

2018 SAVE THE CHILDREN YOUTH AMBASSADOR MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE





CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
SAVE THE CHILDREN 2018 YOUTH AMBASSADORS	2
RECOMMENDATIONS	
Climate Change and the Environment	4
Keeping Children Safe from Violence	6
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	8
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community	10
LGBTQI+	14
Juvenile Detention and Justice	16
Youth Health	18
END NOTES	20

FOREWORD

At Save the Children, we're doing everything we can to ensure children's rights are recognised and respected. But we can't do it alone. Young people themselves are the best advocates to create real, lasting change on issues that matter to them. That's why we run our Youth Ambassador program.

Every year, we work with young people to help them articulate their views on what a fair Australia could look like, and support them in speaking out publicly about issues that affect young people today. Our Youth Ambassadors work hard to uphold, promote and protect children's rights. They represent their views, and the views of their peers, at events, in the media and in Parliament.

I am incredibly proud of this year's cohort of Youth Ambassadors. Tenacious, passionate, and sophisticated in their views, it is a great honour to work with such bright, young leaders and to support their commitment to youth advocacy.

The report attached herewith holds the views, aspirations and recommendations of our Youth Ambassadors. I recognise their independence and autonomy in creating this manifesto and advocating their recommendations with decision makers in Parliament, across the business sector, and in community groups across Australia.

Congratulations to Zahra, Bassam, Kupakwashe, Imogen, Alex, Georgia and Ben on delivering a powerful and thoughtful youth advocacy manifesto.

I urge today's political leaders to act in line with the recommendations made by our Youth Ambassadors, and to listen to Australia's youth and ensure that these issues are addressed. Together, we can move towards a brighter, more equal future for all Australian children.



MAT TINKLER

Director, Policy & International Programs



SAVE THE CHILDREN 2018 YOUTH AMBASSADORS



IMOGEN RADFORD – NEW SOUTH WALES

I'm a proud Ngarigo woman from Tumbarumba, which is outside Wagga Wagga in the Snowy Mountains. I'm in Year 11 and want to study medicine or science when I graduate, as I'm passionate about helping people and impacting their lives. I want to be a Save the Children Youth Ambassador because I want to see change in my local community. Too often young people are overlooked or discouraged because of nationality, age, and gender... the list goes on. Young people are the future and I believe advocating these issues is paramount to making a change. My community of Tumbarumba has raised me to be a strong advocate and to seek opportunities to make the world a better place. Everyone, from local Indigenous Elders to the pastor at my church, my boss at the supermarket and my school teachers have all played a role in shaping me. This commitment has inspired me to advocate for change. Tumbarumba may not be a place of great opportunity, but it is a place with a big heart.

ALEX DUNMILL – VICTORIA

I am 16 years old. I'm born and raised in Melbourne and am passionate about cricket, cooking, photography and writing. I have been lucky enough to experience different cultures through travel and have gained a better view of how lucky we are in Australia, but also how far we still must go. My work as a volunteer with a local charity has taught me that you don't have to be poor or live in a bad area to fall on tough times. Even people you may not expect may need help. This work made me realise that if we want to fix problems, we need to tackle them head on and actively try and change them. Our role is to lead our generation towards a better world. Being a Youth Ambassador will provide me the challenge and opportunity to consider my place in the world and to give voice to what other young people feel is important.



ZAHRA BILAL – NEW SOUTH WALES

Hi! My name is Zahra Bilal and I am a strong advocate for human rights. I am a critical thinker and will question everything around me – but remain open to new ideas. I believe the solutions to today's challenges will come from the youth, from a bright mind, from a visionary thought, from a bold view. Our responsibility is to cultivate these new ways of thinking, to provide opportunity for young people to build a future that is focused on more than just survival. I am an Australian-Pakistani-Muslim female, which has meant working against a multitude of pre-conceived notions from a very young age. My mother told me "No-one wants you to succeed, so the only way you will achieve is by working the hardest and outshining everyone else." This imbued in me the belief that success will only come about through overcoming the negative perceptions that I may face.



KUPAKWASHE MATANGIRA – NSW

I was born in Zimbabwe and came to Australia in 2006 at the age of five. Coming from Zimbabwe allowed me to see the cracks in society when it comes to how people – especially those with different backgrounds – are treated. My background has empowered me to make a stand for human rights and social justice. I strive to see a society where all people are treated equally, because this is the dignity all human beings are entitled to. Young people have knowledge, we have passion and we have the vision to affect change – age is not a barrier to create a better world. I want politicians to work with young people to find solutions to the issues that concern us so that together, we can work towards a better Australia.

GEORGIA LETHLEAN – VICTORIA

I'm 18 years old and am community-minded and regular volunteer. This includes tutoring disadvantaged youth at a local primary school, supporting women's hygiene projects and helping in charity retail stores. In 2017, I went for a three-week trip to Zambia with a school group that opened my eyes to disadvantage. Witnessing resilience in those communities rewired my Western thinking. Having exposure to the developing world has informed my understanding to supporting those less fortunate and act to empower and not pity. My aim is to continue to learn and experience through voluntary opportunities and eventually work for larger organisations in a legal or medical capacity. I want to understand the processes of global diplomacy and advocacy, so that I too can contribute to ensuring human rights are upheld.



BASSAM MAALIKI – NEW SOUTH WALES

I am an Australian born Muslim from a Lebanese background. I am passionate about change. I believe that among other issues in the world, all youth have the right to the basic human right of a full education, good health, a safe home and a place to belong and thrive. As an Australian Muslim from a Lebanese background it has been a huge challenge to feel a sense of belonging here in my homeland (Australia). Casual and not-so-casual racism is something that I am personally facing every day. Racism is truly a big problem in Australia, and in my community. I am passionate about creating change for refugee youth, eliminating racism from schools and sporting grounds and encouraging more multicultural families to become foster parents.

BEN JACKMAN – QUEENSLAND

Hi! I'm an 18 year old student and have a passion for exploring the world in which I live and advocating for the rights of others – especially children. I've been accepted to study at the University of Queensland but have opted to take a gap year before I begin my course in International Studies. I believe that the attitudes and values of the younger generation are being disregarded by current politicians. Youth are actively involved with many issues facing the global community, and yet the change makers in power refuse to acknowledge that. I want to become a Save the Children Youth Ambassador because I want to represent the values and attitudes that are going unheard. I hope to educate politicians about issues facing youth and the global community. Even if it's only one step forward, change will have occurred. I simply want to be a positive role model for other youth that have a desire to change the world like I do.





CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

OUR VISION

Our vision is to have immediate and sustained action on environmental issues to preserve Australia as a continent of infinite environmental beauty and biodiversity, and ensure Australia fulfils its global responsibility to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Globally, climate change contributes to extreme weather events, conflict, homelessness, food shortages and humanitarian emergencies. Australia has the duty to act and mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to the German Watch Climate Risk Index, the most vulnerable countries to long term climate risk are Australia's regional neighbours – Myanmar, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand.¹ Climate change is a contributing factor to displacement globally. A complex interplay with environmental degradation, population growth, increased urbanization, unsustainable development in hazard-prone areas, risky technologies, and growing social and economic inequalities have exacerbated poverty and systemic disadvantage in these developing states.²

Save the Children operates disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaption (CCA) programs in developing states of the Pacific. They manage this through working with communities, civil society and governments to equip them with the tools necessary to adapt to their changing environments.³

Australia must take measures to also arrest the effects of mass food production and industrial animal farming practices on climate and the environment. Globally, emissions created by livestock totals 14.5% and impacts the environment through deforestation, land degradation and inhibits natural biodiversity.⁴ In 2013 Australia's farming practices accounted for 16% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions – over two-thirds directly from livestock.⁵ As food production increases with population, investment in smarter farming practices that are sustainable and limit environmental impacts are paramount. This includes developing policy that does not ignore climate change nor use environmental regulation in competition with the agricultural industry.⁶

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Children and young people are disproportionately impacted by climate-related disasters, for example through physical vulnerability to extreme weather events, they are subjected to climate-driven child marriages, and forced withdrawal from school due to adverse weather conditions.⁷ In spite of this, our voices are excluded from important decision-making on climate change response. This can be changed by seeking the input of concerned young people by governments, donors, and agencies.

Specifically, child protection should be a priority before and after climate disasters, through the provision of special care and basic life-skills training to improve personal resilience to disaster. Additionally, the co-designed response must secure uninterrupted educational opportunities for young people in climate-change-impacted areas and provide the access to information they need.⁸

RECOMMENDATIONS

There must be implementation of a climate policy that is regenerative and not just sustainable. This must be committed to with support across all tiers of government.

Specific areas of reform are needed to address Australia's poor environmental commitment like adhering to a viable yet more ambitious and sustainable system of targets and incentives. This necessitates increasing investment into renewable energy and transitioning from our reliance on "dirty" or fossil-fuel based energy sources.

1. We urge the Australian Government to commit to addressing climate change in accordance with the targets of the Paris Agreement and United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report by:
 - a. Phasing out coal by 2050 and reducing emissions to 26-28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030¹⁰
 - b. Investing in wind and solar projects to support employment and development of renewable energy projects in regional areas
 - c. Australia prioritising the targets of the Paris Agreement, specifically the reduction of carbon emissions and temperature increases
2. We urge all governments, corporates and citizens to work side-by-side to prevent environmental degradation and create efficient waste management in the community by:
 - a. regulating single-use plastics and support for the plastic bag ban by supermarkets
 - b. ocean clean-up with container deposit schemes across all states and territories
 - c. composting schemes provided by local government council for homes to mitigate waste
 - d. commissioning research to harness the methane expelled through food waste
3. We urge all governments, corporates and citizens to support sustainable food systems so that our water, land and fuel can be used more efficiently and ethically by:
 - a. Promoting plant-based diets and plant-rich living through taxes and subsidies
 - b. Reducing industrial animal agriculture and supporting farmers in this transition
 - c. Improving the use of fertilizers and water in agriculture
 - d. Minimising food loss and waste at all stages of the food production cycle
4. We urge all governments to preserve the natural beauty of Australia by guaranteeing the long-term protection of natural sites, especially those affected by climate change or economic development such as the Great Barrier Reef and wider coastal zone.
 - a. Introducing stewardship and land-care programs to support citizens in the conservation of their own pieces of land
 - b. Commissioning the status of "national parks" to sites with recognised biodiversity of flora and fauna
 - c. Recognising the legal and spiritual land rights of Indigenous Australians and restoring their traditional custodianship of the land

“
CHILD PROTECTION
SHOULD BE A PRIORITY
BEFORE AND AFTER
CLIMATE DISASTERS.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE

OUR VISION

All efforts must be made to end violence against children in both Australia and the world by creating environments that are safe and ensure that children grow up without fear for their safety and well-being.

CHILDREN EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA

Australia's awareness for acts of violence against children has increased over the last decade with the implementation of Royal Commissions, systemic reviews and substantial media coverage forcing a dialogue on children's safety. National strategies for addressing domestic, institutional and family violence are needed to address the violence perpetrated against children at home and out in the community.

The greatest chance Australia has at ending violence against children is to raise generations of children who reject violence as a part of life. A 2015 survey conducted by Our Watch showed that:

- 1 in 3 young people do not think that exerting control over someone else is a form of violence.
- 1 in 4 young people do not think males insulting or verbally harassing females in the street is serious.
- 1 in 4 young people think it normal for males to pressure females into sex.¹¹

Young people are more likely to personalise messages and change their attitudes and behaviours if they believe the messenger to be like them.^{12,13} Peer-to-peer education is effective as it draws on the credibility young people have on each other to affect change. There are numerous programs that seek to instil positive behaviours and encourage the development of healthy relationships, such as the Respectful Relationships Initiative run by the Victorian Government.¹⁴

A crucial step in addressing violence in children is to ensure that our education institutions promote and model non-violent methods. In Queensland, private schools are legally permitted to use the cane as a form of punishment. Not only is this appalling, but it is also a breach of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention Against Torture.

The Family Law System has received criticism for its failure to protect children from abuse, subjected to neglect and witnessing violence. A study conducted by ANROWS (Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety) revealed that the impacts of children witnessing violence were the same as those who have had the violence perpetrated against them.¹⁵ In response to the many instances of violence against children, the Australian Government has:

- conducted an inquiry into the family law system
- established The National Office for Child Safety
- implemented the E-Safety Commission to protect children from cyber-abuse
- instigated the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children



“

**ALL EFFORTS MUST
BE MADE TO END
VIOLENCE AGAINST
CHILDREN.**

Photo: Pablo Blázquez / Save the Children

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN INTERNATIONALLY

Now more than ever, the international community is being challenged by conflict taking place in various parts of the world. With conflict becoming increasingly complex and interlinked, it is often the children who suffer most. Worldwide, schools have been targeted, bombed, shelled, burned and the children inside them have subsequently been killed, maimed, abducted, exploited or detained.¹⁶

Schools, universities and facilities housing children are being used by armed groups as bases, recruitment grounds, barracks or detention centres. Seven years of war in Syria has left a quarter of Syrian schools damaged, destroyed, or used as shelters for purposes other than education.¹⁷ On the 10th of August 2018, a bus was bombed as it passed through Dahyan market in Yemen, transporting local civilians, many of which were schoolchildren. 29 children died and many more were injured.¹⁸

The Safe Schools Declaration was developed in 2015 to ensure children and their institutions are not targeted and do not experience violence in times of conflict and war.¹⁹ Since May 2015, 81 countries have committed to the Safe Schools Declaration and pledging broad political support of education in armed conflict.²⁰ Given Australia's unique position of influence, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region, it must take a stronger stance in ensuring the preservation of human rights and the upholding of international law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. We urge the Australian Government to extend the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children beyond 2022 and include a greater focus on the impact of violence on children to ensure that no child dies from or is adversely affected by family violence**
- 2. We urge COAG to invest in a nationally implemented peer-to-peer education to challenge pervasive community attitudes reinforcing gender norms and stereotypes. In every school, children must know the forms violence takes and reject the notions that allow it to occur**
- 3. We urge all levels of government to oppose the use of corporal punishment in schools and to end it as a practice for discipline in institutions**
- 4. We urge the Australian Government to sign on to the Safe School Declaration and pledge to call out human rights and international law violations committed against children**



REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

OUR VISION

Australia must improve its response to the global refugee crisis by increasing its intake of refugees and ensure that asylum seeker and refugee children have their basic human rights fulfilled, provided a safe home where they can receive proper medical and psychological care, access education and start to repair and rebuild their lives.

