



THE ISSUES

IMPRISONMENT

148%



WA's Prison Population has almost doubled in the last decade but crime has not gone down.

WA is not safer for our ballooning prison population
WA prisons are at 148% of design capacity. 45% of the people in our prisons are non-violent offenders



\$307

A day to lock up an adult.



\$991

A day to lock up a child.



\$40

A day for a person to be supervised on community service work order.

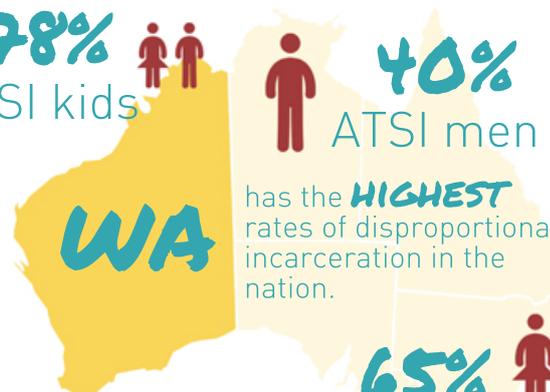
COST OF IMPRISONMENT

78%
ATSI kids



40%
ATSI men

has the **HIGHEST** rates of disproportionate incarceration in the nation.



65%
ATSI women



WA has high recidivism rates.
On average over the past decade, 45% of people return to prison within two years of being released. Clearly we are not rehabilitating these people or making our community safer.

2
YEARS

THE CAUSES

FOR ABORIGINAL+TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

COLONISATION

Since the First Fleet arrived, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been dispossessed from their ancestral homelands, and thus deprived of spiritual connections to Country.
It wasn't until 1967 that they were finally recognised as equal citizens of Australia.

STOLEN GENERATIONS

Between 1905 and 1969 Australian governments systematically removed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from loving families in an assimilation process. They wanted to "breed out the black".
Many of these children are still alive today. They and their descendants have been left traumatised by this policy.

TRAUMA

ATSI children make up 5% of WA's child population where they comprise 49.5% of all children in out-of-home care.



ALCOHOL MISUSE
Indigenous males die from alcohol-related causes at 5 times the rate of non-Indigenous males, and Indigenous females at 6 times the non-Indigenous rate.

40% of ATSI families live in low socio-economic areas

2.5x more likely to be held back in their development

3.5x more likely to be without work

DISADVANTAGES

HEALTH

2x more likely to be hospitalised for mental health-related conditions

10 YEARS less life expectancy than the average non-Aboriginal Australians

10x Aboriginal children have epidemic rates of ear disease ten times the average of non-Aboriginal Australians

26.2% rate of suicide

POVERTY

15x Aboriginal Australians are 15 times more likely to be sleeping rough than non-Aboriginal

6% WA's Kimberley region has a homeless rate of more than 6% of the region's population

50% nearly half the Aboriginal population in WA are living below the poverty line

EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGES

71% of Indigenous Australians have no high school qualifications

SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION

53x Despite being 61.8% of arrests in WA, ATSI kids are only 34% of those who receive cautions. Aboriginal kids in WA are 53 times more likely to be sent to prison than their peers.

64% Aboriginal women are 64% of the women imprisoned for being unable to pay fines in WA.



379 Deaths in custody of Aboriginal people between 1980 and 2007. 18% of the deaths in custody despite being 3% of the population.

A DISCONNECTED SYSTEM



Most people involved in the justice system experience a multitude of social issues and have complex needs. Yet often government departments do not work together to provide holistic support. Service agencies can overlap services and miss crucial community needs.

→No publicly available data on intersections between department of justice and child protection, though many of these cases cross over.

→Underfunding of independent evaluations for services and programs results in a lack of evidence for 'What Works.'

→A lack of place based holistic data and community collaboration means communities most at need are incorrectly or underserved.

THE SOLUTION

1. Redirecting government spending to focus on supporting families early to address the underlying issues that can lead to crime; diverting people who are in trouble with the law into support programs that will stop them from further offending; and assisting people who are imprisoned or transitioning out of prison to reintegrate into the community.

JUSTICE PIPELINE



2.



3.



4.



WE CAN CREATE

HEALTHY FAMILIES

WA needs to place the wellbeing of individuals and families at the centre of its approach to crime and justice issues and to support the wellbeing of communities.

SMART JUSTICE

Community safety would be far better served by recognising and addressing the underlying causes of offending and adopting an approach of social reinvestment.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

This whole of system approach is needed to address the underlying causes of offending and needs to be monitored and informed by a robust data and research system implementing best practise.

CASE STUDY: SOCIAL REINVESTMENT IN ACTION...

A holistic, personalised, and long term youth support program for young people at risk of transitioning from youth to adult justice system. The AYIP has achieved a 50 percent reduction in reoffending among the young people who have completed the program!

"Started in 2016 AYIP rethinks the service system and changes the way it operates. The YIP model enables a cross-sector of services, police, government, and community partners to move beyond programs with isolated impact, to collaborative approaches with a common goal. If we get the right support, to the right young people, at the right time, we will not only create significant savings in expenditure on tertiary services but, more importantly, young people will thrive in their communities."



THE ARMADALE YOUTH INTERVENTION PARTNERSHIP run by the Save the Children led Youth Partnership Project.

ABOUT SRWA

Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) is an Aboriginal and sector led coalition of not-for-profits, with a new vision for an effective and connected approach to justice in Western Australia. Our work involves research, policy development, advocacy, community awareness raising, and organising to promote Social Reinvestment solutions to WA's justice issues. Working together as a Coalition allows for independent advocacy for systemic change, and holistic policy and law reform. It also is a key example of the collaboration needed to resolve social issues in our society.

Our approach needs to be visionary and evidence based, responsive, not sensationalized or reactive. Our approach needs to address the underlying causes of offending.

SOCIAL REINVESTMENT MAKES ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SENSE, AND IS BETTER FOR ALL OF US, BETTER FOR FAMILIES AND BETTER FOR OUR COMMUNITY. LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND CONNECTED APPROACH TO JUSTICE!