



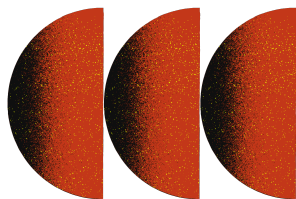
“I'm a primary school teacher and in the community where I work there is a distrust towards police. It's important to have another port of call where people can access the support they need, when they need it! ”

- Alternative First Responder (AFR) Supporter



The School-to-Prison Pipeline

As rightly stated in the *School Exclusion Project Report*, the school-to-prison-pipeline exists here in Australia and can be defined as ‘systemic setbacks that gradually shepherd students away from positive school connections and academic success and into increasing criminal activity’. [Read Blog](#)



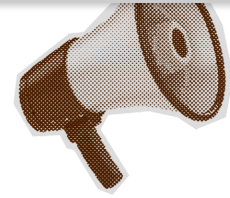
Rethink: Rebuild

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

“Calling on police to respond to issues such as student behaviour or attendance is linked to the school-to-prison-pipeline, in which marginalised youths who have contact with law enforcement in school are more likely to experience prison time as adults”

[Read the Position Paper](#)

National Updates



[Alternatives not quasi-policing](#) - our formal statement calling for the Northern Territory Government to retain and invest in alternative first responders that are unarmed and trained in care, de-escalation, and harm reduction.

[Yoorrook Justice Commission](#) the first and only truth-telling commission, designed and led by First Peoples, in Australia has handed down its final report, calling on the Victorian government to implement major reforms to redress ongoing systemic injustices, including the drastic need to reduce contact between First Nations young people and police.

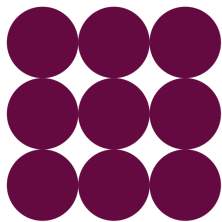
In an [open letter](#) to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Walpiri Elder Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves calls for urgent action in addressing ongoing over-policing, the criminalisation of disability, and the defunding of community-led justice initiatives.

[The NSW Legislative Assembly Interim Report \(2025\)](#) recommended that the NSW Government prioritise funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to support effective early intervention.

Recommendation 19 recognised the positive outcomes of ACCOs, when adequately resourced, to deliver community-based responses that police are not equipped to provide.

Community News

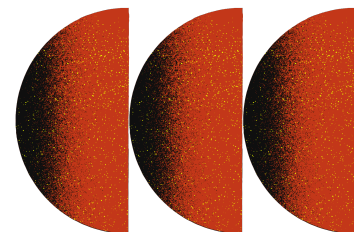
The Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) reported that, in Walgett, police are currently 'used as the response to all issues of public safety'. ***“We have witnessed first-hand the damage of a police-led response to a public health crisis and we are worse off. I know what this is doing to our young people and their future life-prospects.”*** - DEG Elder Virginia Robinson.



[Read the DEG's submission](#) to the NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety Inquiry into Community Safety in Regional and Rural Communities.

Ahead of NAIDOC Week Ronald Bin Swami speaks out on youth justice. ***“I want the Department of Justice or the government to listen to the voices of young people and understand that the decisions you're making might not be the best for these young people.”*** - [Ronald Bin Swami](#)

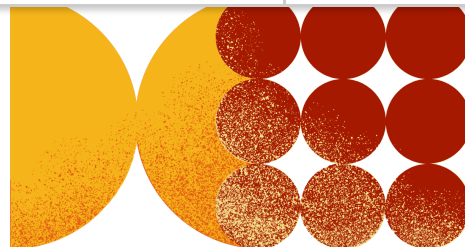
In Focus: Research



The Smart Justice for Young People (SJ4YP) coalition [‘Working together’ Report](#), recommends the complete removal of police from schools, and calls for investment in supportive, community-led alternatives that prioritise student wellbeing and human rights.

Our feature article this month is co-authored by National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC) and informed by the research in their [‘The School Exclusion Project Report’](#) 2024.

Top Links: From the AFR Team



- [NPR Podcast: The Fifth branch](#) explores how a city radically changes its response to people in crisis.
 - [NAIDOC, Strength, Vision, Legacy](#) - Celebrate 50 years of powerful themes, proud resistance and community strength with this NAIDOC Week word search.
 - [The Art Gallery of NSW NAIDOC Program](#) celebrates and recognises the history, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a series of exhibitions, films, workshops and talks.
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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

- [NAAJA calls for 'emergency intervention'](#)
- [Yoorook Truth Telling Inquiry](#)



THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

6-13 JULY 2025

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We are also on [Bluesky](#)



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

ALTERNATIVE FIRST RESPONDERS

P: +61 2 9514 4440

E: afr@justice.org.au

www.justice.org.au

Mailing Address: PO Box 123, Broadway
NSW 2007

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