

# **OPEN LETTER CALLING FOR SAFE RELEASE OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN FROM PRISONS AND YOUTH DETENTION CENTRES AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS AND HEALTH IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**AUGUST 2020**

Recent positive COVID-19 cases in prisons and youth detention centres in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales signal the growing threat of this virus to the lives of detained people across Australia. It demonstrates that attempts by Australian governments to prevent COVID-19 entering youth detention centres and prisons have been unsuccessful. The risk of a serious COVID-19 prison outbreak is real and imminent. Measures to release people from correctional centres and reduce incarcerated populations need to be implemented with urgency. This is necessary to protect the lives of people in prisons and youth detention centres, to ensure there are necessary hospital beds for all who need it and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 to the community. The Communicable Diseases Network Australia [guidelines](#) for the prevention, control and public health management of COVID-19 recommend governments implement ‘measures to protect vulnerable inmates’ that include ‘early release or alternative accommodation’.

The threat to lives in prison is particularly glaring for First Nations people, people with chronic illness, and other vulnerable people. In April 2020, First Nations [families](#) of loved ones who died in custody identified the high risk of First Nations adults and children dying in prison and youth detention. The over-representation of First Nations people in prison and youth detention centres, the systemic racism in healthcare, including in correctional settings, as well as the high rates of chronic illness, mean that First Nations people will be disproportionately impacted by an outbreak of COVID-19 in prisons and are at increased risk of deaths in custody. This risk is already extremely high with three Aboriginal deaths in custody in the past two months.

Evidence from [US](#) prisons provides a chilling warning. People in prison are five times more likely to contract COVID-19 and three times more likely to die than in the general population. Black people constitute [48%](#) of deaths in US prisons.

Australian governments owe a duty of care to the health and wellbeing of people in prison. The [National Guidelines](#) for controlling COVID-19 are failing to fulfil this duty. This failure was recognised by the Supreme Court of Victoria in the case of *Rowson* on 1 May 2020. While the Court reserved making any findings of fact at the interlocutory stage of that case, the Judge found that there was a *prima facie* case that the prison authorities have breached their duty of care to take reasonable care for Mr Rowson’s health.

The [Joint Statement](#) of international human rights bodies – the UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS and OHCHR – has resolutely called for the release of people in prison:

We urge political leaders to consider limiting the deprivation of liberty, including pretrial detention, to a measure of last resort, particularly in the case of overcrowding, and to enhance efforts to resort to non-custodial measures. These efforts should encompass release mechanisms

for people at particular risk of COVID-19, such as older people and people with pre-existing health conditions, as well as other people who could be released without compromising public safety, such as those sentenced for minor, non-violent offences, with specific consideration given to women and children.

In the last few months, there have been lockdowns in prisons and youth detention centres. Restricting rights and isolating people and children are not the answer to protecting lives. These restrictions have a deleterious effect on the mental health of adults and children inside and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. They also may be ineffective in stopping the transmission of COVID-19.

Given lockdowns, overcrowding, loss of education and other services as well as restricted access to family and other visits, there has also been unrest in prisons across Australia, including in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Since COVID-19 restrictions were imposed, there have been seven deaths in prisons in Australia (three in Queensland, three in Western Australia and one in the Northern Territory).

This letter calls for the rights to life and health of people in prison and youth detention centres to be respected by the release of people and the provision of safe housing and suitable post-release services, where needed. In particular, children and young people, like those who have recently been in lockdown at Victorian and Queensland youth detention centres, should also be prioritised so that they can be with, and be supported by, their families and communities during this ongoing public health emergency.

First Nations [families](#) whose loved ones have died in custody in a March [open letter](#) called for release of people from prison and a moratorium on warrants and arrests. We support these First Nation families and urge that a strategy for release must go hand in hand with much needed changes to strategies on policing and decarceration in a pandemic. These are urgent and necessary steps to promote diversion, including access to health, social security, employment, financial services, family restoration and culturally appropriate support services.

Organisations that provide direct services to women affected by the justice system are concerned to emphasise that the organisations to which prisoners may be released urgently need additional resources as they all currently have waiting lists of clients needing their support.

We believe the release of the people from prison should not be done in a way that increases the risk of infection for those released, while also not being limited to those who have a better chance of avoiding risk. To address this, allocation of resources should ensure release is done fairly and there are supports to provide for health, economic, cultural and wellbeing needs of people who are released.

