



Dear Attorney-General and Shadow Attorney-General

At the moment we allow 10 and 11 year olds to be put behind bars in every state and territory in Australia! This is below the minimum age of 12 set by experts on the rights of the child.

Three out of four 10 and 11 year kids who spend time in detention are Indigenous though they are only a tiny fraction of the population (about 5 per cent).

I urge you to put this issue and the overrepresentation of Indigenous kids on the agenda at the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council.

The age of criminal responsibility should be raised to at least 12 in all states and territories!

Right now kids as young as 10 and 11 are being locked up by our politicians. They're taken away from their family and school and shut away in an environment that sets them on track to a life of crime in and out of prison.

All 10 and 11 year olds make mistakes, it's part of growing up. Our job as a society is to give our kids the best chance at life, to guide them, nurture them and show them right from wrong, not put them behind bars.

The UN says that kids should not be held criminally responsible until at least 12, and psychologists back them up. At 10 and 11 children's brains are not developed enough to understand consequences of decisions, they're still learning and growing.

Call on Attorney General Brandis to raise the age of responsibility to 12 and give our kids a better chance at a happy life.

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