The personal face of the policy of “offshore processing” has been largely hidden from public view but behind each of these untold individual stories is a personal and genuine tragedy.

REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

Right now, more than 68 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide – of which 22 million are refugees.²¹ Most countries are still treating refugees as somebody else's problem. Although Australia has one of the most generous humanitarian resettlement programs in the world per capita terms, resettling over 17,000 refugees in the 2016-2017 financial year²², but this number must improve as a matter of humanitarian urgency. Globally one in every 113 people are now either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee²³ so it has become increasingly urgent for Australia and other countries around the world to increase their refugee intake. Australia must take steps to improve its response to the global refugee crisis, including:

- reforming and expanding its private sponsorship program to enable more community members to affordably sponsor refugees
- ending off-shore processing and bringing those remaining on Manus and Nauru Island to safety
- increase our aid budget, specifically for humanitarian aid responses to address some of the root causes of the global refugee crisis

Modern Australia was built by generations of hardworking, self-starter migrants who came to our country in search of a better life. The collective contribution of our migrants has been invaluable to our economy, our society and our worldwide reputation of a peaceful country. People want to protect their families and to give their children access to an education and a life free of violence. We should be allowing them to get on with it and do that in Australia – one of the most harmonious countries of the world.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

The concept of community sponsorship anticipates ordinary individuals or community groups pulling together the funds and other resources needed to support a refugee or refugee family settling within their community. Such an initiative has been successful in Canada, seeing an estimated 300,000 refugees successfully resettled over the last 40-years.²⁴ The program allows members of the Australian community to sponsor the resettlement of refugees – providing financial and emotional support – and allows positive integration benefits that community sponsorship of refugees can bring.

The community sponsorship initiative will improve strong bonds between refugees and sponsors, engage welcoming communities and foster positive attitudes towards refugees. The current government sponsorship program is relying on individuals and community groups to pay the resettlement costs that are not comparable to other models used in other countries. The current program in Australia has an estimated cost of sponsoring a family of five for twelve-months being almost \$100,000 – but could be made at least 50% cheaper as some costs could be offset by in-kind community support.²⁵

CLOSING NAURU AND MANUS ISLAND PROCESSING

Under the offshore detention policy, people trying to reach Australia by boat are sent to off-shore processing centres where they are detained while their refugee claims are determined. Documented human rights abuses of those refugees on Nauru and Manus Island have severe and detrimental impacts on the physical and mental health of children in offshore detention.²⁶ Particularly due to the indefinite nature of detention, some refugees remain in limbo after more than five years.

The frequent exposure to harm, violence and abuse were revealed in the Nauru Files, that reported instances of sexual assault of children, 59 reports of assault on children, 30 reports of self-harm involving children and 159 of threatened self-harm involving children over a period of roughly two years.²⁷ This is causing significant harm to their mental health. These effects have been exacerbated in the cases where children are unable to reunite with their parent(s), where they have travelled separately from one or more parent, due to the offshore processing system.²⁸

Closing the Manus Island and Nauru detention centres must be prioritised, and the resources used to manage them should be redirected to assess people's claims for asylum. In 2016, the Parliamentary Budget Office confirmed that \$2.9bn can be saved by closing Nauru and Manus,²⁹ a redirection of these savings could be dedicated to processing refugee claims across the region.

FOREIGN AID BUDGET

In 2016, The Australian Government signed the New York Declaration along with another 192 States. The New York Declaration asserts that there are more forcibly displaced people today than at any time since the end of World War II. The global response seeks to address an existing humanitarian system that no longer meet the needs of the world's displaced peoples.³⁰ Much of the strain sits with developing countries that are disproportionately supporting displaced people, with 84% of refugees residing in low and middle-income countries and remaining close to situations of conflict.³¹ In the Asia-Pacific region, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia host large numbers of refugees.

If Australia is to continue to play a crucial leadership role in responding to the global refugee crisis it must help address the root causes of displacement. This requires efforts to increase our foreign aid budget to provide more humanitarian assistance to support people impacted by conflict, crises and human rights abuses. It also includes increasing humanitarian aid for developing countries hosting large numbers of refugees. The recent decision to scale back our investment in overseas aid will negatively impact Australia's role as a leader in the region.

“

**WE MUST TAKE
STEPS TO IMPROVE
OUR RESPONSE
TO THE GLOBAL
REFUGEE CRISIS.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. We urge the Australian Government to reform and expand its community sponsorship initiative to resettle displaced refugees to:**
 - a. explore more affordable models to increase community participation and the resettlement of refugee families**
 - b. increase the number of resettled refugee families by community sponsorship to 10,000 places and ensure they are additional to the overall humanitarian intake**
- 2. We urge the Australian Government to immediately shut down the centres on Manus Island and Nauru and resettle the families found to have refugee status to Australia and consider secondary settlement options**
- 3. We urge the Australian Government to increasing the foreign aid budget to address the root causes of the global refugee crisis, including providing more humanitarian aid to support people impacted by conflict, crises and other human rights violations, as well as supporting developing countries hosting large numbers of refugees**

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY

OUR VISION

Australians must address historical injustices committed against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People by actively listening to what works in their best interests, led by their aspirations for an equitable Australia. This needs to be displayed through formal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, grounded in a deep respect as our First Australians.

THE REALITY OF INDIGENOUS OUTCOMES IN AUSTRALIA

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People continue to experience intergenerational disadvantage due to ongoing racism and continual failings of support systems. Their experience of inequality stems from poor representation and prejudices towards the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Discriminatory practices have affected all aspects of their communities from education, healthcare, justice systems, employment and formal acknowledgement.³²

The higher poverty levels experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people results in poorer education and literacy affecting the understanding of the information given associated with smoking and other high-risk behaviour. With increasing drug, cigarette and alcohol abuse, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are seven times more likely to develop respiratory and digestive issues than a non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.³³

EDUCATION

Education plays an important role in the lives of all young people no matter their background. It is a way to create opportunities and change communities. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children there are substantial challenges that impede their education outcomes which policy makers must address. However, the ten years of targeted investment through the Closing the Gap Policy structure has shown the positive return that is required must be improved.

