



Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission

# About the report by the National Childrens Commissioner



Easy Read

[www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au)

# About this information



This information is about a report by the **National Childrens Commissioner**.

We will say **NCC** for short.



The **NCC** looks after the rights and **wellbeing** of children.



**Wellbeing** means to be healthy and feel good about yourself.



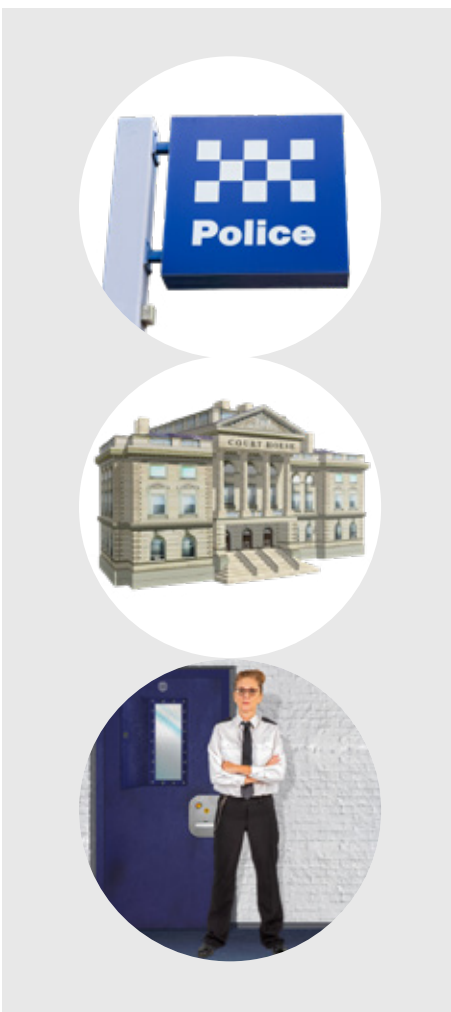
By children we mean all people under 18 years old.



The NCC looked into the issues with the **child justice system**.



The **child justice system** deals with children in trouble with the law.



The child justice system is when children have to deal with

- Police
- Courts
- Detention centres like jails.

# What are childrens rights

**United Nations  
Convention on  
the Rights of  
the Child**

Childrens rights are written down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We will say **CRC** for short.



The **CRC** says what the rights are for all children all over the world.

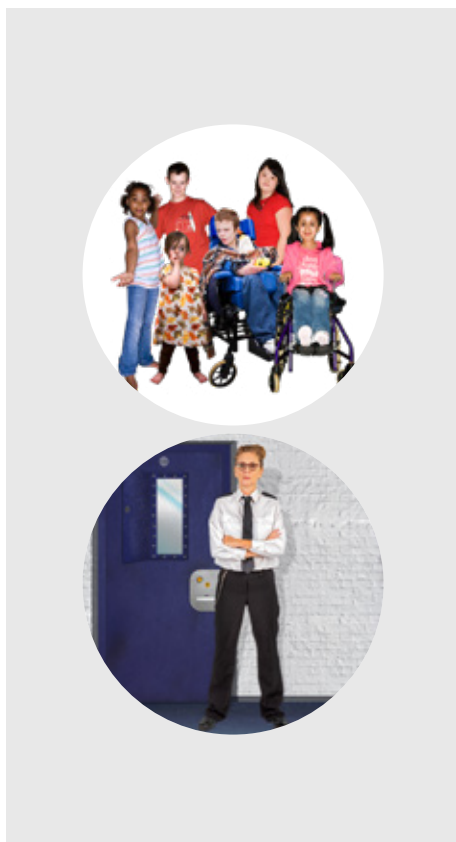


We know there are issues with children not getting their rights in Australia.