Our first two open letters to Australian governments in [March](#) and [April](#) called for the release of people from prisons to address the overcrowding that makes prisons ripe for the rapid

transmission of COVID-19. In the second open letter, detailed information was provided on state responsibilities for information, independent monitoring and release of people in prison.

**This letter continues to call for the release of people in prisons and youth detention centres through an accountable and transparent process:**

- Safe release of all vulnerable people in prisons and youth detention centres, beginning with First Nations people and people with physical and mental health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to being infected with and/or suffering serious effects of COVID-19, and particularly impacted by the restrictive lockdown and isolation measures in youth detention centres and prisons.
- Publication of data on vulnerability in prisons and youth detention centres, including in relation to First Nations people, children and young people, pregnant women, mothers and primary caregivers, victims of family violence, people with a disability, cognitive impairment and/or psycho-social impairment, people with a chronic health condition and those normally the subject of aged care, transgender and gender-diverse people and trafficked persons.
- Disclosure of information on the arrangements for release and actual release of vulnerable people in prisons and youth detention centres.
- Use of existing legal mechanisms to reduce the number of people in prisons and youth detention centres, like granting parole, administrative leave or early release for people in prison who are most at risk of serious harm from COVID-19, or the enactment and use of new laws to release people from prison.
- Provision of a presumption in favour of bail for people who are yet to be found guilty or sentenced, with suitable conditions, supports and safe housing.
- The development and urgent implementation of policies to promote community-based sentences, instead of custody.

It is vital that responses to vulnerability in all settings and contexts are examined. The governments use of extraordinary powers must be scrutinised, to enable best practice to be identified to inform future decision-making on what can be done in future to prevent, protect and respond to rights to life and health in prisons and youth detention centres.

**We further call for the provision of safe housing where needed and that release strategies ensure:**

- Testing before release and proper health care when people return to community.
- Access to safe and hygienic transport to and from prison.
- Suitable and safe housing and accommodation, including mental health and rehabilitation facilities.
- Provision of protections for victims, including housing apart from victims' homes.
- The availability of disability services, including through a comprehensive strategy for targeted engagement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) with releasees, and the provision and implementation of individualised support plans.

- Provision of targeted mental health, wellbeing and healing services.
- Access to health, child welfare, employment and financial services and supports, and the need for family restoration.
- Consistent with the calls by First Nations families, there should be cultural, social and emotional wellbeing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through proper resourcing Aboriginal-controlled organisations.
- Consultations with First Nations families and communities prior to release, so the releasee can be appropriately housed and supported

**For those remaining in prisons and youth detention centres, we urge governments to promote their health, rights and wellbeing by providing:**

- Comprehensive medical care, including:
  - ensuring that access to healthcare is prioritised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other vulnerable groups;
  - preventing discriminatory medical treatment, which has contributed to deaths in custody; and
  - access to flu vaccinations and to the COVID-19 vaccine once this becomes available.
- Widescale COVID-19 testing and urgent medical treatment for all persons who test positive, including transfers to hospitals.
- Support for the demands of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services ([NATSILS](#)) that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and family are notified immediately for all First Nations persons who test positive.
- Facilitation of ongoing welfare checks by legal services and other organisations.
- Increased and universal access to mental health and healing services, including access to NGOs that specialise in mental health and support services for prisoners and young people.
- Regular cleaning, especially in shared spaces, robust hygiene practices and the provision of sanitiser, soap, washing facilities and masks for all people in prisons and youth detention centres.
- Mandates for prison and youth detention centres staff and allied workers, including in transportation and services, to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times.
- Reduced crowding of cells, instead of segregation or isolation.
- Free, regular access to audio-visual technology to communicate with people outside.
- Appropriately socially distanced visits, with PPE, between people in prisons and youth detention centres and their families and loved ones.
- Independent and specific oversight of COVID-19 responses in prisons and youth detention centres by an independent monitoring body to supplement the visitor and Ombudsmen systems during the pandemic, to independently assess human rights compliance with powers of enforcement of recommendations. Consistent with the [NATSILS](#) statement, all governments must urgently establish National Preventative Mechanisms in accordance with OPCAT to oversee the conditions of detention and treatment of people in places of detention which must comply with international human rights standards. The mechanisms need to be culturally appropriate and safe for First Nations people.

