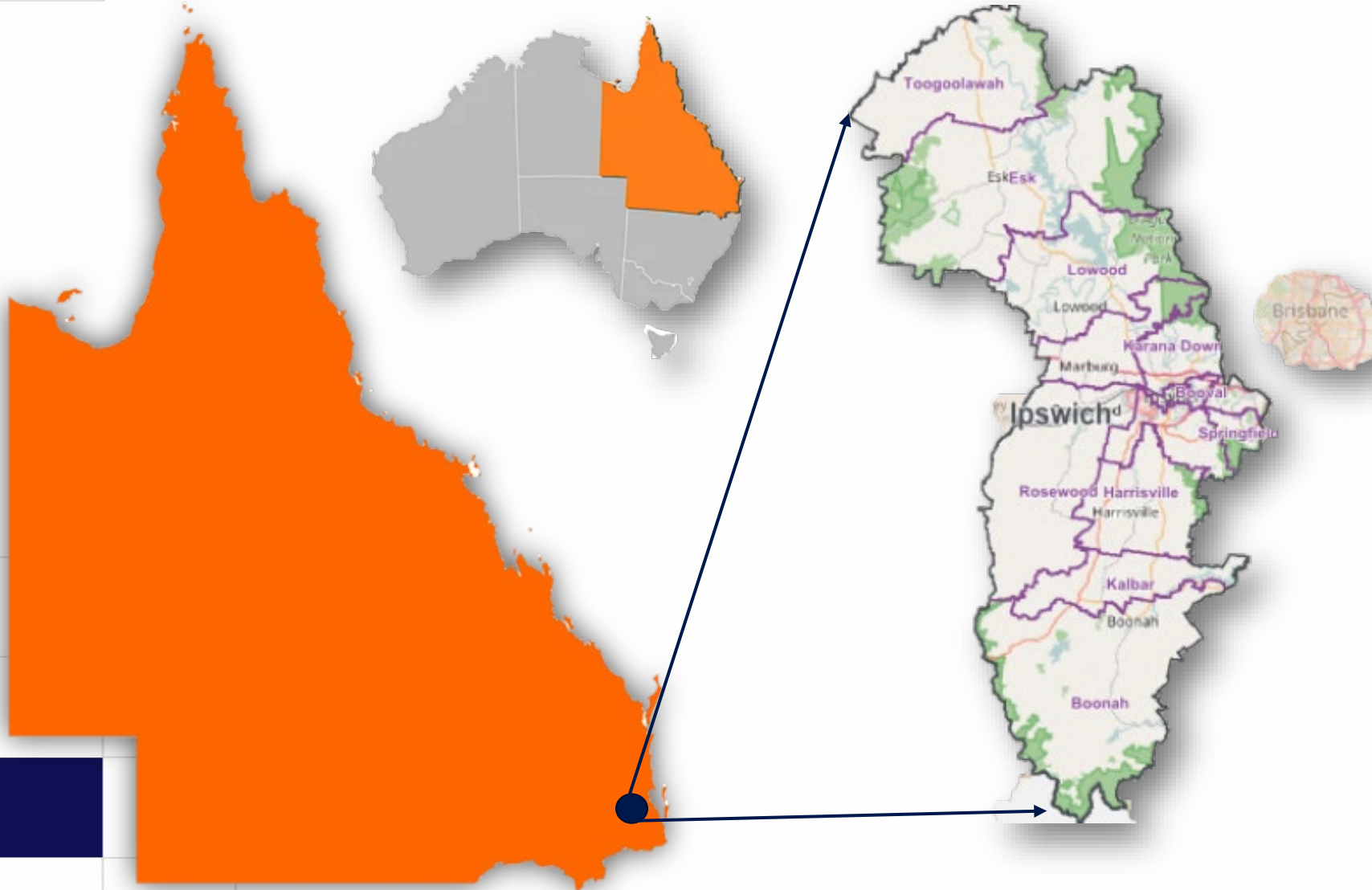




# Repeat Offender Disruption Strategy



# Ipswich Policing District, Queensland Australia



# Problem

- Offender recidivism
- Low referral rates for offenders



# Question



*Can receipt of a text message nudge  
reduce offender recidivism?*

# Response

- Randomised Controlled Trial – March to July 2022
- Daily review of persons charged issued the previous day
- Preformatted message sent out providing an 'Opt-in' offer of support



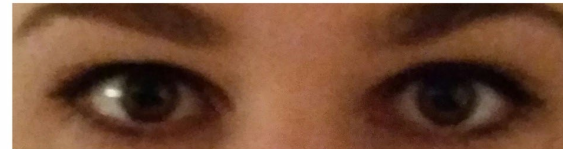
# Email to SMS - Message



## Sample Message Template

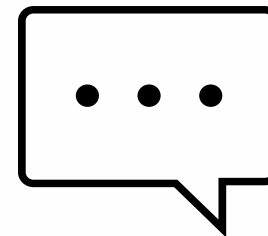
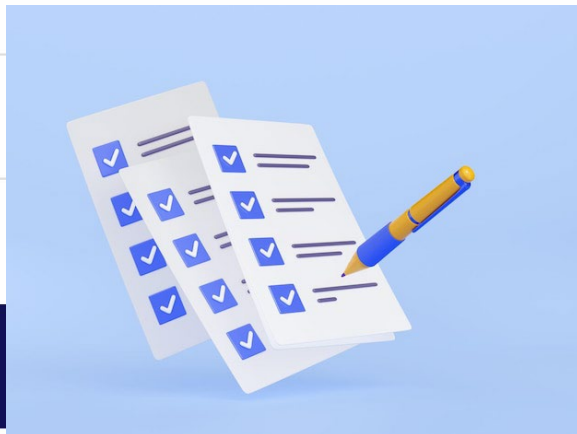
“Our records show you have had recent contact with Qld Police. We acknowledge there are a number of reasons that can lead to this. The purpose of this message is to offer you an independent and anonymous referral service to assist you, with the hope of minimising future police contact. If you are interested in this service please reply ‘Yes’ to this message and an officer will contact you within the next 5 business days, between 8am and 4pm. Please note this call will be from a private number.”