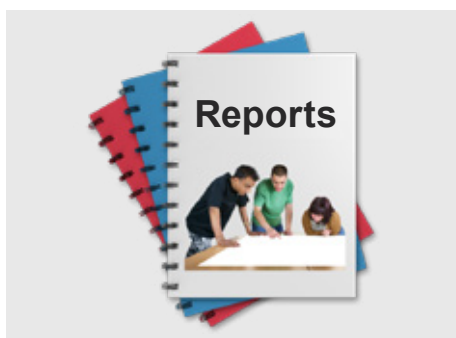
It is the job of the Australian Government to make sure all children in Australia get their rights.

## What the NCC did



The NCC wanted to find out

- How we can make sure all children in Australia get their rights
- How to stop children going into the child justice system.



The NCC also looked at other reports about the child justice system.



The NCC talked to many different people to hear what they think.

We talked to



- Children and their families



- People in the community



- People from government



- **Experts.**



**Experts** are people who know a lot about the child justice system

# Who is in the child justice system?



The report says that most children in the child justice system had a hard time growing up.



Some had very little money.



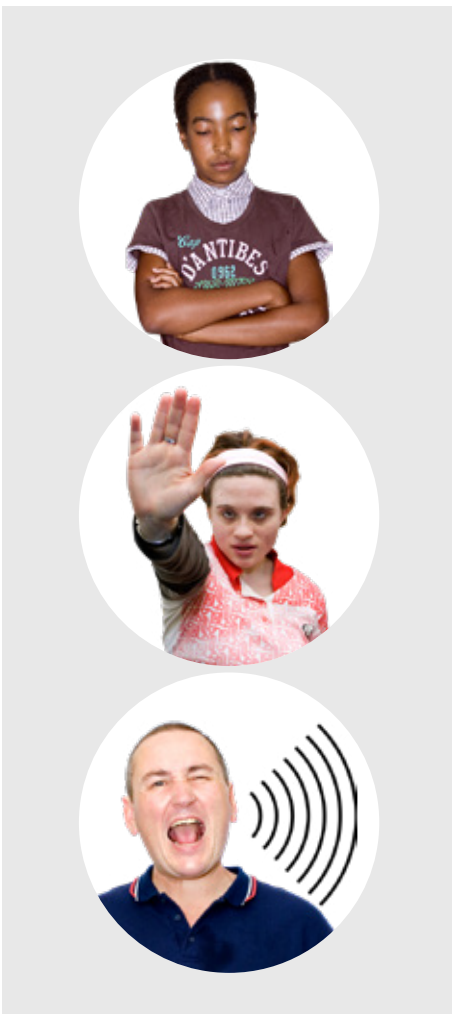
Some did not have a home.



Some had bad or no health care.



Some had bad things happen to them like **abuse** or **discrimination**.



**Abuse** means someone did bad things to them like

- Hurt their bodies
- Do sexual things to them
- Say bad and mean things to them.

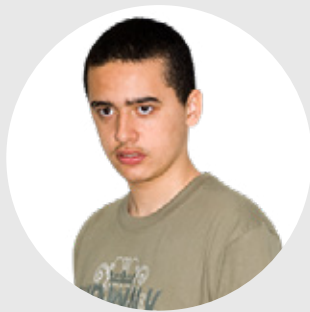


**Discrimination** means they were treated in a bad way because of who they are.





More First Nations children are in the child justice system than other children.



There are also many children in the child justice system with

- Disability
- **Mental health** issues.



**Mental health** means how you feel and think.

# How to keep children out of the child justice system?



The NCC asked 150 children what would help children stay out of trouble with the law.



The children said it would help to feel safe and have a place to live.



It would also help if children could join things that help them feel good about themselves.



It would help to have friends and family that support them.



It would help if they

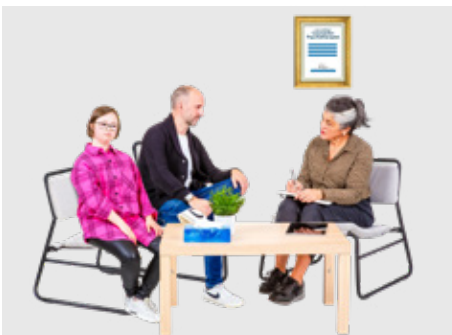
- Can go to school

or

- Have a job.



