



## Worth A Second Chance

### We believe young people are worth a second chance.

We all makes mistakes, especially when we are young. But not every young person has someone to help them learn from their mistakes and support them to choose a better pathway. We want to ensure every young person in crisis can get their lives back on track

### Giving young people a second chance works.

We are witnessing Governments across the country shift towards more punitive responses to young people in trouble.

This is despite the evidence, from the Royal Commission and beyond, showing that supporting children and young people to connect with family, education and culture in the community leads to better outcomes for everybody.

In the NORTHERN TERRITORY, the Government has turned its back on key recommendations of the Royal Commission in recent months with the passing of regressive legislation that has already resulted in more vulnerable children being exposed to the youth detention system.

In QUEENSLAND, vulnerable young people can be fitted with GPS monitoring devices and there is a presumption against bail, meaning more young people will be locked up instead of being supported in the community.

In VICTORIA, even though there have been recent improvements in youth justice, plans remain on track

to increase the capacity of the state's youth detention facilities through the construction of the Cherry Creek facility.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, jurisdictions aside from the ACT have failed to commit to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years, meaning primary school aged children will continue to be incarcerated.

Overall, we have seen a negative shift towards harsh punishments that close the door on kids early, and less investment in proven programs that give them a second chance in life, such as:

- Restorative justice group conferencing to help repair the harm caused by offending;
- Programs like Navigator, that help young people stay engaged in education and training;
- Supports to help the young person mend relationships with family and community and;
- Programs that support a young person to deepen their connection to culture and country.

### What does this mean for our communities?

Not only are we inflicting greater harm on kids through these policies, we are undermining the long-term safety of our community. Instead of helping kids to get their lives back on track, we are setting them up for a lifetime of social and economic exclusion – and that hurts all of us.

Help us raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14.

**We are asking you to join with us to call for the youth justice system our community deserves.**

**We believe young people are #WorthASecondChance.**

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Scan the QR Code to support our campaign for a fairer youth justice system.

