
From: [REDACTED]

Date: Monday, 19 June 2023 at 6:52 pm

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Call for submissions: Youth Justice and Child Wellbeing Reform
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Dear Commissioner Hollonds,

Thank you for your invitation to the Victorian Ombudsman make a submission to your project investigating opportunities for reform of youth justice and child wellbeing systems across Australia.

I apologise for not meeting yesterday's deadline, I trust you are still able to consider the information below.

In lieu of a formal submission, the Ombudsman would like to draw your attention to the following public reports she has published that may assist your enquiry:

1. September 2019: [OPCAT in Victoria: A thematic investigation of practices related to solitary confinement of children and young people | Victorian Ombudsman](#)
2. December 2017: [Investigation into the financial support provided to kinship carers | Victorian Ombudsman](#)
3. August 2021: [The Ombudsman for Human Rights: A Casebook | Victorian Ombudsman](#). This casebook contains several relevant case studies, including:
 - The rights of a young child living in prison with her mother.
 - A young Aboriginal person's rights to maintain connection to her community and culture while living in out-of-home residential care (Child Protection).
 - A kinship carer struggling to find appropriate housing to look after the children in her care.
 - A kinship carer seeking to access appropriate financial support from Child Protection to look after her grandchildren.
 - A family with young children made homeless due to unsafe conditions in public housing.

4. [October 2020: Investigation into complaints about assaults of five children living in Child Protection residential care units | Victorian Ombudsman](#)
 - This report speaks to young peoples' rights in residential care. It includes consideration of unsafe placements (including sexual safety incidents), neglected cultural planning for Aboriginal children, potential chemical restraint of children, inadequate support for LGBTIQ+ children.
 - While it is not 'youth justice' related, it does also talk to some young peoples' experiences and interactions with criminal/other 'justice' systems.
 - The report concludes that for the young people whose experiences were considered, their behaviour 'grew worse' after they entered care.
5. [June 2020: Ombudsman's recommendations – fourth report | Victorian Ombudsman](#)
6. [September 2022: Ombudsman's recommendations - third report | Victorian Ombudsman](#)

Should you like any further information or clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me via return email.

Yours sincerely



The Victorian Ombudsman pays respect to First Nations custodians of Country throughout Victoria. This respect is extended to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge their sovereignty was never ceded.

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