- 60% of Indigenous children are behind the academic standard of non-Indigenous children at the start of year one.³⁴
- Only 59% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children complete year 12 in comparison to 89% of non-Indigenous children.³⁵
- Constant school attendance (90% total school days or more attended) of Indigenous children is 48.8% in comparison to 77.1% of non-indigenous students.³⁶

The investment made by the federal government and policy makers into alternative programs to boost education engagement like mentorship and cultural programs are seeing positive results. In acknowledgement of the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum, the federal government announced a \$138 million-dollar funding scheme for boosting education outcomes through scholarships, and mentoring programs. The fund focused on the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) areas of study.³⁷ While these programs are beneficial, it is important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are included and consulted in the roll-out of this programming.



Photo: Robert McKechnie / Save the Children

HEALTH

Health in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is well below standard health outcomes for the broader Australian population. Historical neglect and inappropriate policy direction in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health has resulted in many poor health outcomes³⁸ like:

- higher than average infant mortality rates
- shorter life expectancy
- higher prevalence of uncommon and manageable diseases in the Indigenous population

Poor health outcomes are, in part, attributable to the standard of living that some communities experience including, poor housing, sanitation and nutrition. These challenges have in part been due to policy decisions, racism, discrimination, forced removal of children, loss of identity, language, culture and land as well as other factors over recent centuries and decades. These factors are further heightened by the challenges in paying for medication and treatment not covered by Medicare.³⁹

The main causes of death within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are chronic diseases like diabetes, respiratory diseases and cancer. Trends show high levels of easily treatable and preventable illnesses that dramatically reduce life expectancy.⁴⁰ In 2014 there were over 26,000 potentially avoidable deaths despite the significant reduction in smoking and earlier detection of underlying chronic diseases.⁴¹

All levels of government and policy-makers are addressing the negative health outcomes by making health services more available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in more remote areas as well as increasing health education, nutrition programs and general health information. These programs need to continue to run and reach more people who are at risk.

“

AUSTRALIA MUST
ADDRESS HISTORICAL
INJUSTICES
COMMITTED AGAINST
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

EMPLOYMENT

Remoteness, education standards and limited opportunity has caused a divide between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and non-Indigenous people in the workforce. There is a 25.2% difference between the employment rate of these two groups with only 46.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being employed in 2016.⁴²

There has been an increase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students into tertiary education but more needs to be done to support employability.⁴³ This includes increasing the funding to programs that target school leavers, that offer trade certificates and qualifications attained whilst in high school.

Funding towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development can assist in addressing job shortages for their communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses have greater understanding of the challenges to gain employment and can provide targeted training and job opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people entering the workforce.⁴⁴ Further to this, non-indigenous organisations and businesses must seek and engage similar expertise to enhance their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce.⁴⁵

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait People are the Traditional Owners of Australia. Their presence on the land dates back around 60,000 years of cultural significance and connection. From the time of European settlement in Australia colonial views were enforced and began the discriminatory treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.⁴⁶

Societal change will only happen in Australia when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have full recognition in Australia's constitution. Government and non-indigenous organisations need to be working with communities and better direct necessary resources to alleviate entrenched disadvantage. This can occur when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have an equal voice and position in the decision-making process.⁴⁷

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We urge all governments to continue to fund alternative education programs with a focus on mentorship and that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community partnership
2. We urge that COAG recommit to closing the gap in health outcomes with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led methods of engagement to increase accessibility and equitable service delivery, particularly for nutrition and preventable illness
 - a. Provide access to necessary infrastructure for physical needs such as clean drinking water, sanitary sewerage systems and safe housing
 - b. Build and maintain high standard mainstream health services within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that are culturally appropriate
3. We urge the Australian Government to increase employability by targeting investment in:
 - a. education to employment programs for all young people entering the workforce through schooling, trade courses and other programs
 - b. procurement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business and services to government and non-Indigenous companies
4. We urge all governments to formally recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait People as our First Australians, through bipartisan support of the formation of a constitutionally enshrined representative body as outlined in the Uluru Statement from the Heart



LGBTQI+

OUR VISION

The LGBTQI+ community encounter violence and discrimination stemming from the lack of awareness and proper representation in Australian society. This has affected key areas of development for LGBTQI+ young people like education, employment and mental health. Appropriate investment in education programs is required to focus on sexual health, relationships and changing family environments. This has the potential to reduce the rate of youth violence, homelessness and suicide and instill LGBTQI+ young people as socially equal and productive global citizens.

STIGMAS, STEREOTYPES + MENTAL HEALTH

Out-dated attitudes and negative perceptions of the LGBTQI+ community continue to cause an increased number of mental health concerns, promotion of violence, discrimination and homophobia. Derogatory statements and actions aimed at LGBTQI+ people further entrenches negative stigmas and stereotypes, because of the lack of appropriate education and the continued enforcement of outdated gender expectations.⁴⁸

Experts have stated that some “violence against people in the LGBT community is because people feel they do not fit the gender stereotypes or gender expectations for what men and women are supposed to be.”⁴⁹ To ensure the removal of harmful stigmas and stereotypes, Australia must invest in the delivery of proper education on same-sex relationships, promote respectful behaviours and attitudes and ensure inclusive and safe environments for LGBTQI+ young people.

The Australian Human Rights Commission found that “gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are three times more likely to experience depression”.⁵⁰ This is an indicator that there is inadequate support and representation for LGBTQI+ people in many aspects of public life. Schools play a crucial role in socialising children and young people, yet a number of LGBTQI+ students’ experience homophobic bullying at school.⁵¹ We must ensure that the next generation understand the importance of acceptance and respect of people’s sexuality and changing family structures. Supporting social movements such as ‘Wear it Purple Day’ will assist in ensuring positive action and change for LGBTQI+ people.

Australia’s healthcare structure creates further issues for LGBTQI+ people with mental health concerns with more investment needed in the specific issues that LGBTQI+ people experience, particularly at times of high emotional debate. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported that “\$9 billion was spent on mental health services in 2015-16”.⁵² However in early 2018, the Australian National Mental Health Commission reported that the Federal government “will [only] invest \$338.1 million over the next four years”.⁵³ These statistics highlight a decrease in federal funding for mental health.

