



● OPEN LETTER

Victorian Government
called out for neglecting
abuse towards children
in youth prisons

Reports of **human rights abuses** have emerged from Victoria's youth prisons, including:

- **solitary confinement** on children up to 22 hours a day, and;
- the use of **spit-hooding** on a 17-year old Aboriginal child in an adult prison.

20 January marks one year since the VIC, NSW and QLD governments missed the deadline to meet Australia's obligations to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

OPCAT requires independent oversight, monitoring and inspections of all places of detention, including police cells, prisons and youth prisons.

A portrait of Nerita Waight, CEO of Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, is shown on the left side of the image. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking slightly to the right. The background behind her is dark with some circular patterns. On the right side, there is a large orange vertical bar. Overlaid on the right side is a quote in white text with some words highlighted in orange boxes. The quote is: "Victoria is continuing to fail to protect the basic human rights of Aboriginal children, young people and adults who are incarcerated. Victoria must show leadership to establish independent oversight, rather than building new prisons."

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Victoria is continuing to fail to protect the basic human rights of Aboriginal children, young people and adults who are incarcerated.

Victoria must show leadership to establish independent oversight, rather than building new prisons.

Nerita Waight

CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service



The Victorian Government must stop giving the cold shoulder to children subjected to human rights abuses in prisons, implement OPCAT and end brutal prison practices - like solitary confinement - once and for all.

Monique Hurley

Managing Lawyer, Human Rights Law Centre

We have written to the Victorian Government urging them to implement OPCAT to **stop harm in places of detention.**

Support our work towards a future where **no child grows up in prison.**

Change the Record

Victorian Aboriginal Controlled
Community Health Organisation

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Smart Justice for Young People

Human Rights Law Centre

Centre for Multicultural Youth

Federation of Community Legal
Centres

Humanists Victoria

Jesuit Social Services

Law & Advocacy Centre for Women

Liberty Victoria

Melbourne City Mission

Rights Advocacy Project

Uniting Church (VIC/TAS)

Victorian Mental Illness Advisory
Council

Council

WestJustice

Youth Affairs Council Victoria

Youthlaw