

# Submission on the ALRC inquiry into the incarceration rate of Indigenous Australians

## Your details

<b>Name/organisation</b> <i>(if you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of a contact person)</i>	Telethon Kids Institute
<b>Contact details</b> <i>(one or all of the following: postal address, email address or phone number)</i>	[Contact details redacted]

## Publication of submissions

In meeting the Australian Government's commitment to enhancing the accessibility of published material, the Attorney-General's Department will only publish submissions to this website that have been submitted electronically. The following formats are preferred:

- Microsoft Word
- Rich Text Format (RTF)
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Would you prefer this submission to remain confidential? NO

## Your submission

Insert your text here and submit it as an electronic Word document.

It is requested that submissions are limited to comments about the terms of reference. There will be opportunities to make submissions directly to the ALRC on relevant issues and possible recommendations during the course of the inquiry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft terms of reference for the ALRC Inquiry into the incarceration rate of Indigenous Australians. As researchers and clinicians at the Telethon Kids Institute, we have been involved in research on and assessment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in the juvenile justice system.

We suggest that the terms of reference include a specific focus on the neuro-developmental impairments (including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) experienced by Indigenous Australians who are incarcerated, particularly children and young people.

Although the draft terms of reference have a broad scope, which we support, we also support the specific proposals put forward by the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, namely;

- Explicit terms of reference to highlight Aboriginal children and young people as a key population group to be consulted as part of the Inquiry;
- Explicit terms of reference to recognise the strong correlation between children and young people's participation in criminal activity and their experience of neglect and abuse; and
- Identifying the need for the ALRC to conduct its own research into current evidence and models of early intervention and rehabilitation.

In addition, we suggest inclusion of school attendance (as well as access and performance); and speech, language and communication disorders, in the broader contextual factors relating to offending and incarceration.

We look forward making a full submission to the Inquiry at the appropriate time.