

KIDS DON'T BELONG IN PRISON CELLS

ON AVERAGE, IT COSTS TAXPAYERS \$1 MILLION TO INCARCERATE A CHILD PER YEAR.

WE ALL WANT A SAFER QUEENSLAND, BUT EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT LOCKING UP CHILDREN DOES NOT MAKE OUR COMMUNITY ANY BETTER OFF.

FOR A SAFER QUEENSLAND, THE GOVERNMENT MUST COMMIT TO PROPERLY FUNDING JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

WHAT IS JUSTICE REINVESTMENT?

Justice reinvestment is an approach managing public resources where money is redirected from prisons to community based initiatives. Justice reinvestment is led by the community, for the community.

Instead of harmful punitive approaches, justice reinvestment is evidence-based. It embraces therapeutic and rehabilitative methods like diversion programs that address the underlying causes of problematic behavior in children, in order to improve it - diverting them away from the criminal justice system.

Diversion programs and services like this already exist all over the country - and they're incredibly successful

A justice reinvestment approach enables these experts to identify and address the root causes of this behavior, in order to improve it and divert children away from the criminal justice system.

Investment into First Nations-led solutions will immeasurably benefit children, families, and communities. This money will have a huge impact in breaking the cycle of over-representation of First Nations children in the criminal justice system.

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AMNESTY
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CHALLENGE
INJUSTICE.

BUILDING PRISONS

**DOES NOT MAKE
OUR COMMUNITIES
ANY SAFER**

**PROPERLY FUNDING JUSTICE
REINVESTMENT WILL COST LESS
THAN PUTTING KIDS IN JAIL CELLS
AND KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES
SAFER IN THE LONG RUN.**

PUTTING KIDS IN PRISON DOESN'T TEACH THEM A LESSON.

INSTEAD, IT PUTS THEM ON A PIPELINE TO RE OFFENDING

THERE ARE SMARTER SOLUTIONS TO PUTTING KIDS IN JAIL CELLS THAT ARE PROVEN TO WORK BETTER.

MORE THAN A THIRD OF CHILDREN IMPRISONED IN QUEENSLAND HAVE BEEN LIVING IN UNSTABLE OR UNSUITABLE HOUSING. MORE THAN HALF HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE. ALMOST ALL COME FROM LOW-SOCIO ECONOMIC HOUSEHOLDS.

THE ROOT CAUSES OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROBLEMATIC BEHAVIOR MUST BE ADDRESSED.

5 KEY REASONS TO PROPERLY FUND JUSTICE REINVESTMENT FOR OUR KIDS

Kids brains are still developing at 12 and 13

Medical and psychological research proves that children's brains are still developing. They cannot fully understand the consequences of their actions, which is why they need support programs, not incarceration.

Putting kids in prison weakens our communities

Imprisoning children disrupts their connection to their culture and community, which are vital for their development. Keeping children within their communities with strong support programs strengthens families and promotes healing.

Australia is lagging behind the world by locking up kids instead of funding support programs

Raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 aligns with international human rights standards and ensures a fairer, more just system for all children.

There are strong alternatives to locking up kids

Investing in health and education to address the root causes of youth offending helps create a brighter future for our children and a stronger, more resilient community. Indigenous led alternatives to incarceration, centered on First Nations voices, are proven to be more effective in reducing reoffending and supporting children's well-being.

Kids deserve dignity

Every child deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Funding justice reinvestment and raising the age of criminal responsibility protects the rights and futures of our children.

ABOUT RAISE

THE AGE



FOR A SAFER QUEENSLAND, THE GOVERNMENT MUST COMMIT TO RAISING THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called on countries to raise the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years old.

China, Russia, Germany, Spain, Sierra Leone, Azerbaijan, Cambodia and Rwanda have taken this step and we must do the same for Australian kids.

There is an overwhelming amount of medical and psychological evidence that shows us children's brains are still developing, especially the parts that regulate judgement, decision-making and impulse control.

This means that kids cannot foresee the consequences of any action and cannot fully understand the criminal nature of their behavior.