



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

Information about children and young people who have a detained or deported parent



Easy Read

About this information



The **University of Sydney** and the **Australian Human Rights Commission** made this information.



This information is about **research** we did.



Research means we look into something to find out more about it.



We looked into what life is like for children and young people with parents or caregivers in **immigration detention**.



Immigration detention is when the Government puts someone into a place they can not leave.



They say the person is not allowed to be in Australia.

We will call it **detention** for short.



We also looked into what life is like for children and young people with parents or caregivers who have been **deported**.



Deported means the Government says they have to leave Australia.

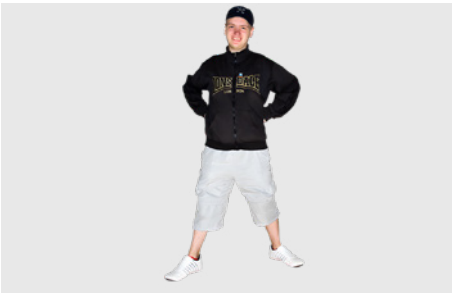
Why we did this research



There are lots of people in detention in Australia who are parents.



There are also lots of parents who have been deported.



We want people to know what things are like for their children.



These children and young people do not often get a chance to tell their stories.



We want to show how the laws make things hard for children and young people.



This information is about the stories we heard in our research from

- Children and young people
- Families and supporters.

What we did in our research



In our research we did interviews with

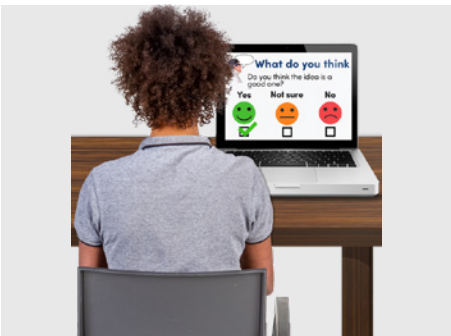
- Children from 7 to 17 years old
- Young people from 18 to 25 years old
- Families and supporters.



Interviews are when a person asks questions and listens to your answers.



In their interviews children did art like drawing to share what they think with us.



We also did online **surveys** for people who were 16 years or older.



Surveys are a list of questions where you write down your answer to say what you think.

What we found out about children and young people with parents in detention



We found that a child or young persons life changes a lot when their parent is in detention.



Their day to day life gets very hard.



Many children and young people feel very upset and worried.



It is hard for them to go and see their parents in detention.



The parent in detention is sometimes very far from where the child or young person lives.



Detention centres make children and young people feel stressed and scared.



It can be very hard for the child or young person to leave their parent after they see them in detention.



Children and young people with parents in detention can have problems with

- Having enough money for things
- Having enough food
- Finding a safe place to live.

We found that older children and young people often have to



- Do more adult jobs at home



- Do more paid work.



Lots of children



- Stop seeing friends



- Stop going to school every day



- Find it hard to focus on school work.



Young people find study or training hard.



Sometimes they stop going because they have to focus on helping their family.



There is a bigger chance of them doing things that are not good for them like

- Drugs and alcohol

- Getting in trouble with the police.

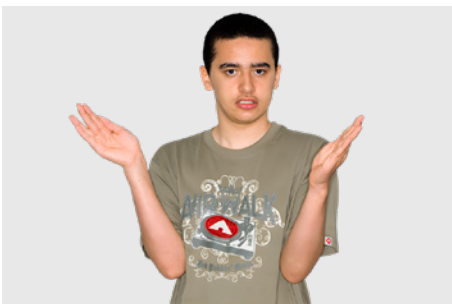


We found that children and young people with parents in detention find it hard to get support.

