

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Catheryn Thompson****Dated: 18 November 2024****Submission:**

As a 5th generation Australian (maybe more...) I am deeply concerned about the high level of Aboriginal children in prisons, including children of 14 years old (or younger) . The policy of imprisonment of children is a violation of human rights. This system of locking up of children is not working and is not helping to heal trauma or homelessness or drug addiction or other causes of teenage bad behaviour. There has to be a more humane way of helping young people get on track. Connection to Country and family and meaningful engagement with Land and community and culture is essential as a priority policy for justice. With deep hope that action will be taken to improve the lives of Indigenous children in Australia.

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