<b>Nerita Waight</b>	<b>Co-Chair, NATSILS</b>
<b>Roxanne Moore</b>	<b>Executive Officer, NATSILS</b>
<b>David Meja-Canales</b>	<b>Senior Legal Policy Advisor, NATSILS</b>
<b>Thalia Anthony</b>	<b>Professor of Law and Criminal Justice Cluster Leader, University of Technology Sydney</b>
<b>Felicity Gerry QC</b>	<b>Professor of Law, Deakin University and QC at Crockett Chambers, Melbourne</b>
Karly Warner	CEO, Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)
Alison Verhoeven	Chief Executive, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
Carrie Fowlie	Chief Executive Officer, Hepatitis Australia
Hannah McGlade	Senior Indigenous Research Fellow, Curtin University
Carly Marcs	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Tracey Booth	Associate Professor, UTS
Steven Caruana	Coordinator, Australia OPCAT Network
Emma Golledge	Director, Kingsford Legal Centre
Bill Doogue	Director Doogue and George Criminal Defence Lawyers
Anthony Hopkins	Associate Professor, ANU College of Law, ANU
Dr Laura Bedford	Lecturer in Criminology, Deakin University
Dr Jamie Walvisch	Lecturer, Monash University
Dr Larissa Sandy	Senior Lecturer in Criminology, RMIT University
Julian R Murphy	PhD candidate, Melbourne Law School
Rebecca Wickes	Lawyer, David Barrese & Associates
Stephanie Curtis	MAE Scholar, Burnet Institute, Alfred Health and the ANU
Julie Kimber	Senior Lecturer, History & Politics, Swinburne University
Emma Russell	Senior Lecturer, Crime, Justice & Legal Studies, La Trobe University
Dr Bianca Fileborn	Lecturer in Criminology, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne
Dr Bree Carlton	Senior Lecturer Criminology Deakin University
Paul Kidd	Community Lawyer, Fitzroy Legal Service
Megan Casey	Barrister
Una Stone	Associate lecturer Criminal Justice Studies, RMIT UNiversity
Ebba Herrlander Birgerson	Researcher, University of Tasmania
Susanne Karstedt	Professor Criminology and criminal Justice
Natalie Ironfield	Indigenous Teaching Specialist and PhD Candidate in Criminology, The University of Melbourne
Elena Marchetti	Professor, Griffith Law School, Griffith University
Rob White	Distinguished Professor of Criminology, University of Tasmania
Prue Vines	Professor, UNSW Law
Rob Watts	Professor of Social Policy, RMIT University

Aidan Craney	Lecturer, Department of Social Inquiry, La Trobe University
Dr Louis Schetzer	Manager, Policy and Advocacy, Australian Lawyers Alliance
Emma Delahunty	Senior Policy Officer, Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) PhD Candidate Criminal Justice and Corrections (RMIT) Honorary Associate in the School of Psychology within the Faculty of Science (University of Sydney)
Lisanne Adam	
Dr Ian Warren	Senior Lecturer, Criminology,, Deakin University
Sophie Trevitt	Executive Officer, Change the Record
Dr Francis Markham	Research Fellow, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, The Australian National University
Farzana Choudhury	Co-Convenor, CLCs Australia Human Rights Network
Marie Segrave	Associate Professor, Monash University
Kate Fitz-Gibbon	Director, Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre Honorary Research Associate, La Trobe University; Senior Lawyer, Queensland Advocacy Inc
Dr Russell Marks	
Fiona haines	Professor of Criminology, University of Melbourne
Dave McDonald	Lecturer, Criminology, University of Melbourne
Dr Karen Crawley	Senior Lecturer, Griffith Law School
Dr Yasmine Musharbash	Senior Lecturer, School of Archaeology & Anthropology, The Australian National University
Dr Virginia Marshall	Inaugural Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow, The Australian National University
Rebecca Wickes	Associate Professor, Monash University
Patrick Horton	PhD Candidate, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney
Kathryn Henne	Professor of Regulation and Governance, The Australian National University
Dr Shelley Turner	Senior Lecturer, Social Work, Monash University
Dr Karen Gelb	Director, Karen Gelb Consulting; Lecturer, Melbourne Uni
Susan Harris Rimmer	Professor and Director of the Policy Innovation Hub
Dr Maria Giannacopoulos	Senior Lecturer Sociological Studies Flinders University
Cybele Koning	Chief Executive Officer, Caxton Legal Centre
Peta Malins	Senior Lecturer, Criminology & Justice Studies, RMIT University
Tom Kelly	former NSW Public Solicitor
Robin Cameron	Senior Lecturer, Criminology & Justice Studies, RMIT University
Suzan Cox OAM QC	Director, Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
Robyn Read	former Official Visitor, Silverwater Women's CC; former NSW MLA
Dr Kristen Davis	Lecturer, Monash University
Sarah Joseph	Professor, Griffith Law School, Griffith University Adjunct Professor, Macquarie Univeristy Law School and CEO National Justice Project
George Newhouse	
Jocelyn Jones	Senior Research Fellow, University of Western Australia

