnerships.](#) Edgware: Legal Futures.
- CURRAN, L., 2024. [Successful Australian legal aid model provides lessons for UK access to justice.](#) Nottingham: Nottingham Trent University.
- CURRAN, L., 2021. [Better law for a better world: new approaches to law practice and education.](#) Abingdon: Routledge. ISBN 9780367180423.

Parliamentary Submissions

- CURRAN, L., 2025. [Written evidence submission \(ROL0007\) to the House of Lords Constitution Committee - inquiry into the Rule of Law.](#)
- CURRAN, L., 2024. [Submission to the Ministry of Justice Review of Civil Legal Aid.](#) Nottingham: Nottingham Trent University.
- CURRAN, L., 2024. [Submission to the UK Parliament Public Accounts Committee – value for money from legal aid.](#) Nottingham Trent University.
- CURRAN, L., 2024. [Review of MoJ review into Civil Legal Aid comparator report.](#)

Resources

<https://healthjustice.org.au/health-justice-partnership/health-justice-partnerships-across-australia/>

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Curran, L. And JAMES, S., 2025. [Integrated legal practice : going to where the people are who need our help - legal empowerment and multidisciplinary innovation.](#) In: International Legal Aid Group 14th conference, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, 21-23 June 2023.

Resources

- Noble, P. And Curran, L., 2025. [Let's talk health justice with Dr Liz Curran.](#) [Digital or Visual Media]
- Curran & Stern 'Reaching underserved communities to tackle inequality' Legal Futures September 2025 <https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/blog/reaching-underserved-communities-to-tackle-inequality>
- Curran, L. And Stern, C., 2025. [Expert blog - trusted intermediaries: a proven path to accessible and cost-effective justice.](#) [Digital or Visual Media]
- Curran, L., 2025. [Access to justice isn't for everyone.](#) [Digital or Visual Media]
- Curran, L., 2023. [Evidence - effective justice interventions making a difference.](#)