

# JUSTICE REINVESTMENT



Your faith | Your vote | Your voice

As Christians, we believe that all people are made in God's image, and that all lives are precious. The Gospel of Jesus also speaks of liberation for captives and the inclusion of people otherwise excluded from society (Luke 4:18-21). We want a change in approach that prioritises cultural, social, and emotional wellbeing among the most vulnerable people in our society, who are those most at risk of incarceration.

**UNITING  
CHURCH IN  
WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA  
HAVE BEEN  
LONG-TERM  
ADVOCATES  
FOR  
RESTORATIVE  
AND  
REHABILITATIVE  
JUSTICE  
PRACTICES  
ACROSS THE  
WA JUSTICE  
SYSTEM**

## OUR CONCERNS

Western Australia has persistent and growing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system. The most recent Aboriginal imprisonment rate for WA is 4,661.20 per 100,000 people, compared with only 336.4 in the general population (based on average daily number, ABS data).

Adult and Juvenile Corrective Services cost over \$1 billion a year (DoJ Annual Report, 2020/21) and the incarcerated population in Western Australia has risen by 14% in the last 5 years to over 6,500 people (Corrective Services, 2022).

Since July 2022, the WA Government chose to incarcerate school-aged children inside Unit 18 – a wing inside maximum-security adult prison, Casuarina. Unit 18 has been universally condemned and described as a human rights violation.

Two children have now lost their lives inside Western Australia's failed youth justice system. They are the first recorded deaths in WA's youth prisons, and both have happened in just this last year.

WA needs to meet International standards when it comes to safeguarding children. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended in 2019 that the minimum age of criminal responsibility should be at least 14 years of age globally.

## ASK YOUR CANDIDATES

- How do you intend to reduce incarceration rates particularly among Aboriginal people?
- Will you agree to raise the age of criminal responsibility to ensure children 13 years and younger are not detained?
- Will you close the failed Unit 18?
- Will you fund the development of justice reinvestment initiatives like Olabud Doogethu in Halls Creek?
- Are you interested in reducing incarceration and recidivism by creating a smarter justice system, building stronger families and safer communities as advocated by Social Reinvestment WA?



Uniting Church in Australia  
Western Australia