Carla Treloar	Professor, UNSW Sydney
Peter Aggleton	Emeritus Professor, UNSW Sydney
Mary Anne Kenny	Associate Professor, Murdoch University
Natalia Hanley	Senior Lecturer, University of Wollongong
Carol Lawson	Associate Lecturer, UNSW Law
Pooja Sawrikar	Senior Lecturer, School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University
L Clair Jackson	Aboriginal Advisor & Mentor, CSRH & SPRC Depts, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, UNSW
Kylie Valentine	Associate Professor, UNSW Sydney
Dr Marisela Velazquez	Visiting Academic Researcher, James Cook University
Karen Fisher	Professor, UNSW Sydney
Dylan Lino	Senior Lecturer, UQ Law School
Maddy Grant	Solicitor, Stary Norton Halphen Criminal Lawyers
Robyn Lincoln	Assistant Professor, Bond University, Gold Coast
Michael Savic	Senior Research Fellow (Addiction Studies), Monash University
Jonathon Hunyor	CEO, Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Gavin Smith	Associate Professor in Sociology, ANU
Olivera Simic	Associate Professor, Griffith Law School
Peter Young	Senior Lecturer, School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University
Brent Bell	CEO HepatitisWA
Greg Barns Fitzroy Legal Service	SC and Former National President Australian Lawyers Alliance
Karen Fletcher	Managing Lawyer Public Interest Law, Fitzroy Legal Service
Penny Hill	PhD Candidate, Burnet Institute & Monash University
Jill Faulkner	Manager Women Transforming Justice FLS
Penny Crofts	Associate Professor, University of Technology Sydney
Sophie L'Estrange	Community Development Coordinator, Fitzroy Legal Service
Martin Radzaj	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Tom Battersby	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Jenny Crosbie	Coordinator, Reintegration Puzzle Conference, Deakin University
Rod Madgwick QC	Retired judge
Laura Button	Program Coordinator, Women's Leadership Group, Fitzroy Legal Service
Kate Lewins	Professor of Law, Murdoch University
David Brown	Professor of Law, UNSW
John McKenzie	Solicitor, NSW.
Julien Lowy	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Nick Mutton	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Campbell Thomson	Barrister, Victorian Bar

Anna Copeland	Associate Professor, School of Law, Murdoch University
David McDonald	Director, Social Research & Evaluation Pty Limited
Edwina Wright	Assoc Professor, Infectious Diseases Specialist, Alfred Health, Monash University
Elizabeth GRANT	Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, RMIT University
Dr Lydia Wells	Lecturer, School of Law, Murdoch University
Scott Wilson	CEO, Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA
Tim Cadman	Research Fellow, Law Futures Centre, Griffith University
Bonnie Millen	Senior Policy Advisor
Hilde Tubex	Associate Professor University of Western Australia Law School
Jennifer Keene-McCann	Solicitor (VIC), Academic, Registered Migration Agent
Beth King	Senior Community Lawyer, Fitzroy Legal Service
Stephanie Tzanetis	DanceWize Program Coordinator, Harm Reduction Victoria
Nyenpiu Mayor	Advocate WLG, Fitzroy Legal Service
Dr Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron	Senior researcher, Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies, University of Tasmania
Elisa Buggy	Executive Officer, Flat Out
Kieran Tranter	Chair of Law, Technology and Future, School of Law, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology
Yuvisthi Naidoo	Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW
Terry Slevin	CEO, Public Health Association of Australia
Professor Tony Butler	Convenor, Justice Health Special Interest Group, PHAA
Dr Ingrid Johnston	Senior Policy Officer, PHAA
Tamara Tulich	Senior Lecturer, UWA Law School
Ruth Parker	Principal, Galbally Parker Lawyers
Dr Hugh Lowy	Psychiatrist
Michelle Barclay	Solicitor, Canberra Community Law
Dr John Rogers	Principal Fellow, University of Melbourne
Peter Sainsbury	Public health physician
Margaret Cherry	Public health member
Julianne Sanders	Business Development Manager, SHINE for Kids
Jennifer Nielsen	Associate Professor, School of Law & Justice, Southern Cross University
Joni Meenagh	Lecturer, Criminology and Justice Studies, RMIT University
Yvette Holt	Casual Lecturer and Tutor, School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University
Amy McDonald	Project Officer, Cancer Council WA
James Stevens-Cutler	Campaign Coordinator, Cancer Council WA
Geoffrey Manion	Senior Lecturer, School of Law and Justice, SCU
Belinda Carpenter	Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Law, QUT



