

# WA Raise the Age Action Summary

*“Accountability should and must exist, but the reliance on prison to provide that accountability for children is foolish. Prison harms children, and can lead to a lifetime of being stuck in the criminal justice system.”*  
- Maggie Munn,  
Indigenous Rights Campaigner

## What is Raise the Age?

AIA, in partnership with [Social Reinvestment Western Australia](#), is working to pressure decision-makers in WA to Raise the Age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 in WA. Criminal Responsibility is the age in which a child is considered by law to have understood that their actions were wrong and can face criminal charges. All Australian states and territories have this age set at only 10 years-old. This means that across Australia, police have the power to arrest, strip-search and imprison children who are only 10. This disproportionately impacts Indigenous kids, perpetuating cycles of racism and reoffending.

We need to pressure decision-makers to raise the age of criminal responsibility. No one under 14 should be sent to jail.

## Let's get to work

- Step 1: Map Your Community
- Step 2: Become a Good Ally and Build Partnerships
- Step 3: Plan How to Change the Narrative in Your Community
- Step 4 – Build Visible Community Support
- Step 5 – Demonstrate Your Community Power

## Event Ideas

- Organise a film screening of [In My Blood It Runs](#) or [Incarceration Nation](#)
- Host forum with local Indigenous elders and other experts
- Small letter-writing groups or 'Postcard Blitz'
- Other events that increase awareness and support
- Log event through [Event Submission Form](#)

## Build Visible Community Support

- Coordinate a 'Bumper Sticker Blitz' in your community with fellow activists, where you distribute bumper stickers to supportive individuals, businesses and organisations, and ask them to publicly display them
- Place signs, stickers and other promotions around your community to draw attention to the issue
- Pass around an offline petition to further demonstrate the importance to your community

## Demonstrate Community Power

- Organise a meeting with your local MP with fellow activists
- Engage with local media
- Research where local MPs and key decision-makers are & ask questions about their stance on Raising the Age from 10 to 14

Key decision-makers in WA that have significant power and influence to Raise the Age in WA:

- **State Premier Mark McGowan (member for Rockingham)**
- **Minister for Police Paul Papalia (member for Warnbro)**
- **Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Stephen Dawson (member for Mining and Pastoral Region)**
- **Attorney-General John Quigley (member for Butler)**

## Useful Resources

Check the [Amnesty website](#) for:

- [‘Raise the Age: Kids Belong in Community’ Report](#)
- [Partnerships and Community Mapping](#)
- [Raise the Age Postcard action](#)
- [Print out – QR Code for the Postcard Action](#)
- [Activism Planner](#)
- [Activist Skill Up Training Modules](#)
- [How to Engage with the Media](#)
- [How to Engage with Politicians](#)
- [How to be a genuine ally training module](#)
- [How to host a Film Screenings](#)
- [Tips on avoiding burnout](#)

## Key Dates

- 27 October 2021: International Children's Day
- 31 October 2021: Incarceration Nation on SBS
- 26 January 2022: Invasion Day

P.S. Organise a peak moment October around International Children's Day to maximize our impact



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