A nationally funded system needs to be created to address the prevention, treatment and support of mental health in Australia. An example of this was the ‘No Harm’ initiative that was created to assist NGO’s supporting LGBTQI+ persons during the marriage equality debate. The injection of funding in Queensland was a progressive step forward and a similar approach should be made a permanent part of the federal budget.⁵⁴

EDUCATION + EMPLOYMENT

The Safe Schools Coalition was an NGO working across Australia to provide materials, training and support to schools to create an inclusive environment for LGBTQI+ students, staff and families.⁵⁵ The Safe Schools Program (SSP) provided the following resources to support schools in;

- Introducing gender and sexual diversity in schools
- Ways staff could create an inclusive and accepting environment
- Supporting transgender and gender diverse students
- Provide a diverse range of age appropriate, sexual education lessons

In 2016, most states and territories cancelled the delivery of the SSP in their schools because of the Federal Government withdrawing funding support. It is important to remember that the Safe Schools Program was completely voluntary to create an inclusive environment for LGBTQI+ students and not to drive a political agenda.⁵⁶ The Australian Government must re-instate its funding and publicly support the SSP nationwide. The removal of the SSP means that there are limited resources to safely educate students on LGBTQI+ issues, allowing homophobia and intolerant behaviour to continue.

EMPLOYMENT

It was not until 2013 that the Sex Discrimination Act (1984) was amended to make discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status illegal. Slow legal progress has been made but LGBTQI+ people remain reluctant or unsure as to reveal their sexual identity in the workplace. As of July 2014, 34% of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people choose not to disclose their sexuality at work for fear of homophobia and exclusion.⁵⁷ The apprehension to share highlights the failures of policy to ensure safe environments for LGBTQI+ people. Embracing diversity within schools and the workplace is important in creating and fostering a culture of respect, tolerance and equality.

“

**EMBRACING
DIVERSITY CREATES
A CULTURE OF
RESPECT, TOLERANCE
AND EQUALITY.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. We urge the Australian Government to provide funding and resourcing for programs such as the Safe Schools Program which provide diverse and inclusive sexual education resources that are age appropriate content for each age group. Such programs would remain optional for every school (public, private or independent); however, would be a recommended part of the Australian curriculum. The redesigned sexual education program should focus on including the following:**
 - a. information on same-sex relationships and sexual health
 - b. information on the diversity of gender and an individual's personal pronouns
 - c. transgender health (including mental health support systems available)
 - d. the appropriate use of certain terms (for example: homosexual, trans-male, trans-female)
 - e. Education materials that assist in teaching students appropriate ways to respond to bullying, harassment and discrimination
- 2. We urge all governments to create a national health framework focused on the treatment and prevention of mental health affecting those who identify as LGBTQI+. These include:**
 - a. an investigation into the causes of poor mental health in Australia for LGBTQI+ mental health
 - b. methods to reduce the percentage of LGBTQI+ Australians suffering from a mental health issues and provide a range of treatment and support options
 - c. options to improve the healthcare system across Australia and make changes to Medicare or other government health services
- 3. We urge all governments to support the delivery of appropriate inclusion training in Australian workplaces as standard practice that is certified and delivered by LGBTQI+ organisations and representative bodies**

JUVENILE DETENTION AND JUSTICE

OUR VISION IS TO SEE A FAIR AND EQUITABLE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

The current juvenile detention system is in crisis and is ineffective at reducing youth crime rates, rehabilitating youth offenders and providing them with adequate education.⁵⁸ Justice systems need to ensure that all children and young people currently being detained in Australia have access to a fair judicial process, access to education, healthcare and appropriate legal aid.⁵⁹ This includes raising the age of criminal responsibility⁶⁰, ensuring the safety of children and improving community support and rehabilitation programs.⁶¹

Over 5300 young people over the age of 10 were being detained on the average day in 2016-17.⁶² Young people currently being detained in juvenile detention centres throughout Australia are being deprived of the right to education and rehabilitation and are submitted to heinous and degrading punishments.⁶³ More investment is required into diversion programs like job skills training and support for those struggling with substance addiction and mental health issues.⁶⁴ There also needs to be further exploration into how restorative justice practises can address the deep-rooted issues that drive youth to crime. The known factors that contribute to youth crime rates and incarceration include: unemployment, level of education and socio-economic background.⁶⁵



Photo: Robert McKechnie / Save the Children

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE

Despite efforts from successive governments, an over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in juvenile detention centres exists throughout Australia – and this number has been steadily increasing. Almost 3 in 5 (58%) of the 5,359 young people incarcerated in 2016-17 were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.⁶⁶ The level of over-representation is higher in detention-based sentences rather than community, for both males and females. Racism plays an undeniable role in this, as well as continuous intergenerational failures in the healthcare and educational systems. There is a connection between Aboriginal incarceration and issues like unemployment, education and socio-economic background. Many young people in the youth justice system come from a background of poverty, substance abuse and violence and therefore greater need of intervention and support.⁶⁷

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT⁶⁸

Justice reinvestment relocates funding from imprisonment back into the communities where data identifies the greatest need based on incarceration and recidivism. Justice reinvestment is extremely effective as it pinpoints potential high-risk areas in need of support and tailors the approach to suit the community. Community led, justice reinvestment empowers local solutions and can inform future funding direction with appropriate research, monitoring and evaluation.

“

**MORE INVESTMENT
IS REQUIRED INTO
DIVERSION PROGRAMS.**

DIVERSION PROGRAMS⁶⁹

Diversion programs should be the preferred action to rehabilitate young people rather than immediately arresting offenders. The use of specialised diversion programs is crucial at supporting young people with substance abuse issues, mental health related problems and those who have experienced trauma. Programs are often delivered to ‘at risk’ individuals in school, home and community-based settings.

The outcome of these programs is to address the problem at hand and provide extra support before reoffending and juvenile detention become the only solution. Diversion programs are broad and include: substance use counselling, psychological support, jobs skills training, mental health training and family counselling. Diversion programs are effective and should be more widely implemented throughout communities and the youth justice system.

CRIMINAL AGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The criminal age of responsibility in Australia is defined as “the minimum age below a child is deemed capable responsible for a crime and therefore, cannot be charged.” All states and territories in Australia have deemed 10 as the minimum age, at odds with the suggested world median age of 14. Children at the age of 10 are not fully capable of making a fully formed decision and therefore, do not consider the repercussions.⁷⁰ Scientific evidence shows that the brain of a 10 year old child is drastically different compared to that of a teenager⁷¹ and early incarceration is likely to have detrimental lasting effects on a child’s cognitive, psychological and physical development and their overall wellbeing.⁷²

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. We urge all governments to immediately raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to the global median age of 14 in all Australian states and territories**
- 2. We urge all governments to support and invest in diversion programs to reduce reoffending, ensuring that children and young people committing crimes can benefit from positive physical, mental and emotional support**
- 3. We urge all governments to provide targeted investment in Justice Reinvestment, to identify the areas with high rates of youth crime and establish best ways to approach these issues by working with affected communities**



YOUTH HEALTH

OUR VISION IS FOR A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA

Australia must invest in building a health system that is equitable and accessible to all children who require health services and seeks to eradicate preventable diseases.

HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA

Article 27 of the Convention of the Rights of a Child states that all children have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental wellbeing.⁷³ A lack of access to appropriate and effective healthcare has significant impacts on the overall quality of life of any individual and the communities around them. Barriers to accessing necessary services can include poverty, stigmas associated with a particular health condition or disability, lack of awareness of services and a shortage of competent doctors and nurses.⁷⁴ A particular need is for increasing number of doctors in rural areas to reduce distance for patients, ensure that all health facilities are accessible for children and youth with disabilities and ensure that our mental health clinical support system holistically provides for all young people.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Despite ongoing efforts from multiple organisations and government bodies, youth mental health is declining at an exponential rate. Youth mental illnesses can be rooted in systemic gender and race-based discrimination, body image, high levels of anxiety due to stress levels and poverty. In the findings from Mission Australia's recent Youth Survey, 1 in 4 young people are at risk of a serious mental illness, this risk being greater for those who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or female.⁷⁵

Young people can struggle to recognize symptoms through self-identification or seeking help or in their friends and family. They may also lack the coping mechanisms necessary to recover from mental illnesses. Young people are inhibited from seeking necessary aid due to a multitude of stigmas and barriers such as beliefs around toxic masculinity that deter young men from becoming vulnerable in conversations.⁷⁶

DISABILITY CARE

Young people with disabilities are often the most marginalized and underrepresented communities which face social, economic and physical barriers daily. The 2011 Productivity Commission report found that disability services were "underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient" and that a system that allowed for flexible individual funding packages was in dire need with the previous system giving no choice and no certainty of access to appropriate support.⁷⁷ Thus, Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was created to enable people with disabilities to have control over their own lives through providing resources, services and support.⁷⁸

However, reports have identified that the current roll out of the NDIS is significantly flawed and the system can be difficult to navigate for many people with disabilities. As of June 2018, 13,482 (8% of participants in the scheme had a psychosocial disability and only 9,255 (5.4%) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.⁷⁹

Reports suggest that NDIS application and planning process are too arduous and don't allow participants an opportunity to view the draft plan before it is processed.⁸⁰ This can become highly distressing for applicants which results in a large number of potential participants to disengage with the program. If minor errors exist in the application, they must redo the entire planning process, that delays vital funding and assistance from reaching families that desperately require it.⁸¹



“

AUSTRALIA
MUST INVEST
IN AN EQUITABLE
AND ACCESSIBLE
HEALTH SYSTEM.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We urge the Australian Government to invest in more targeted approaches of specialised care to support vulnerable groups within society with higher risk of poor mental health⁸²
2. We urge all governments to equip educators with Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills and introduce school wellbeing initiatives
3. We urge all governments to ensure all public facilities comply with legislation and are disability-friendly enabling for better mobility and independence
4. We urge all governments to extend the duration of the NDIS package to alleviate stress from caretakers and provide support for those individuals who are ineligible for the NDIS program, guiding them in the direction of other possible support pathways

ENDNOTES

- 1 Eckstein, D., Kunzel, V. and Schafer, L. (2017). *GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK INDEX 2018*. Who Suffers Most From Extreme Weather Events? Weather-related Loss Events in 2016 and 1997 to 2016. [online] Bonn: Germanwatch. Available at: <https://germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/publication/20432.pdf> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 2 Resource Centre. (2018). *Reducing Risks, Enhancing Resilience: Save the Children and Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*. [online] Available at: https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/7882/pdf/reducing_risks_enhancing_resilience_2015_low.pdf [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 3 Education safe from disasters: 8 Lessons for Disaster Risk Reduction from the Pacific. (2015). [ebook] Melbourne: Save the Children Australia. Available at: <https://www.savethechildren.org.au/getmedia/ee38c30b-96bc-40f9-b20e-8f726c45ab9b/8-drr-lessons-from-the-pacific.pdf.aspx> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 4 Rojas-Downing, M., Nejadhashemi, A., Harrigan, T. and Woznicki, S. (2017). Climate change and livestock: Impacts, adaptation, and mitigation. *Climate Risk Management*, 16, pp.145-163.
- 5 Agric.wa.gov.au. (2018). *How Australia accounts for agricultural greenhouse gas emissions | Agriculture and Food*. [online] Available at: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/climate-change/how-australia-accounts-agricultural-greenhouse-gas-emissions> [Accessed 14 Oct. 2018].
- 6 Pretty, J. and Bharucha, Z. (2014). Sustainable intensification in agricultural systems. *Annals of Botany*, 114(8), pp.1571-1596.
- 7 Resource Centre. (2011). *Children's Charter - an action plan for disaster risk reduction for children by children*. [online] Available at: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/childrens-charter-action-plan-disaster-risk-reduction-children-children> [Accessed 12 Oct. 2018].
- 8 Savethechildren.org.au. (2018). [online] Available at: <https://www.savethechildren.org.au/Our-work/Our-programs/International/Climate-Change-Adaptation> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 9 Shine, K. (2018). *IPCC 1.5° report: here's what the climate science says*. [online] The Conversation. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/ipcc-1-5-report-heres-what-the-climate-science-says-104592> [Accessed 9 Oct. 2018].
- 10 Department of the Environment and Energy. (2018). *Department of the Environment and Energy*. [online] Available at: <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/publications/factsheet-australias-2030-climate-change-target> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 11 Open Mind, Hall & Partners (2015). *The Line campaign: Summary of research findings*. [online] Sydney: Our Watch. Available at: <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/Media-Resources?p=12> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 12 Sloane BC, Zimmer CG. The power of peer health education. *Journal of American College Health* 1993; 41:241-245.
- 13 Mason, H. (2003). *Peer Education: Promoting Healthy Behaviours*. [online] Advocatesforyouth.org. Available at: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/storage/advfy/documents/fspeered.pdf> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 14 Education.vic.gov.au. (2018). *Respectful relationships*. [online] Available at: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/pages/respectfulrelationships.aspx> [Accessed 1 Oct. 2018].
- 15 Campo, M. (2015). Children's exposure to domestic and family violence: Key issues and responses. [online] Aifs.gov.au. Available at: <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/sites/default/files/publication-documents/cfca-36-children-exposure-fdv.pdf> [Accessed 6 Oct. 2018].