Dr Ruth McCausland	Senior Research Fellow, UNSW Sydney
Human Rights Law Centre	
Monique Hurley	Senior Lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre
Corinne Dobson	Co-founder, Australia OPCAT Network
Stephanie Jowett	Lecturer, Law School, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane
Dr Alyce McGovern	Associate Professor in Criminology, School of Social Sciences, UNSW Sydney
Dr Kylie Pappalardo	Senior Lecturer, Law, School, Queensland University of Technology
Dr Jennifer Balint	Associate Professor, Criminology, University of Melbourne
Rebecca Irvine	Social Worker, Canberra Community Law
Hope Johnson	Senior Lecturer, Law School, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane
Dr Emma Campbell	Chief Executive Officer, ACT Council of Social Service
Prof Bronwyn Naylor	Graduate School of Business and Law, RMIT University
Lina Pugh	Operations Manager, Doors Wide Open, Bunbury
Chris Oldham	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Mark Burdon	Associate Professor, School of Law, Queensland University of Technology
Gary Dowsett	Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University
Chris Bourke	Strategic Programs Director, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
Dr Katie Woolaston	Lecturer, Law School, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane
Geoffrey Manion	Senior Lecturer, School of Law and Justice SCU
Helen Oxenburgh-Lowe	
Dr Kate van Doore	Senior Lecturer, Griffith Law School, Griffith University
Harm Reduction Australia	
Noel P Muller	Justice Advocate
Eddie Cubillo	Senior Indigenous Fellow
Robert Stary	Partner, Stary Norton Halphen
Simon Moodie	Solicitor
Courtney Hart	Lawyer
Wilfred Prest	Professor Emeritus of History and of Law
Jane Anderson	Honorary Research Fellow, University of Western Australia; Scholar-Facilitator of Restorative Justice
Heidi Phillips	Justice Advocate
Tessa Di Paolo	Lawyer
Giada Girelli	Human Rights Analyst, Harm Reduction International
Michelle O'Flynn	Director, Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
Fran Gale	<u>Senior Lecturer, School of Social Science, Western Sydney University</u>
Jeremy Boland	CEO, Positive Youth Incorporated

