



TOUGH ON CRIME? HARSHER PENALTIES ARE NOT THE ANSWER

HOW CAN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM OPERATE TO BREAK DOWN INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS?

STUDENT SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's December 2015 report on [Youth Detention](#) states that across the country, 54 per cent of juvenile detainees between the ages of 10 and 17 are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

On an average night in Australia, 34 in every 10,000 Indigenous young people are in prison, compared to just 1.3 per 10,000 non-Indigenous young people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are currently 26 times more likely to be detained than their non-Indigenous counterparts.

This trend is not new: Nationwide, Indigenous young people have consistently outnumbered non-Indigenous youth in every quarterly survey since March 2013.

The picture is even more stark in the Northern Territory where 97 per cent of youth detainees are Indigenous according to the 2015 [Northern Territory Youth Detention System](#) report.

What can be done to stop this trend? How does the legal system need to change to work more effectively for young indigenous people? We'll hear from a lawyer who works in the courts with young indigenous people; from the Aunties and others who envisage a better system.

CLRI
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WEDNESDAY

MARCH 7, 2018

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CLRI(NSW)
PO Box 1031
Ashfield NSW 1800
02 97998062

www.clrinsw.org

clrinsw@ozemail.com.au