What we found out about children and young people with parents who are deported



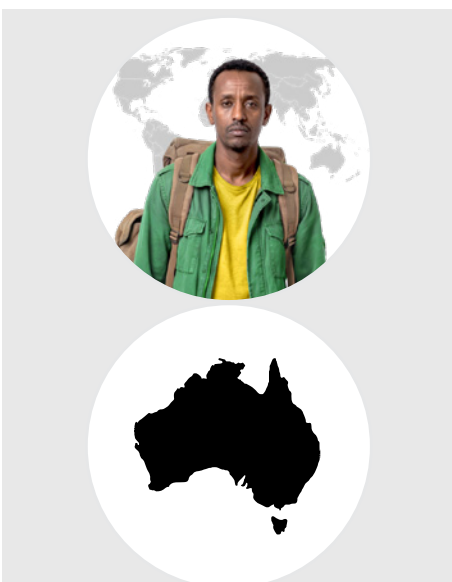
We found that when a child or young person has their parent deported it changes their life in lots of ways.



Children and young people feel unsafe and unsure about what will happen.



Older children and young people often have to decide if they want to leave Australia to be with the deported parent.



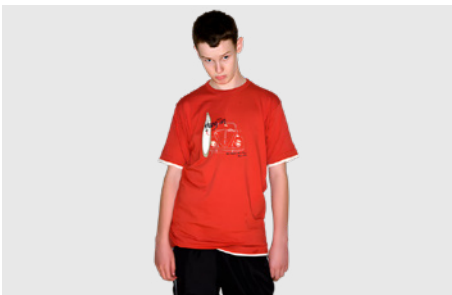
We found it is hard for the child or young person to choose if they live with

- The deported parent
- The parent or family still in Australia.



Children and young people who move to be with their deported parent miss

- Their life in Australia
- Their family.



Children and young people who stay in Australia miss their deported parent.



It is hard for children and young people to see their deported parent in the country they moved to.



They might not have enough money to get there.



Lots of children and young people might not see their deported parent for years or ever again.



When a parent is deported older children and young people often have to

- Do more adult jobs at home
- Do more paid work.



This stops them from doing other things they want to do with their life.



Children and young people often feel sad and angry.



There is a bigger chance of them doing things that are not good for them like

- Drugs and alcohol

- Getting in trouble with the police.



When children and young people have their parents deported it changes their lives for a long time.

What children and families think should be done



We asked the people in this research what could be better for children and young people with parents

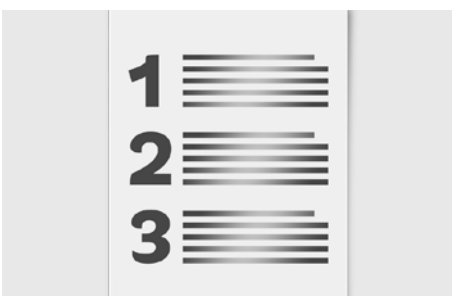
- In detention
- Who have been deported.



It is very important to know what children and young people think about this.



It is their right to say what they think.



We talk about what they said next.

Have support for parents



Lots of children and young people said parents went into detention because of problems with drugs or alcohol.



They said their parents might not have gone into detention if they had better support.



They want the Government to have more support for parents and families.



They want drug and alcohol supports to be free and easy to use.

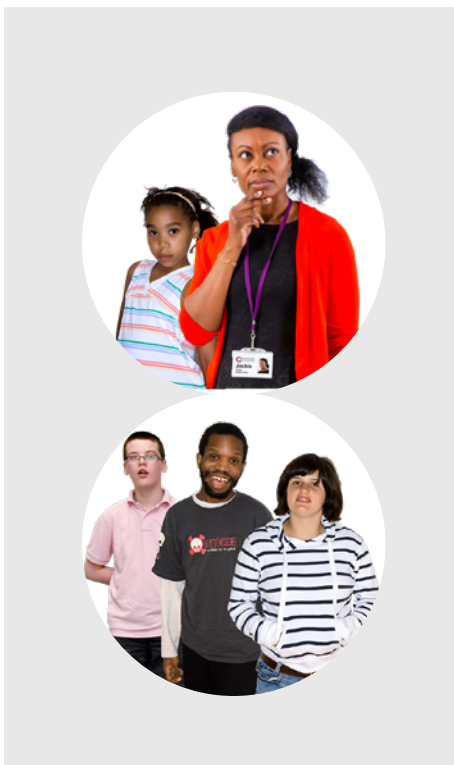
Think about children and young people before stopping visas



Children and young people said the Government should think about them before they decide to stop their parents **visa**.



