

## FED party positions on JR

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### Abstract

The policies of the three major parties in the area of justice reinvestment have been sought. One Nation and Australia's Voice at national level were also asked for their party policies, which were provided.

### Policies on justice reinvestment

[Australian Prison Reform Journal](#) asked the major parties for their policy on justice reinvestment, which is considered by the [Journal](#) to be the main way in which the root causes of crime can be tackled and our high rates of incarceration reduced. It is also the main way in which the overrepresentation of First Nations peoples in the criminal justice system can be addressed and the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people closed. The following parties have returned their policies:

#### Australian Labor Party

Hon Michelle Rowland MP—Attorney-General

Party position:

Please see two resources which may provide the information you are after regarding justice reinvestment:

- [Justice Reinvestment | Attorney-General's Department](#)
- [Address to NSW Labor Lawyers](#)

#### Liberal National Party of Australia

Mr Andrew Wallace MP—Shadow Attorney-General

Party position:

No response after 1 request (prior to that, previous Shadow Attorney-Generals Senator Michaelia Cash and then Julian Leeser were asked for the party policy, but there were no responses after 4 requests each).

### **Australian Greens**

Senator David Shoebridge, Spokesperson for Justice

Party position:

The Greens strongly support justice reinvestment and measures to reduce incarceration of particularly First Nations people and young people.

Our primary concern is that currently what is called Justice Reinvestment isn't being funded by money removed from the prison and justice system. For it to really be effective this is an important precondition. David's speech on this including some examples of organisations we specifically work with is available here - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sEzkzvW5zGz-QucO2aBLmGZm1i7PEe-6/view?usp=sharing>

Young people are particularly important for considering how justice reinvestment could work.

The Greens will increase the age of legal responsibility across the country from 10 to at least 14.

Instead of jailing children for minor crimes, our plan will support children through culturally safe and supportive diversionary programs, mental health and support services as well as supportive bail and community corrections programs to divert young people aged 14 and over away from prisons.

We will also fund the creation of a roadmap for the closure of child prisons around Australia in recognition of the fact that decades of evidence shows they continue to breach the fundamental rights of young people and do not help young people rejoin society. Investing the funds from these prisons back into the community through justice reinvestment focussing on at risk children will benefit society more broadly.

The roadmap would be created by a funding allocation of \$50 million to the Attorney General's Department to create a national plan for the closure of children's prisons. Labor at a State level, including in NSW, Victoria and Queensland, have been strong

proponents of “law and order” responses to community issues and this has put more young people in prisons.

With the NT Government lowering the age of criminal responsibility back to 10 years the Federal Labor Government has taken no steps to ensure children in that jurisdiction are not brutalised. In some jurisdictions Labor has claimed to support raising the age to 12. In Victoria a promise to raise the age from 10 to 14 was reversed by Jacinta Allen. In the ACT Labor and the Greens together have raised the age - initially to 12 and then eventually to 14 with a package of reforms to provide alternatives to prison. The ACT has invested in the alternatives to prison and provides the clearest blueprint for national reform.

The Greens will also:

- Implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture to ensure oversight in all prisons and places of detention
- Invest in federal monitoring and reporting of Deaths in Custody
- Deliver independent police oversight in every jurisdiction
- Fully fund legal assistance through legal aid, community legal centres, women’s legal services and NATSILS
- Provide \$100 million over the forward estimates to implement all the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, in partnership with First Nations people, particularly the families left behind after a death in custody.
- We will also implement the recommendations from the Australian Law Reform Commission’s Pathway to Justice report on how to end the over-imprisonment of First Nations people, including by establishing a justice reinvestment coordinating body.
- We will work with affected communities to ensure the recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory are also implemented.

It is estimated that the implementation of these programs would result in a significant reduction in costs on the justice system over the medium and long term.

We support the recommendations from the recent National Children's Commissioner's report into youth justice call "Help Way Earlier" including a national taskforce on youth justice.

We are committed to investing in legal support and oversight of police and prisons because the justice system should be fair for all, not just those who can afford it.

As a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, Australia has an obligation to implement a strong, culturally appropriate, and independent prison oversight system across the country. Many years after we signed the Convention, this system still isn't working.

The Greens will provide \$382m over four years, with an equal contribution of funding from the states and territories to set up an OPCAT monitoring system so that all imprisoned people have their human rights respected and affirmed while in custody.

We will provide modest but essential increase in funding to the Australian Institute of Criminology of \$1 million per year to:

- Expand the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) to include known details of those who have died, and
- Ensure the real time data collection and reporting of data from all jurisdictions regarding police shootings including circumstances, victim information and outcomes if any, even where these have not resulted in fatalities, and publication on a dashboard.

