



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

Recommendations to make the child justice system better



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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.



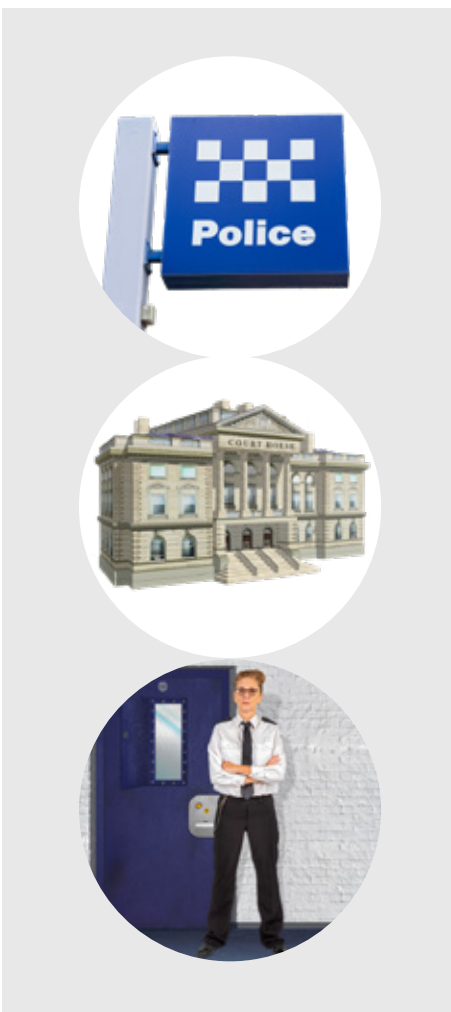
By children we mean all people under 18 years old.



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.

Some things to do to make change happen in all of Australia



There are 4 main things to do that would help change the child justice system.



1. The Australian Government should set up a group to sort out issues with the child justice system.



This group should be called the National Taskforce.



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



2. The Australian Government should choose 1 person to be the **Minister** for children.



The **Minister** will look after the rights and wellbeing of all children in Australia.



3. There should be a Ministerial council to help ministers work on child issues.



That way ministers from different states and territories can work together.

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

4. We should use the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** for new laws for children in Australia.

We will say **CRC** for short.



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



The Australian Government agreed to the CRC.

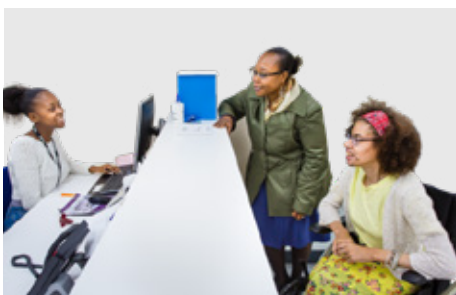


That means we must follow the rules in the CRC everywhere in Australia.

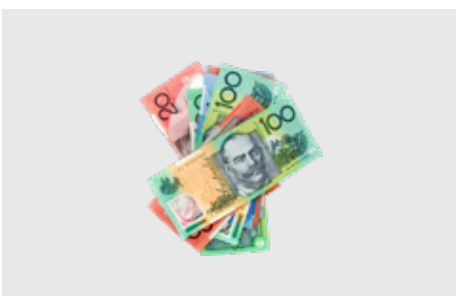
Other things to make the child justice system better



The report has 20 other recommendations.



Children and families should get help for everything in the 1 place.



Children and families need more money to live on.