# Nudges



Mobekk et al. 2020

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.603440>



**80 % of UA-students  
fix wheel and frame...**



**...to prevent theft!**



Sas et al. 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-021-00285-3>

# Review



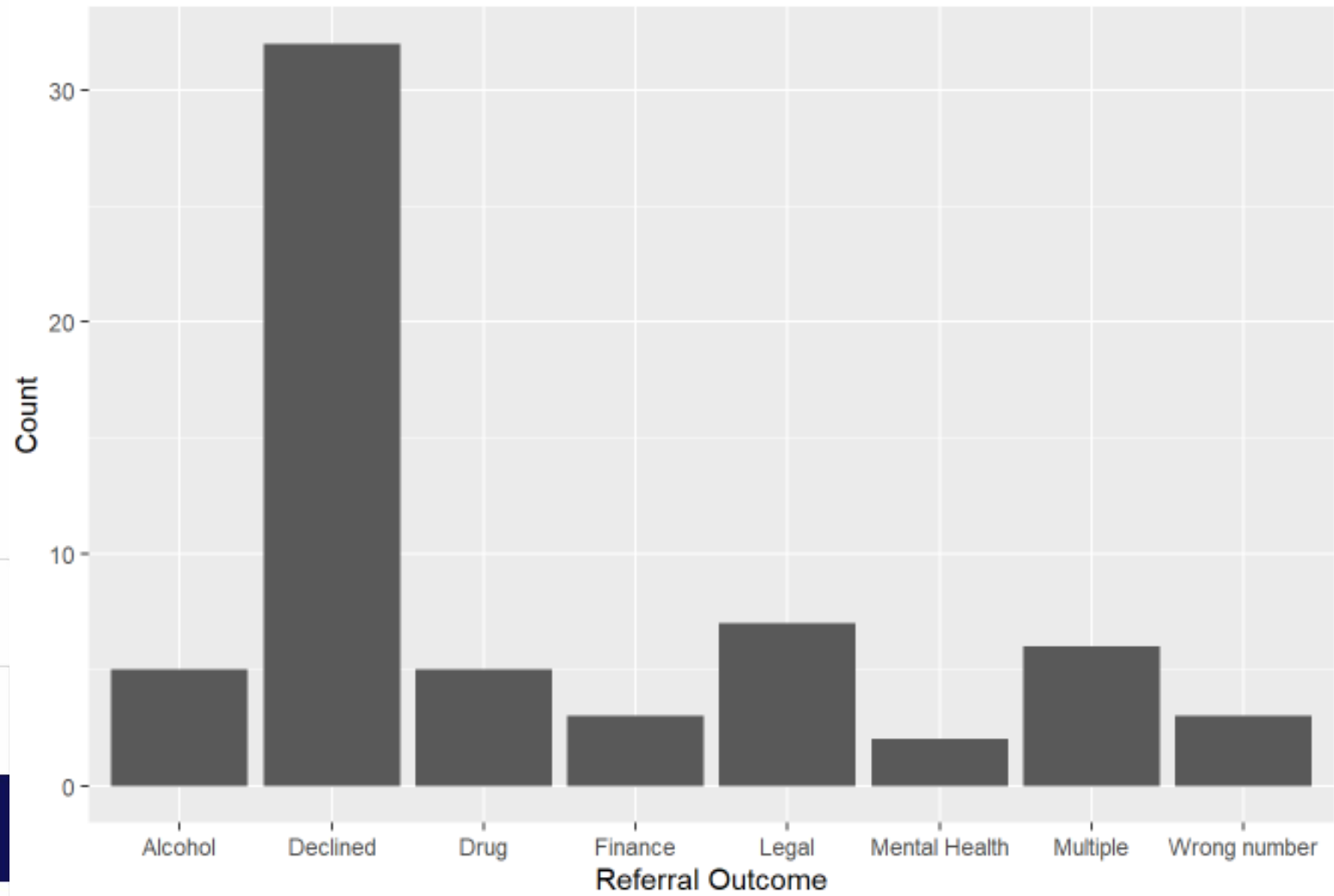
	<i>Messages Received</i>	<i>Further Contact Requested</i>	<i>Subsequent Referral</i>
<i>SMS Group</i>	355 (58.97%)	71 (17.75%)	28 (44.4% contact request)  (7.9% total message)
<i>Control Group</i>	795		
<i>Totals</i>	1,150		



# Referrals



Count of Referral Outcomes



# Group Comparisons



Condition	Mean Age (SD)	Mean offences pre-intervention (SD)	Mean offences post-intervention (SD)	Total Participants
Control	33.25 (10.89)	0.08 (0.47)	0.12 (0.89)	795
Intervention	33.45 (10.63)	0.08 (0.41)	0.04 (0.34)	355

# Results



	Offences	Std. Error
Intercept	2.194**	1.121
Intervention	-4.682**	1.834
Age	-0.149***	0.037
Intervention/Age	0.130**	0.057

# Implications & Future Research



- *Average time to send an Email to SMS 36 minutes per day*
- *Average call back time 6 minutes per call*

## Future Research Questions

- *How long does it last?*
- *Can our results be reproducible?*
- *Is it less effective for life course persistent offenders?*