- 16 Global Coalition to Protect Education Under Attack (2014). Education Under Attack. [online] Global Coalition to Protect Education Under Attack. Available at: https://www.unesco.nl/sites/default/files/uploads/Onderwijs/eua_2014_full_0.pdf [Accessed 6 Oct. 2018].
- 17 Southern Turkey Education Cluster (2015). Schools under Attack in Syria: A monitoring report on the impact of attacks on Syrian schools. [online] Southern Turkey Education Cluster. Available at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FINAL-Education-Under-Attack_STurkey-Briefing-Paper_2015-09-03.pdf [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 18 BBC News. (2018). Strike on Yemen bus kills 29 children. [online] Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-45128367> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 19 The Safe Schools Declaration was developed through state consultations led by Norway and Argentina in Geneva throughout the first half of 2015 and is an inter-governmental political commitment that provides countries the opportunity to express support for protecting education from attack during times of armed conflict; the importance of the continuation of education during war; and the implementation of concrete measures to deter the military use of schools.
- 20 Protectingeducation.org. (2018). Safe Schools Declaration Endorsements | Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack. [online] Available at: <http://www.protectingeducation.org/guidelines/support> [Accessed 11 Oct. 2018].
- 21 Refugees, U. (2018). Figures at a Glance. [online] UNHCR. Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-au/figures-at-a-glance.html> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 22 AUSTRALIA'S REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM 2017-18: Community views on current challenges and future directions. (2017). [ebook] Surry Hills: Refugee Council of Australia, pp.3, 10, 11, 31, 47. Available at: http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/RCOA_intake-sub_2017_2018.pdf [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 23 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2018). *With 1 human in every 113 affected, forced displacement hits record high*. [online] Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-au/news/press/2016/6/5763ace54/1-human-113-affected-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 24 Ausrefugeesponsorship.com.au. (2018). *A better model for community sponsorship – Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiative*. [online] Available at: <http://www.ausrefugeesponsorship.com.au/2018/03/27/a-better-model-for-community-sponsorship/> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 25 Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (2018). *A Better Way: A New Model for Community Sponsorship of Refugees in Australia*. Melbourne: Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiative.
- 26 Australian Human Rights Commission (2014). *The Forgotten Children: National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention*. [online] Sydney: Paragon Printing Australasia, pp.181-195, 197-206. Available at: https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/forgotten_children_2014.pdf [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 27 Farrell, P., Evershed, N., Davidson, H. and Wall, J. (2016). *The Nauru files: cache of 2,000 leaked reports reveal scale of abuse of children in Australian offshore detention*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/aug/10/the-nauru-files-2000-leaked-reports-reveal-scale-of-abuse-of-children-in-australian-offshore-detention> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].

ENDNOTES

- 28 Button, L., Evans, S. and Lamoin, A. (2016). *AT WHAT COST?: The Human, Economic and Strategic Cost of Australia's Asylum Seeker Policies and the Alternatives*. [online] Melbourne: Save the Children, pp.21, 40. Available at: <http://www.unicef.org.au/Upload/UNICEF/Media/Documents/At-What-Cost-Report.pdf> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 29 Doherty, B. (2016). *Australian refugees: Greens to propose increasing intake to 50,000 a year*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/apr/16/australian-refugees-greens-to-propose-increasing-intake-to-50000-a-year> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2018].
- 30 Refugee Council of Australia. (2017). *Pre-budget submission 2018-19*. [online] Available at: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/publications/submissions/2018-2019-pre-budget-submission/> [Accessed 26 Oct. 2018].
- 31 Edmond, C. (2018). *84% of refugees live in developing countries*. [online] World Economic Forum. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/eighty-four-percent-of-refugees-live-in-developing-countries/> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 32 Commonwealth of Australia (2013). *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023*. [online] Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia. Available at: [https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/B92E980680486C3BCA257BF0001BAF01/\\$File/health-plan.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/B92E980680486C3BCA257BF0001BAF01/$File/health-plan.pdf) [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 33 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council, *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: Context*, NATSIHC, Canberra, 2014, [Accessed 7 Oct. 2018].
- 34 Closingthegap.pmc.gov.au. (2018). *Education | Closing the Gap*. [online] Available at: <https://closingthegap.pmc.gov.au/education> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 National Aboriginal Community Control Health Organisation (2017). *NACCHO Aboriginal Health #SocialDeterminants : #Indigenous education represented a “potent, practical and achievable road to change life expectancy by 12 years*. [online] Available at: <https://nacchocommunique.com/2017/06/27/naccho-aboriginal-health-socialdeterminants-indigenous-education-represented-a-potent-practical-and-achievable-road-to-change-life-expectancy-by-12-years/> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 38 Dick, D. (2007). *Social determinants and the health of Indigenous peoples in Australia – a human rights based approach*. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/news/speeches/social-determinants-and-health-indigenous-peoples-australia-human-rights-based> [Accessed Oct. 2018]
- 39 Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (2018) *Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status, 2017*. [online] Perth, WA: Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet. Available at: <https://healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/healthinonet/getContent.php?linkid=609266&title=Overview+of+Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+health+status%2C+2017> [Accessed Oct. 2018]
- 40 Thomson, N. and Brooks, J., ‘Cardiovascular Disease’, *The Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 2003, p186
- 41 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Australian Bureau of Statistics, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2015*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, 2015, available online at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+health+welfare/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+health+welfare-2015/contents/table-of-contents> [Accessed 9 Oct. 2018].

- 42 Closingthegap.pmc.gov.au. (2018). *Employment | Closing the Gap*. [online] Available at: <https://closingthegap.pmc.gov.au/employment> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 43 Closingthegap.pmc.gov.au. (2018). *Education | Closing the Gap*.
- 44 Purdie, N., Frigo, T., Stone, A. and Dick, W. (2006). *Enhancing Employment Opportunities for Indigenous Victorians*. [online] Research.acer.edu.au. Available at: https://research.acer.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1018&context=indigenous_education [Accessed 1 Oct. 2018].
- 45 NSW Department of Community Services (2009). *Working with Aboriginal People and Communities: A Practice Resource*. [online] Ashfield NSW: NSW Department of Community Services. Available at: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/storage/2011Working%20with%20Aboriginal%20People%20and%20Communities.pdf> [Accessed Oct. 2018]
- 46 Workingwithindigenoustralians.info. (2018). *History: 60,000 years: Working with Indigenous Australians*. [online] Available at: http://www.workingwithindigenoustralians.info/content/History_2_60,000_years.html [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 47 Referendum Council of Australia (2017). *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. [online] Mutitjulu NT: Referendum Council of Australia. Available at: https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-05/Uluru_Statement_From_The_Heart_0.PDF [Accessed Oct. 2018]
- 48 Australian Human Rights Commission (2015). *Resilient Individuals: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Intersex Rights, National Consultation Report*. [online] Sydney: Australian Human Rights Commission. Available at: https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/SOGII%20Rights%20Report%202015_VWeb_Version.pdf [Accessed Sep. 2018].
- 49 Romero Jr., A. (2018). *LGBT community still faces stigma, stereotypes*. [online] The Edwardsville Intelligencer. Available at: <https://www.theintelligencer.com/local/article/LGBT-community-still-faces-stigma-stereotypes-10443712.php> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 50 Australian Human Rights Commission (2014). *Face the Facts: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people*. [online] Sydney: Australian Human Rights Commission. Available at: https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/7_FTF_2014_LGBTI.pdf [Accessed Sep. 2018].
- 51 Australian Human Rights Commission (2015). [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 52 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Mental health services in Australia, Expenditure on mental health-related services - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*. [online] Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mental-health-services/mental-health-services-in-australia/report-contents/expenditure-on-mental-health-related-services> [Accessed Sep. 2018].
- 53 National Mental Health Commission (2018). *Federal budget makes the mental health of our nation a top priority*. [online] Available at: <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/media-centre/news/federal-budget-makes-the-mental-health-of-our-nation-a-top-priority.aspx> [Accessed Sep. 2018].
- 54 Queensland Government, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, The Honourable Cameron Dick (2017). *Funding injection for LGBTIQ mental health ahead of marriage equality vote*. [online] Available at: <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2017/8/29/funding-injection-for-lgbtq-mental-health-ahead-of-marriage-equality-vote> [Accessed Sep. 2018].
- 55 Safe Schools Coalition Australia. (2018). *The Safe Schools Coalition Australia*. [online] Available at: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au/who-we-are> [Accessed 14 Oct. 2018].
- 56 Nest. (2016). *Yes, we need Safe Schools | Nest*. [online] Available at: <https://nest.latrobe/yes-we-need-safe-schools/> [Accessed 14 Oct. 2018].

