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**From:** Katherine Ellis (she/her) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 5:54 PM  
**To:** Youth Justice Reform <[youthjusticereform@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:youthjusticereform@humanrights.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission to the National Youth Commissioner's investigation into Youth Justice and Child Wellbeing Reform across Australia

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Dear Commissioner

1. Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) made a **submission to the 2021 Inquiry into Victoria's Criminal Justice System** by the Victorian Parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee. The findings and recommendations detailed in that submission are still highly relevant today, so we are pleased to take the opportunity to submit the report to your own important reform investigation. Please note that the report includes a unique and important section on the often-overlooked experiences of disabled young people in the criminal justice system, due to input from YACVic's key agency Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS). Please see the report attached.
2. In 2022, YACVic commissioned from Deloitte a **Return on Investment (ROI) analysis of investment in youth work programs**, including in relation to the youth justice system. This analysis showed that every \$1 invested in youth work programs returns at least \$2.62 in social and economic benefits to society. The report is attached, and I would draw your attention in particular to P21-32, which detail examples of strong youth work interventions that prevent young people from engaging with the acute mental health system (P21-23), help them (re)engage with education and employment (P.24-25), support them to achieve housing security (P.26-27), promote positive social participation to avoid young people engaging with the youth justice system (P.28-29), and build connectedness and social inclusion, especially for young people who face marginalisation (P.30-32).
3. YACVic also contributed to and endorses a **separate submission being made by the Smart Justice for Young People coalition**.

Warm regards  
Katherine

**Katherine Ellis**  
CEO

[Pronouns:](#) she/her



## Youth Affairs Council Victoria

Boon Wurrung Country and Wurundjeri Country

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  *Our work takes place through the lands of the Aboriginal nations within Victoria and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. Bunjil's lore states that those who walk on this land must care for the Country and waterways as well as care for the children and young people. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.*