Mai Sato	Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Monash University
Robyn Oxley	Lecturer, Criminology, Western Sydney University
Michael Bryden	Research Associate (criminologist), Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research (UTS)
Simone Bignall	Senior Researcher, Jumbunna Hub for Indigenous Nations and Collaborative Futures, UTS
John Feneley	Former NSW Mental Health Commissioner
Jamal Barnes	Lecturer, School of Arts and Humanities, Edith Cowan University
Lisa Durnian	Lecturer. School of Justice, QUT
Jacqueline Homel	Lecturer. School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University
James Ogilvie	Research Fellow. Griffith Criminology Institute, Griffith University
Harry Blagg	Professor, Criminology, University of Western Australia
Michelle Newcomb	Lecturer, Queensland University of Technology
Emma Rees	PhD Student, Queensland University of Technology
Steve Hemming	Associate Professor, Jumbunna, Indigenous Nations and Collaborative Futures Research Hub
Amy Brennan	Senior Public Defender, Victoria Legal Aid
Dr Grace O'Brien	Lecturer/Researcher Faculty of Education Queensland University of Education
Paul Perovic	PhD student, Queensland University of Technology
Jodi Death	Senior Lecturer QUT Centre for Justice
Angela Higginson	Senior Lecturer, Criminology, School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology
Dr Mindy Sotiri	Director Advocacy Policy and Research, Community Restorative Centre
Genevieve Dally	Executive Director, Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council
Baylie Hemming	Actor and Justice Advocate
Jon Stanhope AO	Adjunct Professor, Institute of Policy and Governance
Dora Anthony	Lecturer in Law, University of Wollongong
Alana Piper	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Technology Sydney
Andreas Schloenhardt	Professor of Criminal Law, The University of Queensland, The University of Vienna
Sarah Condon	Lawyer, Stary Norton Halphen Criminal Law Specialists
Tamara Walsh	Professor of Law, University of Queensland
Dr Mary Iliadis	Lecturer in Criminology, Deakin University
Dr Andy Kaladelfos	Senior Lecturer in Criminology, UNSW
Cait Storr	Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Technology Sydney
John Murray	Positive Justice Centre
Sam Biondo	Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association
Dr Michael Kilmister	Historian, University of Newcastle
Leanne Weber	Associate Professor, Monash University
Dr Janet Hunt	Associate Professor, Australian National University
Dr Marilyn McMahon	Professor of Law, Deakin University

Dr Anna Eriksson	Associate Professor in Criminology, Monash University
Chloe Span	Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia
Julie Stubbs	Professor, co-Director, Centre for Crime, Law & Justice, UNSW Law
Matthw Zagor	Associate Professor, ANU College of Law, Australian National University
Dr Faith Gordon	International Youth Justice Network
Dr Julie Rudner	Convenor Community Planning and Development, La Trobe University
Kerry Weste	President, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
Ryan Gonzalez	Actor and Justice advocate
Davinia Rizzo	Research Officer, Monash University
Michelle O'Flynn	Director, Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
Gelisa Phillips	Purchasing Officer and Justice advocate
Dr Gavin Smith	Associate Professor, School of Sociology, ANU
Dr Wayne Sanderson	Justice advocate
Dr Jill Guthrie	Senior Researcher, research school of population health, Australian National University
Odette Shenfield	Lawyer, Fitzroy Legal Service
Ryan Stewart	Actor/Masters student University of Melbourne and Justice advocate
Amie Hancock	Barrister, Victorian bar
Robert O'Neill	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Karen Chibert	Barrister, Victorian bar
Carly Stanley	CEO & Founder - Deadly Connections
Keenan Mundine	Co-Founder & Ambassador - Deadly Connections
Zachary Alaimo	Secondary School Teacher and Justice advocate
Peter Higgs	Associate Professor, Department of Public Health La Trobe University
Jade McDonald	Family and Youth Specialist, Deadly Connections Community and Justice Services Limited
Jarrold Draper	Actor and Justice advocate
Sally Andersen	Sessional Lecturer, Law Faculty, Monash University
Mackenzie Dunn	Actor and Justice advocate
Karen Soldatic	Associate Professor, Western Sydney University
Graham Droppert	Barrister, National President, Australian Lawyers Alliance
Elizabeth Evatt AC	
Suzanne Reich	Senior Lecturer, School of Law and Justice, USQ, Toowoomba
Kelsi Boyden	Actor and Justice advocate
Andrew Steen	Justice advocate
Patricia Dudgeon	Professor, UWA School of Indigenous Studies, Director Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSIISP) and Transforming Indigenous Mental Health & Wellbeing (TIMHW)
Cassandra Generoso	Lawyer, Leanne Warren & Associates
Mark Stoove	Professor, Head of Pubic Heath, Head of Justice Health Research Program, Burnet Institute

