

A RESTORATIVE CITY FOR NEW SOUTH WALES – COULD NEWCASTLE BE A MODEL?



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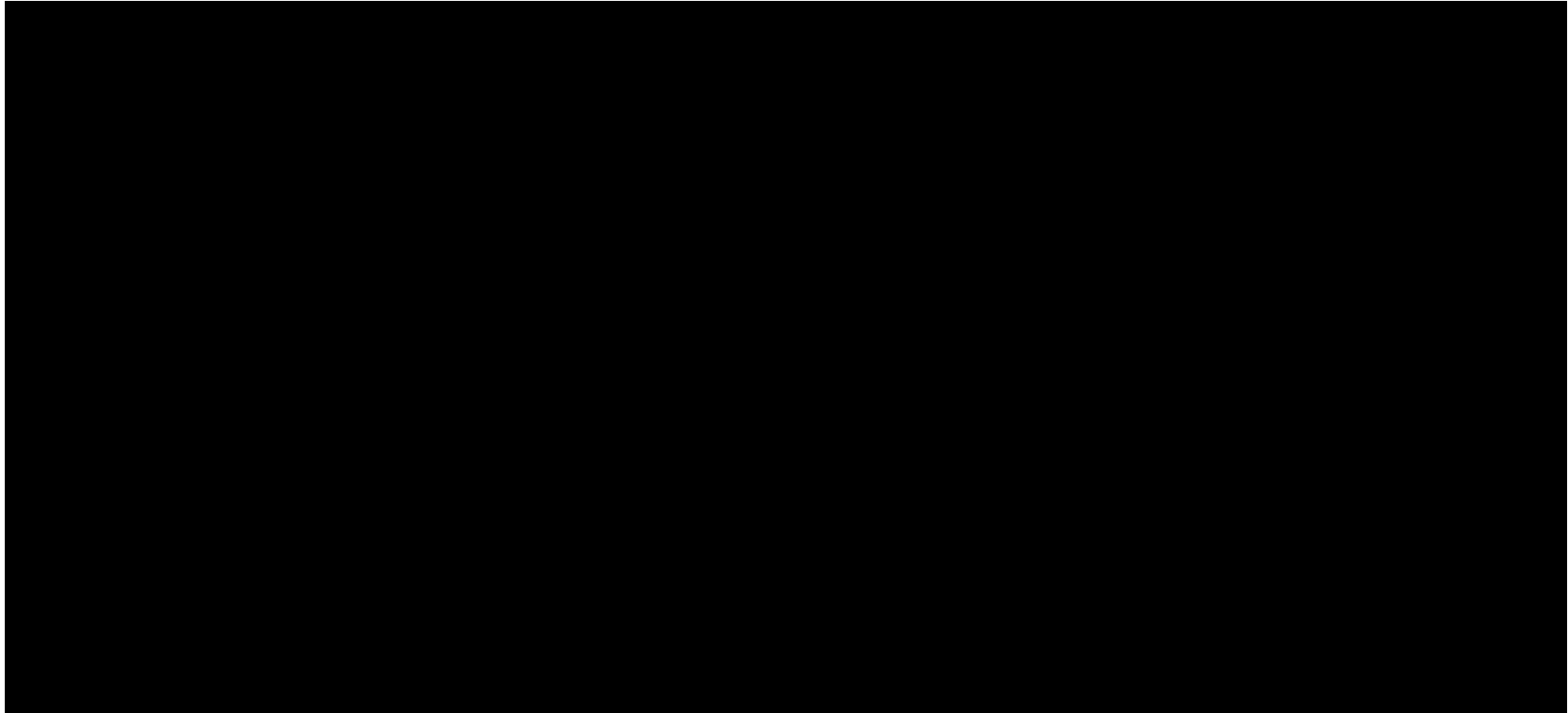
INTRODUCTORY THOUGHT PROVOKER

■ WHAT IS YOUR NOTION OF A RESTORATIVE CITY?



- *Introduce yourself to someone you don't know and take up to two minutes to discuss your notion of a restorative city.*

HULL, UK: THE WORLD'S FIRST RESTORATIVE CITY



Source: International Institute for Restorative Practices, 'Restorative Practices in Hull: The First Restorative City' (25 September 2012). Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4tpmantqel&> (accessed 31 March 2017).



A RESTORATIVE CITY



- Further than the introduction of restorative justice and restorative practices – involves transforming the culture and social fabric of a city to embed restorative practices so that they become second-nature
- Models and Experiences of Restorative Cities
- Hull UK - world's first restorative city
- Leeds UK
- Oakland, California USA
- Whanganui, NZ
- Canberra, ACT Australia

NEWCASTLE AS A RESTORATIVE CITY



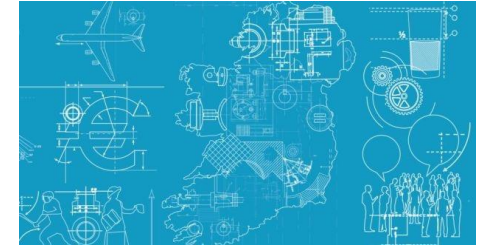
- **Why Newcastle?** moderate size, availability of services, potential for expansion on regional basis.
- **Demographics** - population size with approx 30% in 10-19 and 20-29 yr age groups, socio-economic data with areas of advantage and disadvantage, crime rates, Indigenous offending, high out-of-home care rates for children and young people.
- **Urban renewal** - recent movement from heavy industrial city to a service oriented and innovative city - new and different employment opportunities - revitalisation of the CBD: transport, culture, education.
- **Need for social and cultural renewal** - role for restorative principles and practices.

NEWCASTLE AS A RESTORATIVE CITY



- **Experience and experiments in restorative justice and restorative practices in Newcastle** - focus on children and youth - conferencing, schools, Youth on Track (encouraging results), Hunter Drug Court, MERIT program in Local Courts.
- **Ad hoc arrangements** - co-ordination, information sharing and central organisation to work together to promote restorative principles and practices underpinning the life of the city (Hull Centre for Restorative Practice)
- **Strong candidate** for transformation into a restorative city through a long term project - A restorative region?

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF NEWCASTLE AS A RESTORATIVE CITY



- **Ambitious cultural and social change project** – time commitment
How have other Restorative Cities started this transformation?
- **Processes** include developing networks, trusts, conferences
- **Identification of key stakeholders (champions)** to take idea forward including NGOs, victims, youth, City Council, schools, local State MPs, police, indigenous sector;
- **Task Force** - role of university, government, community organisations & steering committee. Igniting interest in diverse sectors under one umbrella.
Co-ordinating and supporting services and practices

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF NEWCASTLE AS A RESTORATIVE CITY

- **Expansion of Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices**
- **Still identifying active restorative programs active in Newcastle:**
 - Justice sector: conferencing, Youth on Track, Hunter drug court and MERIT
 - Community sector: FGCs/mediation in child protection, Schools (bullying)
- Children and youth central - education, youth justice, Indigenous and community services
- Transforming culture to focus on inclusion
- **Restorative City conference planned for March 2018 in Newcastle** with array of international speakers experienced in restorative practices and from other restorative cities together with local champions from Newcastle and training day in restorative practices
- **Resourcing the process; Impact evaluation.**

THANK YOU



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DISCUSSION

**A presentation to the Second International Conference on Non
Adversarial Justice, Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration.
Sydney 6 April 2017**