



Youth Justice Conferencing for youth misuse of fire

A case study of collaboration

Youth Justice Conferencing

- A juvenile justice mechanism
- Informed by restorative justice
- That brings the stakeholders of an offence together
- To determine an outcome plan for a young person to complete
- To make reparation for an offence

Youth misuse of fire

- Any illegitimate use of fire or incendiary materials by a person under the age of 18 years
- A multifaceted and complex behaviour
- That presents a significant risk to life and property

Youth Justice Conferencing for youth misuse of fire

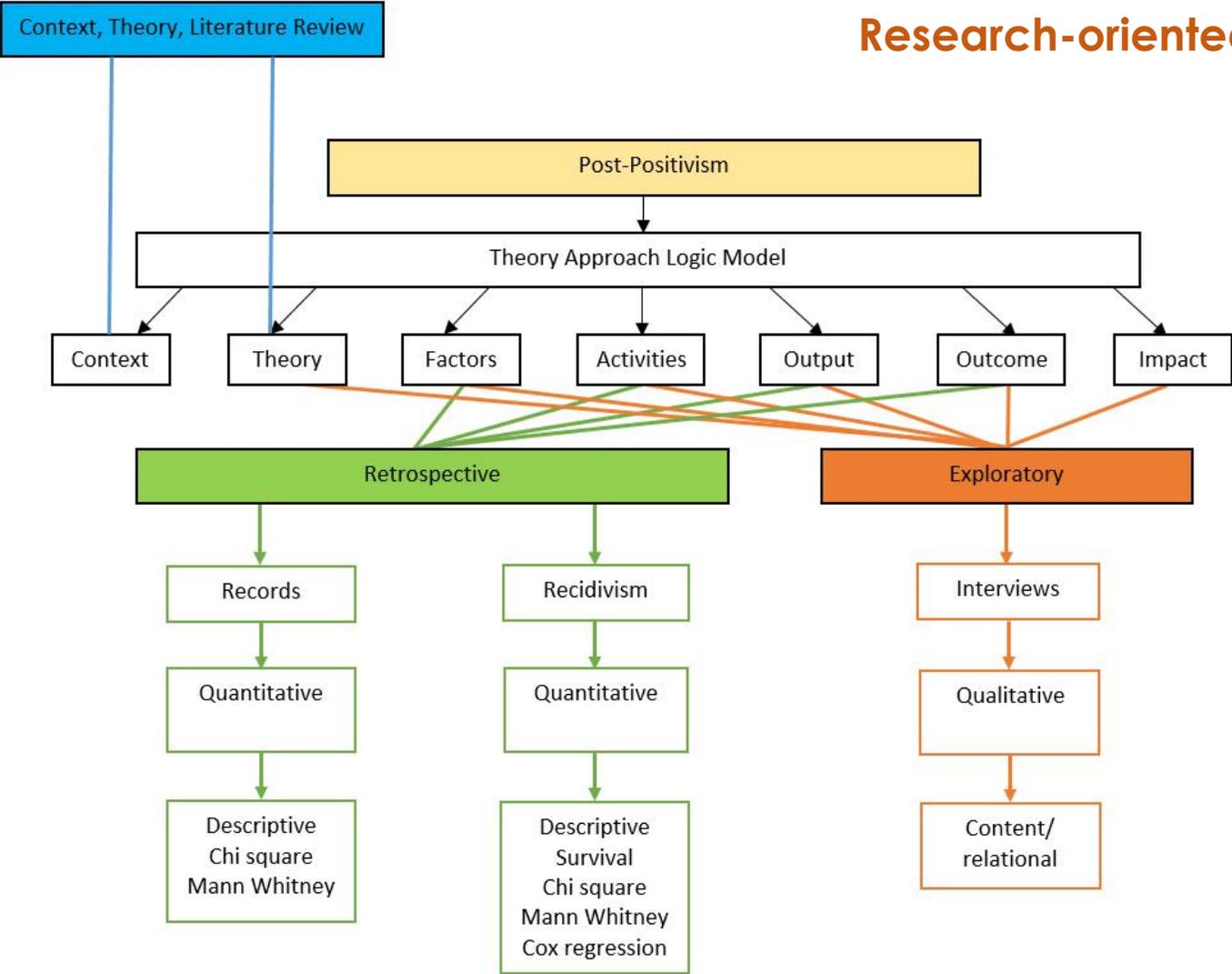
Youth Justice Conferencing with fire-specific inclusions:

- A firefighter
- The provision of fire safety education
- The inclusion of fire-specific outcome plan tasks

In New South Wales

- Formally in operation since May 2006
- No independent empirical evaluation conducted prior to this research

Research-oriented evaluation



What works?

Collaboration between urban fire and juvenile justice services

- A Memorandum of Understanding
- Strong interagency cooperation
- To meet mutual legislative obligations

Collaboration between government and non-government entities

- Bringing stakeholders of an offence together
- Through government-community collaboration
- To provide fire safety education to at-risk groups

Collaboration between young people and adults

- Adult initiated and mediated program
- In which young people possess the right to express their opinion, make decisions, and determine outcomes

What is missing?