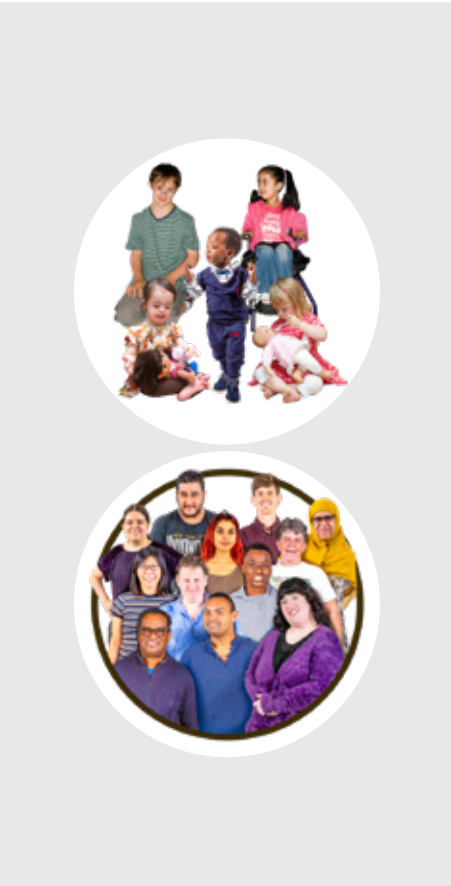


There should be more houses that

- Are safe
- Do not cost too much.



Children must get good health care.



Health care should also

- Support children with different needs
- Feel safe for everyone.



Health care should be part of schools.



Schools should help every child in ways that work best for them and how they learn.



Governments should give more help to Aboriginal organisations that help children.



Things like sport, music and social things should be free.



There should be better public transport so that children can get to these things.



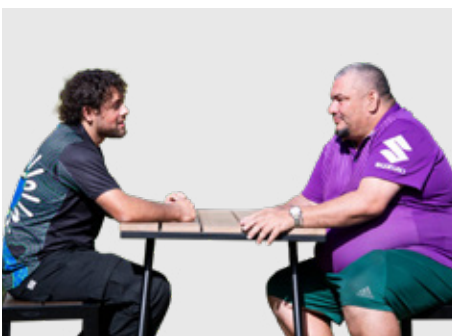
Children should be able to enjoy their **culture**.



Culture means how we do things because of where our family is from.



There should be more **diversionary programs** for children in trouble with the law.



Diversionary programs help children to stay out of the child justice system.



If a child does something wrong they should be able to have a meeting to say sorry.



Children should get help close to where they live in their community



All staff working in the child justice system should be able to do important training.

In the training staff should learn about



- Child rights



- Disability



- Respect for other cultures



- **Mental health** issues.



Mental health means how we think and feel.



Only childrens courts should deal with child justice issues.



Governments should collect information about children in the child justice system.



This information should look at things like

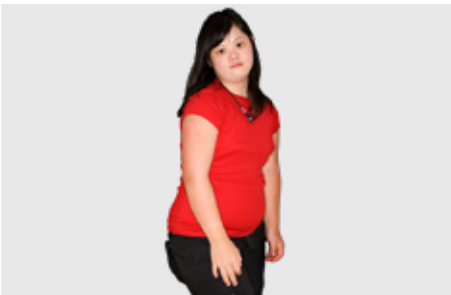
- How old children are
- Their gender
- Where children are from
- If the children have a disability.



Everyone should be able to look at the information.



The Australian Government must agree to treat every child who is arrested or in jail with respect.



They should also be treated in a way that works well for their age.



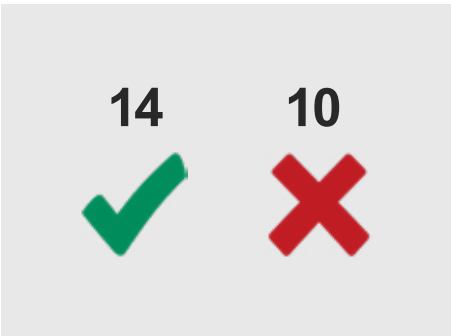
Children must not be put in jail with adults.



They should be able to keep in touch with their families.



Children should not be locked up alone in detention centres.



All Governments should change the **age of criminal responsibility** from 10 to 14.



Age of criminal responsibility means the age from when a child can

- Get arrested by the police
- Go to jail.



The same rules should be used in all childrens detention centres in Australia.



Australia should do checks in all places where children are locked up.



This is to make sure children are respected and safe.



Governments should make sure to check that all laws and rules are good for children.



Children should have different ways to **complain** if they do not get their rights.



To **complain** means to tell someone if they do not get their rights.

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