

INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT: IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY

Indigenous Australians are dramatically over-represented in Australia's criminal justice system. The gap between the rates of Indigenous incarceration and non-Indigenous incarceration is fundamentally unfair.

The high numbers of Indigenous people in prison has consequences for virtually all Indigenous people. This impacts on the individuals who are incarcerated, as well as their families and communities. Children with a parent in prison are particularly vulnerable, increasing their risk of contact with the justice system later in life. As well as the human impact, high incarceration rates impact significantly on the Australian economy.

The current approach will not make our communities safer in the long-term. There is a better way, we need to invest in the underlying reasons people come into contact with the justice system in the first place.

We are calling for action to address this unfair, unsafe and unaffordable situation.

SOCIAL SYMBOLISM

We created a simple action that people can perform to show the solidarity and support of the campaign in pictures and videos on social media.



WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW



27%
more than a quarter of adult prisoners are Indigenous.

34%
more than 1 in every 3 female prisoners is Indigenous.

55%
more than 1 in every 2 young people in detention is Indigenous.

10,000 
Indigenous adults

On any given day there are approximately 10,000 Indigenous adults in prison (including roughly 1,000 women), 500 Indigenous youth in detention, and many more in custody in police cells.

27% **13%** 1991

Today: Indigenous people represent 27% of the prison population.

1991: At the time of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, 26 years ago, Indigenous people made up 13% of the prison population.



Every year, **1 in 5** Indigenous children are estimated to have at least 1 parent in prison.

\$7.9
BILLION

The current rates of Indigenous incarceration cost the Australian economy \$7.9 billion per year and rising.

SAVING

Nearly \$19 billion per year savings to the economy could be achieved by 2040 if the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates of incarceration were closed.

This number will rise to almost \$20 billion per year without further intervention.

\$19.8
BILLION

#UNLOCKTHEFACTS

IT'S TIME WE DEALT WITH THIS ISSUE TOGETHER

We need to do things differently

We know it's time we did something about this, in a different way. We know there is more to be done.

To make a start, we need to bring this to the attention of the Australian public.

PwC and PwC's Indigenous Consulting, the Change the Record Coalition, the Richmond Football Club and the Korin Gamadji Institute have come together to draw attention to this issue and the solutions. We are committed to helping affect the change that needs to be seen. We know there is more to be done, but bringing this to the attention of the Australian public is an important step in securing longer term change.

Recommendations on how we can move forward

Along with unlocking the facts and building public awareness, our work shows that action is required across a broad range of areas. These include:

- 1. Prioritising the right of Indigenous communities to self-determination and ensuring Indigenous people have a meaningful stake in the design, delivery and ownership of solutions.**
- 2. Establishing a national set of Closing the Gap justice targets to encourage a focus on outcomes and improve accountability.**
- 3. Ensuring mainstream services are more culturally aware and responsive.**
- 4. Investing in smarter solutions that focus on addressing the key drivers of Indigenous incarceration.**
- 5. Enhancing the focus on support for Indigenous-specific throughcare and reintegration programs to reduce re-offending.**
- 6. Increasing innovation in new and existing initiatives, and evaluation of these initiatives so that we know what works.**



More Indigenous people
are being imprisoned
than ever before.

**THIS SITUATION IS
UNFAIR, UNSAFE
AND UNAFFORDABLE.**

More Australians need
to know this.

**IT'S TIME WE
MOVE FORWARD.
TOGETHER.**

We stand by our fellow
Australians. Will you?

**UNLOCK
THE
FACTS**

on Indigenous incarceration.

Spread the word on social media. **#UNLOCKTHEFACTS**

Go to unlockthefacts.com.au for more information.

Visit changetherecord.org.au to make your pledge today.



The
Korin
Gamadji
Institute



**PwC's Indigenous
Consulting**