John Braithwaite	Australian National University
Matt Hirst	Arts Administrator and Justice advocate
Joannah Dias	Enrolled Nurse and Justice advocate
Dr Lorana Bartels	Professor of Criminology, ANU; Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Canberra and University of Tasmania
Troy Lester	Teacher's Aide and Justice advocate
Trudy Dunn	Educator/Theatre Director and justice advocate
Lyndon Watts	Actor and justice advocate
Rhys Velasquez	Actor and justice advocate
Patrick Burton	Research associate University of Tasmania
Mikey Halcrow	Actor and justice advocate
Dr Mary Ellen Harrod	CEO, NSW Users and AIDS Association
ANTaR ACT	ANTaR ACT Committee
Rishi Nathwani	Barrister, Victorian Bar & Bar of England and Wales
Dr Diana Johns	Senior Lecturer in Criminology, The University of Melbourne
Aidan Puglielli	Artist and justice advocate
Jonathon Havakis	Artist and justice advocate
Glenn Broome	Justice advocate
Ashley Roussety	Actor and justice advocate
Derai McDonald	Student, La Trobe University
Sandra Wendlandt	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Dr Christina Malatzky	Senior Lecturer, QUT
Kaori Maeda-Judge	Actor and justice advocate Lecturer, Griffith University Law School; Director, Griffith University Innocence Project
Robyn Blewer	Innocence Project
Olivia Charalambous	Actor and justice advocate
Mandy Wilson	Research Fellow, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University
Sharon Millerchip	Actor and justice advocate
Ryan Tate	Stage Manager and justice advocate
Michaela Kalowski	Interviewer/ presenter
Patrick Whitbread	Actor and justice advocate
George Demitrios	Community Manager
Johann Ollquist	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Mary Spiers Williams	Sub Dean Australian Indigenous Studies, ANU
Luisa Scrofani	Actor and justice advocate
Isabella Ferrer	Justice advocate
Dr Anton Symkovych	Lecturer in Criminology, University of Melbourne
Nancy Denis	Artist and justice advocate

Tomas Parrish	Actor and justice advocate
Katie Long	Actor and justice advocate
Dr Danièle Hromek	Lecturer, QUT
Freya Magee	Graphic Designer and justice advocate
Lachlan Geary	Hospitality Worker and justice advocate
Dr Robin Fitzgerald	Senior Lecturer in Criminology, UQ
Rohan Lawrence	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Rita Metzenrath	Librarian and justice advocate
Anna Canillas	Arts Administrator and justice advocate
Alexandra Baxter	PhD Candidate Criminology/Law and Casual Teacher in the College of BGL, Flinders University
Ronald Behlau	Criminal Lawyer - Behlau Murakami Grant & Adjunct Lecturer - Griffith University Innocence Project
Tanya Miles	Producer and justice advocate
Alison Whittaker	Senior Researcher, Jumbunna Institute
Janet Ransley	Professor, Griffith Criminology Institute
Kerstin Wallace	Tour Guide and Company Director, Canberra
Dr Jennifer Davidson	Associate Lecturer, Social Work, University of Melbourne
John Killick	Author and justice advocate
Eileen Baldry FASSA	Deputy Vice-Chancellor Equity Diversity and Inclusion and Professor of Criminology
Bruce Christensen	Associate Professor, Associate Director (Clinical), Director of Clinical Training, ANU School of Psychology
Patrick Burton	Research associate University of Tasmania
Alison Gerard	Professor and Head of Canberra Law School, University of Canberra
Phillipa Evans	Lecturer Social Work UNSW
Chris Cunneen	Professor, Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, UTS Adjunct Associate Professor, Crime, Justice and Legal Studies, La Trobe University
Susanne Davies	University
Brodie Evans	Visiting Fellow, School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology
Lily Baulderstone	Actor and justice advocate
Jemma Allen	Musician and justice advocate
Noah Janssen	Actor and justice advocate
Linda Steele	Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney
Stephen Gray	Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Monash University
Teagan Nowicki	Actor and justice advocate
Ana Vrdoljak	Professor, Faculty of Law, UTS
Tayla Johnston	Business Owner and justice advocate
Thea Gumbert	Registered Psychologist, PhD Candidate (UNSW and Charles Sturt University)
Dr Alysia Brooks	LawAid International
Eric Rasmussen	Singer / Actor and justice advocate

