

## Change the Record on indigenous imprisonment

The Law Council of Australia is pleased to support the “Change the Record” campaign, which seeks to end the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system.

Leading indigenous rights organisations gathered in Sydney today to launch the “Change the Record” campaign, which seeks to outline a new approach to reversing the rate of indigenous imprisonment and experience of violence.

These organisations are calling for greater investment in early intervention, prevention and diversion strategies, which address the root causes of violence and imprisonment. The “Change the Record” campaign is also urging all levels of government to work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities, services and their representatives, to develop and implement solutions.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the number of indigenous prisoners rose 88 per cent between 2004 and 2014, compared with 28 per cent among non-indigenous inmates.

In its [Indigenous imprisonment statistics factsheet](#), the Law Council highlighted that Aboriginal people are now 14 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-Indigenous Australians, representing double the rate that existed at the time of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. In the last decade, the rate of imprisonment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women increased by 74 per cent, while Aboriginal children are now 24 times more likely to be held in detention.

“We know the statistics are alarming – it’s now time to take action and change the record of cyclical disadvantage,” said Mr Duncan McConnel, President, Law Council of Australia.

“Initiatives like ‘Change the Record’ are about enhancing justice from the ground up, starting with building safer communities to support the most vulnerable in society,” concluded Mr McConnel.

Visit [changetherecord.org.au](http://changetherecord.org.au) for more information.

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# CHANGE THE RECORD

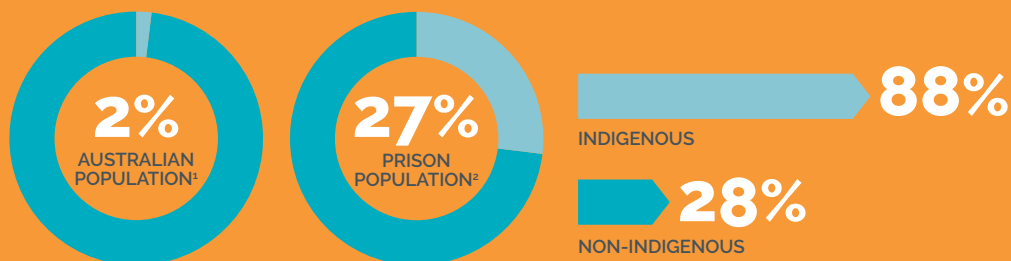
Smarter Justice. Safer Communities

## INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT

Indigenous imprisonment has reached a crisis point.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE REPRESENT:

SINCE 2004 AUSTRALIA'S PRISON POPULATION HAS INCREASED BY:<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> & <sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) *Corrective Services, Australia, December Quarter 2014*, Cat. no. 4512.0. Canberra. <sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) *Prisoners in Australia 2014*, Cat. no. 4517.0. Canberra; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) *Corrective Services, Australia, December Quarter 2014*, Cat. no. 4512.0. Canberra.

## INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are imprisoned at a rate **13** times higher than that of non-Indigenous people.

CURRENTLY, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE REPRESENT MORE THAN **1-IN-4** PEOPLE IN PRISON<sup>1</sup>

AUSTRALIAN AVERAGE DAILY IMPRISONMENT RATE<sup>2</sup> (per 100,00 adults)

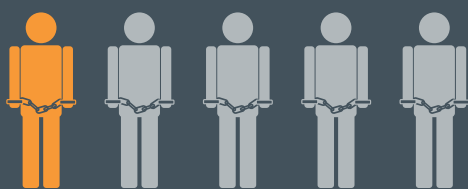


<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) *Prisoners in Australia 2014*, Cat. no. 4517.0. Canberra. <sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) *Corrective Services, Australia, December Quarter 2014*, Cat. no. 4512.0. Canberra.

## DEATHS IN CUSTODY

Over the last five years, Indigenous deaths in custody have increased due to the increased rate of Indigenous imprisonment.

APPROXIMATELY **1-IN-5** DEATHS IN CUSTODY (24%)<sup>1</sup>



BETWEEN 1980 - 2011

**449**

INDIGENOUS DEATHS IN CUSTODY

THIS EQUATES TO ALMOST **ONE DEATH PER MONTH**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> & <sup>2</sup> Australian Institute of Criminology, (2012) *Deaths in Custody in Australia to 30 June 2011: Twenty Years of Monitoring by the National Deaths in Custody Monitoring Programme Since the Royal Commission to Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*, Report 201, 2012 at iii.

## PRISON VS SCHOOL

We're better at keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison than in school or university.

INDIGENOUS REIMPRISONMENT RATE

SCHOOL RETENTION RATE

NATIONALLY, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER MEN ARE

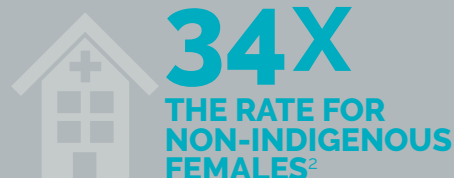
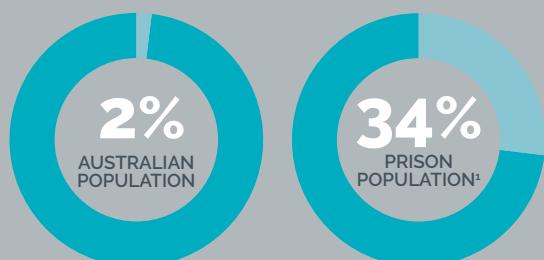


<sup>1</sup> & <sup>2</sup> C. Cuneen, 'Time to Arrest Rising Aboriginal Prison Rates' (2013) 22 *Crime and Justice: Insight* 8.

## INDIGENOUS WOMEN

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN REPRESENT:

IN 2012-13, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FEMALE HOSPITALISATIONS FOR NON-FATAL FAMILY VIOLENCE-RELATED ASSAULTS WERE



<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012) *Prisoners in Australia 2014*, Cat. no. 4517.0. Canberra. <sup>2</sup> Productivity Commission, Commonwealth Government, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report* (2014).

## JUVENILE DETENTION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system.



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER JUVENILES ARE **24X** MORE LIKELY TO BE IN DETENTION THAN NON-INDIGENOUS JUVENILES<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Commonwealth Government, *Youth Detention Population in Australia* (2014) vii.