Knowledge and understanding of deaths and custody is essential for understanding the harms created by the justice system and addressing these. This has been a consistent recommendation from Royal Commissions, coronial inquests, parliamentary inquiries and academics.

Because equitable access to justice is essential in a fair society, the Greens will double federal funding from 2024 levels under the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) for legal assistance services like Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, community legal centres, women's legal services, Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, and legal

aid commissions, costing around \$490 million per year (taking into account the modest increases Labor has committed to in the recent budget).

The Greens see justice reinvestment as both a practical and symbolic response to the toxic law and order based political attacks of other parties. We know it responds to the evidence, we know it works and we know it is how we keep communities safe.

### **One Nation**

Senator Pauline Hanson, Party Leader (Australian Parliament, representing QLD)

Party position:

One Nation does not have a specific, stand-alone policy regarding justice reinvestment however our crime policy at the Queensland state election in 2024 and the crime policy we are taking to the 2026 South Australian election have related elements.

We have advocated integrating proven redirection/intervention programs for at-risk youth in state justice systems. For young people unsuitable for such programs due to issues such as mental health or drug and alcohol abuse, we advocate appropriate counselling and support.

In Queensland in 2024, we primarily referred to [Operation Hard Yakka](#) as a successful example of such programs in the state. This remains our policy in Queensland. In addition, One Nation advocated to locate such programs at a former education facility on Noth Keppel Island. We have also worked with Operation Hard Yakka, currently based on the Fraser Coast, to establish a second operation in the vicinity of Cairns. For more information please visit our Queensland policy page: [Tackling Crime - ONE NATION QUEENSLAND](#)

Our policy for South Australia is essentially the same, only it refers to [Operation Flinders](#). We have not yet published it online as the South Australian party website is still under development, however there was a [story](#) published about it in the *Adelaide Advertiser* based on a media release I have attached to this email.

Attachment as described in last paragraph of letter:

### **Accountability the key to arrest repeat youth offending**

**24 July 2025**

The Malinuaskas Labor government needs to introduce real accountability to victims and the community for an effective crack down on repeat youth offenders.

One Nation SA president Carlos Quaremba said making repeat offenders make restitution to victims, and requiring magistrates who make poor bail decisions justify them to an empowered community panel, were key elements of a law and order policy his party would take to the state election next year.

“Our priority – and this should be the priority for any government – is the safety of the community and that means keeping repeat offenders off the streets,” Mr Quaremba said. “If that means we need more youth detention capacity then so be it; that’s a price we must pay to keep the community safe.

“We will advocate that repeat offenders also be required to make financial restitution to victims of property crime as part of their rehabilitation. In those cases where the offender is a minor and parental neglect is determined to be a factor in the offending, parents would also be required to make restitution. That is true accountability.

“In many cases, the South Australian community has been left wondering what some magistrates or judges were thinking when they allow serious repeat offenders back on the streets. Our policy also includes the establishment of a panel with members of the community and legal experts before which magistrates would be required to appear to justify bailing a repeat offender who commits another crime while on bail.

“These hearings would be open and transparent, with the panel providing a report with recommendations that will be tabled in Parliament by the Attorney-General. The community has a right to know why decisions which endanger the community are made.”

Mr Quaremba said One Nation would also advocate for the integration of proven intervention programs for at-risk youth in the justice system.

“Programs like Operation Flinders have a tremendous success rate in turning around the lives of troubled young people,” he said. “Not every repeat youth offender will be suitable

to refer to such a program, but where it's appropriate we will advocate for repeat youth offenders to be referred in an effort to prevent more offending."

**ENDS**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Carlos Quaremba 0419 044 744**

Senator Sean Bell, Party Whip in the Senate (Australian Parliament, representing NSW)

Party position:

One Nation's position is firm on Strengthening Justice for offenders and advocating for further support of victims of crime.

Please refer to our policy for further information.

<https://nsw.onenation.org.au/crime>

*[Note: Neither description of the One Nation policy mentions justice reinvestment although they do support early intervention].*

### **Australia's Voice**

Senator Fatima Payman, Party Leader (Australian Parliament, representing WA)

Party position:

Senator Payman is a committed supporter of justice reinvestment and welcomes the opportunity to have her position reflected in the Australian Prison Reform Journal.

In brief, Senator Payman supports justice reinvestment that is:

- Community-led: particularly by First Nations communities, with lived experience central to design and delivery;
- Targeted and data-driven: with investment directed where evidence demonstrates the greatest need and impact, and subject to independent evaluation;
- Holistic: with wrap-around supports addressing the root causes of offending, including housing, mental health, employment and education; and
- Focused on genuine transition: with sustained reintegration support before and after release to

reduce recidivism.

Senator Payman also supports raising the age of criminal responsibility, recognising that early contact with the justice system causes lasting harm and that diversion and early intervention produce far better outcomes for young people and the community.