

Dear State Police Commissioner,

Right now in our state children between 10 and 13 years olds are locked up in prisons. This sets us apart from expert advice and the international standards, which state that the minimum age of criminal responsibility should be at least fourteen.

After reviewing the age of criminal responsibility for twelve months, the Council of Attorneys-General have extended the review. This means that more and more children will end up in youth prison without the support they need to address underlying factors of criminal behaviour, and to live happy, healthy lives.

I am calling on you to adopt an immediate moratorium on arrests for children under the age of fourteen for as long the review is taking place. During this time, police should do everything they can to divert children to supports, rather than to the justice system.

Australia locks up children as young as ten years old. The experts, and international standards, say that the age should be raised to at least fourteen.

Attorneys-General are currently “reviewing” the age of criminal responsibility. The longer the review, the more young children get stuck in the quicksand of the youth justice system.



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