

OPEN LETTER

Dear Premier Minns,

Don't turn your back on Closing the Gap.

Throwing more children in jail will make crime worse in regional communities, not better.

Throwing more children in jail will lead to horrific outcomes for communities, families and those children, compounding abuse and trauma.

Throwing more children in jail will cause unspeakable damage to Closing The Gap and efforts to create a better future for Aboriginal children in NSW.

Your new policy to increase youth incarceration:

- is a betrayal of your Closing the Gap commitments
- ignores decades of evidence on how to reduce youth crime
- prioritises punishment over investment in the proven prevention strategies that you promised to implement
- will cause crime to get worse
- will delay measures that could reduce crime

This is a devastating betrayal of Aboriginal children and other vulnerable groups across NSW.

This is a devastating betrayal of regional communities who want prevention measures not stunts.

We the undersigned organisations ask you to urgently replace your punishment measures with prevention measures:

1. Resources allocated for local communities to support after-school, evening and weekend activities that engage at-risk young people.
2. Intensive and targeted programs and responses for at-risk children with appropriate referral services.
3. Formal community partnerships between police and Aboriginal controlled services.

Signed by:

1. Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited
2. First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN)
3. BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation
4. AbSec - NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation
5. Link-Up NSW
6. Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association Inc (ACHAA)
7. Justice Reform Initiative
8. Redfern Legal Centre
9. Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
10. Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
11. Community Legal Centres NSW
12. Centre for Criminology Law and Justice UNSW
13. NSW Council for Civil Liberties
14. Weave Youth & Community Services

15. Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation
16. The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre
17. KWOOP (Keeping Women Out Of Prison)
18. Inner City Legal Centre
19. Sisters Inside Inc
20. Public Interest Advocacy Centre
21. National Justice Project
22. Nelly's Healing Centre Aboriginal Corporation
23. Amnesty International Australia
24. Deadly Connections
25. Dharriwaa Elders Group
26. University of Technology Sydney Faculty of Law (Criminal Justice Cluster)
27. Ngalaya Indigenous Corporation: First Nations Lawyers and Law Students NSW
28. Central Coast Community Legal Centre
29. SNAICC
30. Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies
31. Matana Foundation for Young People
32. Accountable Futures Collective
33. Western Sydney University Justice Clinic
34. Human Rights Law Centre
35. The Refugee Advice and Casework Service
36. Australian Lawyers Alliance
37. Kingsford Legal Centre (UNSW)
38. knowmore
39. ANRAR
40. Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre
41. Community Restorative Centre
42. Women's Legal Centre NSW
43. Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre
44. North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA)
45. Sydney Institute of Criminology
46. Human Rights Act for NSW Alliance
47. Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited
48. The Rainbow Lodge Program
49. The Far West Community Legal Centre
50. BackTrack Youthworks
51. Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC)
52. Humanity Matters
53. Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service
54. Reconciliation NSW
55. Change the Record
56. ARACY - Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
57. Save the Children and 54 reasons
58. Australian Centre for Disability Law
59. Allawaw Aboriginal Corporation