A **visa** is a document that lets you stay in Australia.



They want the Government to

- Make rules so that people making visa decisions have to think more about children
- Make rules so that people making visa decisions have to think about young people.

Have other options instead of closed detention



Sometimes parents are put in **closed detention** while the Government looks into their visa decision.



Closed detention means the Government keeps you in a locked centre and you can not leave.



Children and young people said it was not fair to put their parent in closed detention.



They said their parent should not get in any more trouble.



Having a parent in detention is hard for children and young people because they feel like they are in trouble too.



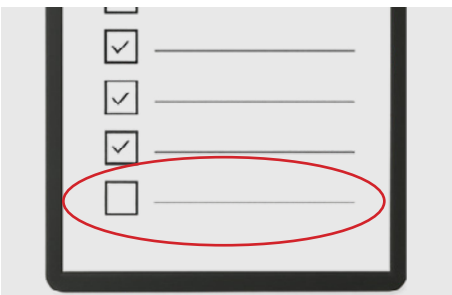
Children and young people said the Government should learn about each person first.



Then they should decide if the person should go into closed detention.

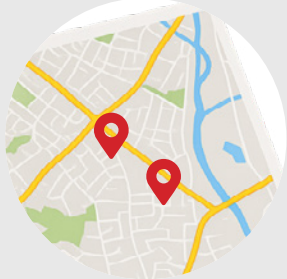


Children and young people said there should be other options for parents instead of closed detention.



Closed detention should always be the last thing the Government tells a parent to do.

Make it easier for children to see parents in detention



People in this research want the Government to make it easier for children and young people to see parents in detention by

- Finding a detention centre that is close to where the children or young people live
- Making it easier to do the forms asking to see the parent
- Letting children and young people visit detention at a time that works for their family
- Letting children and young people stay longer when they see their parents
- Making detention centres less stressful places for children to visit
- Letting families spend time together outside the detention centre.

Have more support services for children and young people with parents in detention



The people in our research want the Government to make sure there are supports for children and young people with parents in detention.



They said children and young people need

- Clear information about what is happening with their parent
- Support to get money to pay for things like food and school
- Support to talk about their feelings
- Support for other family members who are finding it hard.

Let deported parents come back to their children in Australia



Children and young people want their deported parents to be able to come back to Australia.



They want their parents to be able to visit them in Australia.



This would make them feel happy and let them share big parts of their lives with their parents.



Children and young people also want deported parents to have the chance to come back to live in Australia forever.



This would stop children and young people worrying about where they should live and how to keep their family together.

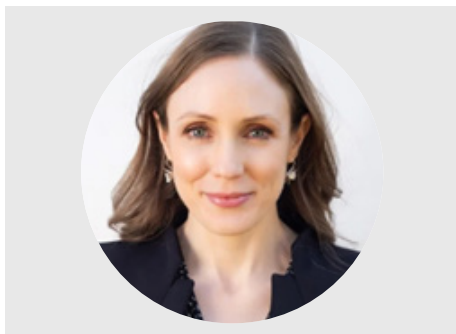


Children and young people said parents should show they are doing the right thing before they can come back to Australia to visit or live.



Children and young people said that if their parents are trying hard they should get a second chance.

More information



For more information about our research you can email Dr Michelle Peterie.



Email Dr Michelle Peterie at
michelle.peterie@sydney.edu.au



To look at the main report you can go to
www.humanrights.gov.au/ripple-effect-of-suffering-report



It is not in Easy Read.

Who did this Easy Read



CID made this information for the **University of Sydney** and the **Australian Human Rights Commission**.



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