

Know the facts - #RaiseTheAge

Children under 14 are not developmentally mature enough to be held legally responsible for their actions. This is supported by leading medical bodies including the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian College of Physicians and the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association.

Around 600 children under 14 are locked up in Australian prison cells every year.

Australia is behind the rest of the world where the most common age of legal responsibility is 14.

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

78% of imprisoned children aged 10-13 in Australia are Aboriginal.

In 2016-17 half of the children aged 10-13 who were first sentenced or diverted in the Children's Court had been the subject of a report to child protection. One third had experienced out of home care. In other words, a significant proportion of children in the criminal justice system are already disadvantaged in relation to their peers.

If we treat children as criminals, they are more likely to commit crime as adults. In 2016 the Sentencing Advisory Council in Victoria found that 80 percent of children who were first sentenced aged 10 to 13 went on to reoffend.