

Recommendations to address youth justice issues in Central Australia

Strong Grandmothers Group of the Central Desert Region – October 2020

This list of recommendations was developed by the Strong Grandmothers Group in October 2020 and provided to the Minister for Territory Families, Housing and Communities. It was read to participants by Pat Ansell-Dodds at the 5th National Justice Symposium in Mparntwe/Alice Springs on 28 July 2021.

- Support the [Raise the Age Campaign](#).
 - **Youth programs** that that promote:
 - Young people's self-esteem and help them to be proud of who they are
 - Respect for others and for yourself
 - Connection to country
 - Connection to culture
 - Language
 - Understanding of where young people's anger comes from and support for them to heal
 - Young people to look towards their future.
- Youth programs should include:
- Story-telling (including in language)
 - More night programs and sports
 - Time out bush, on Country
 - Healing programs that allow the Elders' ways of healing to be passed on
 - Opportunities for training and education.
- **Family Support Programs** so they are more involved with young people.
 - **Mentoring programs** for young women and young men.
 - Alternative **education** options.
 - Support to fund and train the [Interpreter Service](#) that helps young people and families understand the system and provides jobs for language speakers.
 - [Institute for Aboriginal Development \(IAD\)](#) programs and storytelling.
 - More **education** for Government, police and not-for-profit staff **about the true history of this country and to understand trauma.**