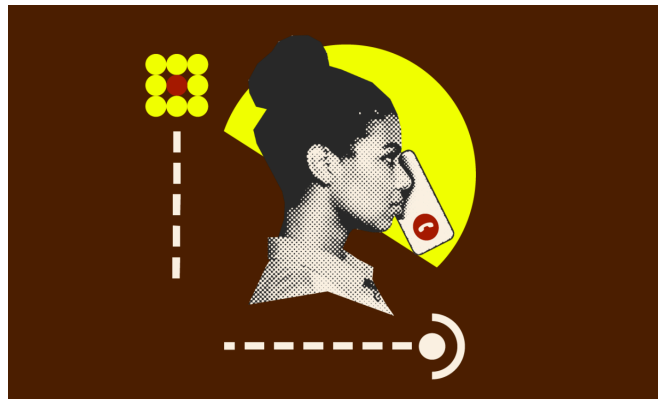


[View in browser](#)

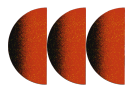
“I've been in situations where I needed to be able to call someone other than police for assistance. We need that option accessible and funded!”

- Alternative First Responder (AFR) Supporter



Life doesn't stop at 5pm so why do our support services?

The 24/7 nature of policing has had a significant influence on their perceived legitimacy as a first response. When we need support, or we find ourselves in situations of distress, why is there only one available option after office hours? [Read more](#)



Rethink: Rebuild

Brief facts with big impact to help build a better response.

"In Victoria every 10 minutes, someone is in need of mental health assistance, that is then being responded to by police."

[Alternative First Responders Position Paper](#)

National Updates

Abdifatah Ahmed was fatally shot by police in Footscray on April 17 while sleeping rough. Specialist homelessness services and culturally safe supports are essential pillars in preventing such tragedies. [Read Council to Homeless Persons \(CHP\) Statement](#)

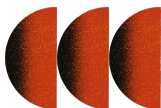
Between May 2023 and January 2024 four fatal police shootings and an incident of lethal use of a taser on a 95 year old woman occurred. Clare Nowland was a great-grandmother who had symptoms of dementia when she was fatally tasered by police officer Kristian White. In March this year, White was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to a 2 year correction order. [Read Article](#)

Community News

"We cannot afford a future defined by continued 'shows of force'. What we truly need is a show of hope, care, and community investment." [Berhan Ahmed calls for justice and police accountability](#) after fatal police shooting in Naarm. We urgently need courageous policy and commitments from leadership at all levels to drive community-led solutions.



Next Thursday 19th of June, join the National Justice Project [In Conversation: The State of Justice in the United States](#) with Co-founder Michael 'Dan' Mori, Principal Solicitor Ashleigh Buckett and Alternative First Responder Campaign Lead Chloe Fragos. [Register Now](#)



In Focus: Research

"Advocates widely acknowledged that **the development and implementation of alternatives to the use of police as first responders was a realistic, viable and achievable option**. Reflecting the findings from the literature review, many advocates noted that despite decades of police training, they had observed 'little change' in police responses to people with disability." [Research Report - Police responses to people with disability](#)

Top Links: From the AFR Team



- [Community Directory of Alternative First Responders](#) reveals the powerful possibilities that emerge when we begin to rethink the first response - centering community, dignity and diversity. This approach to accessible and appropriate care is something we urgently need in Australia.
- A big thank you to Olympic athlete and mental health advocate [Marissa Pohlman](#) for signing the pledge and showing her support on our social channels.
- NBA players, coaches, team governors, and executives are fighting for racial equality, social justice and an [alternative first response to police](#). We would love to see the same courage from our Australian sports teams.



Take Action

Thank you for all the support so far! The Alternative First Responder campaign is building momentum, help us take the conversation further by sharing on social media and online, why alternative first responders matter. [Download Tiles](#)

In the Media

- [Life Matters ABC Radio National](#) Radio Interview, 3 June 2025
- [ABC 7.30 Report](#) TV Interview, 27 May 2025

You can follow our media commentary at www.alternativefirstresponders.com.au/news



We acknowledge that we live and work on the lands of First Nations Peoples, and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Our Sydney office is located on the lands of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, whose sovereignty was never ceded. This land always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

To keep up to date with our strategic legal action and advocacy, visit our website at justice.org.au or follow us on your preferred social media platform.



We are also on [Bluesky](#)



If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe to our mailing list, [click here](#)



P: +61 2 9514 4440
E: afr@justice.org.au
www.justice.org.au

Mailing Address: PO Box 123, Broadway
NSW 2007