Sage Douglas	Actor and justice advocate
Annamaree Freeland	Actor and justice advocate
Nicole Spicer	Consultant lawyer, Stary Norton Halphen
Catia Malvaso	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Adelaide
Jake Fryer Hornsby	Actor and justice advocate
Jennifer McGarvie	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Rabea Khan	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Penelope Weller	Professor, RMIT University
Elena Pappas	CEO, Law and Advocacy Centre for Women Ltd
Laura Grenfell	Associate Professor, University of Adelaide
Anthony Kelly	Executive Officer, Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre
Julia Kretzenbacher	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Andrew Norris	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Robert Richter QC	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Sarah-Jane Olsen	Executive Officer, Hepatitis ACT
Thomas Kane	Company Director and justice advocate
Bridget Harris	Senior Lecturer, School of Justice, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology
Alex Reilly	Professor, School of Law, University of Adelaide
Katie Soldau	Software Engineer and justice advocate
Shannen Quan	Actor and justice advocate
Megan Kozak	Theatre Administration
Dr Sara Dehm	Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney
Emma Colvin	Senior Lecturer, Centre for Law and Justice, Charles Sturt University
Kate Swaffer	Researcher, University of Wollongong
Andreea Lachs	Churchill Fellow
Georgia Schmidt-Stewart	Occupational Therapy Student
Julian Burnside	Liberty Victoria
Emma-Buckley Lennox	Rights Advocacy Project
Kon Karapanatitidis (OAM)	CEO, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Brionee Noonan	Coordinator, Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT)
Louise Weber	Secretariat, Aboriginal Housing NT
Katrina Byrne	Organiser, Community and Public Sector Union
Johnson Doan	Partnerships, The Museum of Freedom and Tolerance
Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei	Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT
Rawan Arraf	Principal Lawyer and Director, Australian Centre for International Justice

Melanie Walker	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
Eugene Schofield-Georgeson	Lecturer in Law, University of Technology Sydney
Lucy Orr	Actor and justice advocate
Melissa Twyford	Community Organiser, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (NSW)
Jane Bolitho	Senior Lecturer in Criminology UNSW Sydney
Gai Walker	Managing Director, SCALES Community Legal Centre
Asia Swida	Restorative Justice Convener, Open Circle, Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT
Courtney Hart	Stary, Norton Halphern
Tony Trood	Justice advocate
Colleen Gibbs	Executive Officer, National (Indigenous) Health Leadership Forum
Nat Purcell	Researcher, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney
Jesuit Social Services	
Mina Hilson	Centre Manager, Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University
Joannie Lee	State Coordinator, Democracy in Colour
Bill Bush	President, Families & Friends for Drug Law Reform
Gemma Sentance	PhD Candidate, Law, University of Technology Sydney
Sione Crawford	CEO, Harm Reduction Victoria
Haidee Noonan	CQI/ PHMO Admin Officer, AMSANT
Nicola Flook	Policy and Advocacy Manager NT, Jesuit Social Services
Sally Gray	Group Convenor, Jesuit Social Services
Elle Jackson	Manager Justice Programs NT - Jesuit Social Services
Caroline Spiranovic	Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Tasmania
David Woodroffe	Principal Legal Officer, North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA)
Brett Morgan	Climate Campaigner
Katherine Biber	Professor of Law, UTS
Hannah Purdy	Housing and Homelessness Campaigner
Marie Gonzalez	Teachers Aid and justice advocate
Max Bimbi	Actor and justice advocate
Russell Goldflam	Lawyer
Ruth Barson	Director, Human Rights Law Centre
Michelle Bennett	Communications Director, Human Rights Law Centre
Blazey Best	Actor and justice advocate
Ally Lillian Steel	Justice advocate
Tom Davis	Actor and justice advocate
David Cooper	Research Advocacy Policy Manager, AMSANT
Heather Pickard	Chief Executive Officer, SHARC
Hannah Solomons	PhD Student, Criminology
Dr Sharon Shalev	SolitaryConfinement.org

John Truscott	Artist and justice advocate
Sholto Buck	PhD Candidate
Riley Ellard	Senior Adviser, Centre for Innovative Justice (RMIT University)
Elena Campbell	Justice advocate
Dr Devin Bowles	CEO, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT
Holly Doel-Mackaway	Senior Lecturer in Law, Macquarie University
Cecily Hollingworth	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Daniel Barnett	Seconded Lawyer, Human Rights Law Centre
Kris Wilson	Lecturer of Law, UTS
David Carolan	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Anthea Vogl	Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UTS
Veronika Drago	Barrister, Victorian Bar
Katelin Haynes	CEO, Hepatitis Queensland
Dr Scott Avery	Research Community Partner, First Peoples Disability Network and Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University
Daryle Rigney	Professor and Director, Indigenous Nations and Collaborative Futures, Jumbunna UTS
Sophie Russell	Research Fellow and Doctoral Candidate, Faculty of Law and Jumbunna, UTS
Stephen R Drew	Chief Executive Officer, Hepatitis NSW