They want people to listen to what they have to say.



It would help if their family could get support too.

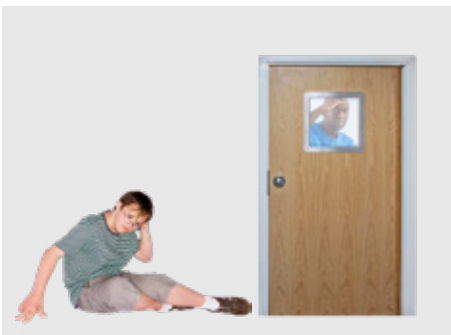
# What happens when children are in the child justice system?



The report says children in the child justice system often do not get their rights.



Some children are put into detention centres even when they do not need to be.

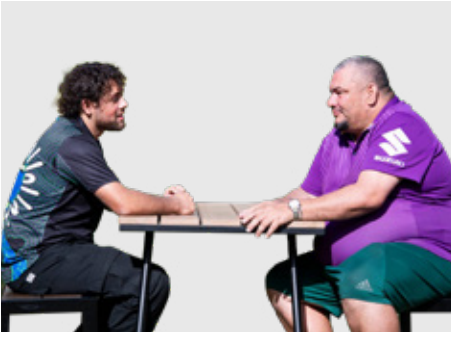


Some children might be locked up all alone for a long time.



Some children do not get all the help they need so they get in trouble again.





It is hard to get staff with the right skills to work in the child justice system.



Governments do not always use information about what works well.



Some people think these children should be locked up.

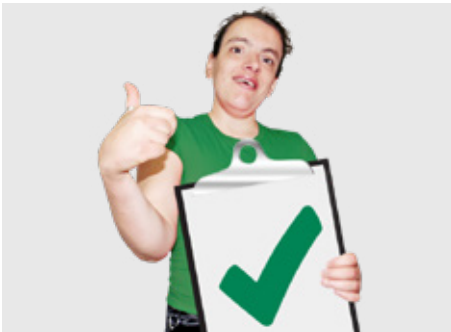


Governments do not put the wellbeing of children first.

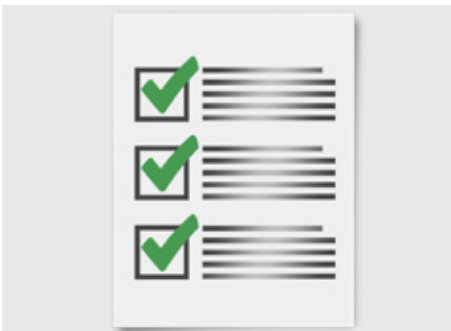
# What needs to happen next?



The NCC has a list with 24 **recommendations** in their report.



**Recommendations** are things the NCC thinks should happen so that children get their rights.



These are some of the things that should happen.



Governments around Australia should set up a group to make the child justice system better.



The group should make a plan of what needs to change.



There should be new roles in the Government that look after the rights and wellbeing of children.



There should be new laws that support childrens rights.



Governments should do more to stop children from getting into the child justice system.



This could be things like making sure children



- Have enough money



- Have a safe home



- Are looked after



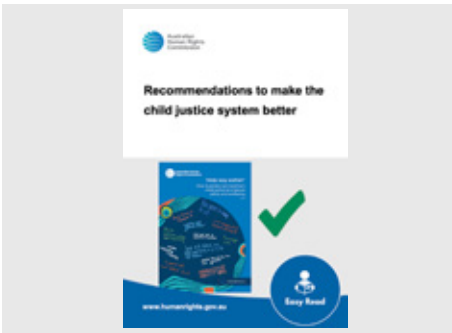
- Have good healthcare



- Enjoy their culture.



You can read the recommendations in Easy Read.



The name of the document is

Recommendations to make the child justice system better

Council for Intellectual Disability made this document Easy Read. **CID** for short. You need to ask CID if you want to use any pictures in this document. You can contact CID at **business@cid.org.au**.