ENDNOTES

- 57 Australian Human Rights Commission (2014). [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 58 Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (2017). *Statement on Conditions and Treatment in Youth Justice Detention*. [online] Sydney: Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians. Available at: https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/ACCG_YouthJusticePositionStatement_24Nov2017.pdf [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 59 Mitchell, J. (2017). *Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria: A submission to the inquiry by the Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues, Parliament of Victoria*. [online] Melbourne: Youth Affairs Council Victoria. Available at: <https://www.yacvic.org.au/assets/Documents/SUB-YACVic-Inquiry-into-Youth-Justice-Centres-in-Victoria-March2017.pdf> [Accessed Oct. 2018]
- 60 Cunneen, C. (2017) Arguments for Raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility, Research Report, Comparative Youth Penalty Project, University of New South Wales, Sydney. Available at <http://cypp.unsw.edu.au/node/146> [Accessed Oct. 2018]
- 61 Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (2017).
- 62 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018). *Child protection Australia 2016–17. Child welfare series no. 68. Cat. no. CWS 63*. [online] Canberra: AIHW. Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/youth-justice/youth-justice-in-australia-2016-17/contents/table-of-contents> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 63 Fitz-Gibbon, K. (2018). The Treatment of Australian Children In Detention: A human rights law analysis of media coverage in the wake of abuses at the Don Dale Detention Centre. *UNSW Law Journal*, [online] 41(1). Available at: <http://www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/41-1-4.pdf> [Accessed 15 Oct. 2018].
- 64 Mission Australia (2015). *Combatting Ice in our community: Submission to the National Ice Taskforce*. [online] Melbourne: Mission Australia. Available at: <https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/publications/policy-submissions/other/361-combatting-ice-in-our-community/file> [Accessed 15 Oct. 2018].
- 65 Grover, C. (2017). *Parliament of Victoria - Youth justice in Victoria*. [online] Parliament.vic.gov.au. Available at: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/publications/research-papers/download/36-research-papers/13806-youth-justice-in-victoria> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 66 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018).
- 67 Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (2017).
- 68 Australia, S. (2018). *Smart Justice Australia - Justice Reinvestment*. [online] Smartjustice.org.au. Available at: http://www.smartjustice.org.au/cb_pages/justicereinvestment_sjfyf.php [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 69 Aph.gov.au. (2011). *Doing Time - Time for Doing - Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system – Parliament of Australia*. [online] Available at: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Committees_Exposed/atsia/sentencing/report [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 70 Loc.gov. (2018). *Children's Rights: Australia | Law Library of Congress*. [online] Available at: <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/australia.php> [Accessed Oct. 2018].
- 71 Blakemore, S., Burnett, S. and Dahl, R. (2010). The role of puberty in the developing adolescent brain. *Human Brain Mapping*, 31(6), pp.926-933.
- 72 Krieg, A. (2006). Aboriginal incarceration: health and social impacts. *The Medical Journal of Australia*, [online] 184(10), pp.534-536. Available at: <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2006/184/10/aboriginal-incarceration-health-and-social-impacts> [Accessed 15 Oct. 2018].

- 73 Ohchr.org, 1990, *OHCHR | Convention on the Rights of the Child*. [online] Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> [Accessed 8 Oct. 2018].
- 74 The Department Of Health (2018). *5.2.3 Barriers to accessing health care access*. Canberra: Australian Government. [Accessed 7 Oct. 2018].
- 75 Yeomans, C. and Christensen, H. (2017). *Youth mental health report Youth Survey 2012-16*. [ebook] Mission Australia, Black Dog Institute. Available at: https://blackdoginstitute.org.au/docs/default-source/research/evidence-and-policy-section/2017-youth-mental-health-report_mission-australia-and-black-dog-institute.pdf?sfvrsn=6 [Accessed 8 Oct. 2018].
- 76 Jenney, Angelique & Exner-Cortens, Deiner. (2018). *Toxic Masculinity and Mental Health in Young Women: An Analysis of 13 Reasons Why*. Affilia. [Accessed 8 Oct. 2018].
- 77 Productivity Commission. *Inquiry into disability care and support*. Canberra: Productivity Commission, 2011. [Accessed 9 Oct. 2018].
- 78 Australian Government Department of Social Services. *Continuity of support for clients of Commonwealth disability programs*. Australian Government Department of Social Services. [Online] www.dss.gov.au/publications-articles/corporate-publications/budget-andadditional-estimates-statements/continuity-of-support-for-clients-ofcommonwealth-disability-programs [Accessed 9 Oct. 2018].
- 79 Lewis, M. and Brogden, L. (2018). *Monitoring mental health and suicide prevention reform: National Report 2018*. Sydney: National Mental Health Commission. [Accessed 9 Oct. 2018]
- 80 National Disability Insurance Agency. *COAG Disability Reform Council Quarterly Report*. Geelong: NDIA, June 2018. [Accessed 9 Oct. 2018]
- 81 National Disability Insurance Scheme. *Overview of the NDIS*. NDIS. [Online] www.ndis.gov.au/operational-guideline/overview [Accessed 8 Oct. 2018].
- 82 Health.gov.au. (2011). *Department of Health | Mental health service in rural and remote areas program evaluation*. [online] Available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/publications/publishing.nsf/Content/mental-pubs-m-mhsrraev-toc> [Accessed 8 Oct. 2018].

Save the Children Australia and the Youth Ambassadors acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

This report was produced by Save the Children Australia's Youth Ambassadors throughout 2018. It is entirely the work of these young people and does not reflect the official position of Save the Children Australia.

**Save the Children 2018
Youth Ambassadors:**

Imogen Radford, Alex Dunmill,
Kupakweshe Matangira,
Georgia Lethlean, Ben Jackman,
Bassam Maaliki, Zahra Bilal

Save the Children staff:

Peter Nathan, Anna Hohenboken,
Jordyn Beazley, Jess Brennan,
Alex Sampson, Georgia Goldsworthy,
Lauren Harris, Kimberley Gardiner,
Majella Hurney, Kelly Rowe,
Sarah Carter, Marion Stanton,
Tim Norton, Mat Tinkler

savethechildren.org.au



Save the Children
YOUTH AMBASSADORS