

A New Approach



What do we do with children instead of the justice system?

We can immediately reform Western Australian legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years by simply amending section 29 of the Criminal Code (WA).

Police already divert children under 10 to alternatives such as Department Communities, the same can be done for 11, 12, and 13 year old children.

Legislation takes time to write and pass parliament, and we can use this opportunity to improve and redesign parts of the system that aren't working to divert or prevent children from marginalised communities ending up in the justice system.

We have an opportunity to improve the system - and support these children to reach their potential and thrive.

These children often have been failed by the system long before they have come into contact with police. Improving socio-economic factors, such as increased household income, has been proven to be more effective in reducing crime, in comparison to punitive measures.

The alternative is a Social Reinvestment approach to Youth Justice that prioritises Children's Wellbeing and Building Safer Communities.

Redirecting our funding and focus to early identification, prevention, intervention and rehabilitation rather than punitive band aid reactions. Supporting programs developed in partnership that respond to the underlying causes of offending to create safer communities. Strengthening the cultural, social, and emotional wellbeing of all families.



Learn more:

www.socialreinvestmentwa.org.au/raise-the-age