Collaboration with the rural fire service

- So that all young people have the opportunity to participate with a firefighter
- So that all firefighters have the opportunity to participate as a stakeholder
- So that conference convenors can access a larger pool of firefighters

Collaboration between practitioners and researchers

- So that firefighters are aware of the principles and purposes of conferencing
- So that researchers can collect practice-based evidence

Collaboration between proponents of RJ, fire prevention, and CC-DRR

- So that the unique program logic underpinning Youth Justice Conferencing for youth misuse of fire is acknowledged
- So that evaluation and modification takes into account all of the mechanisms operant within the program

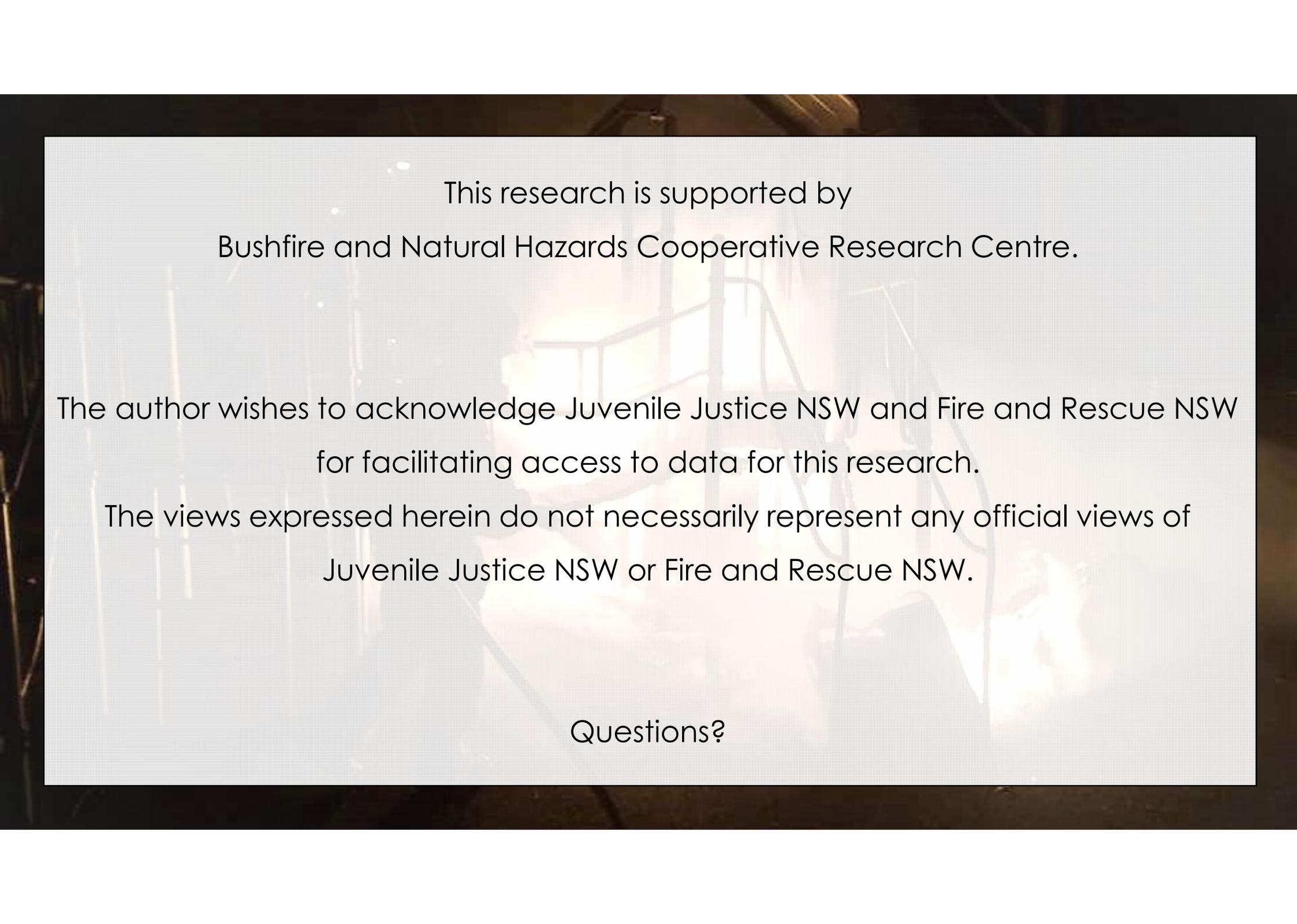
Conclusion

What works?

- Collaboration between urban fire and juvenile justice services
- Collaboration between government and community entities
- Collaboration between young people and adults

What is missing?

- Collaboration with the rural fire service
- Collaboration between practitioners and researchers
- Collaboration between proponents of restorative justice, fire prevention, and child-centred disaster risk reduction



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Questions?