

# Fact Sheet - Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

The Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill addresses the issues which lead to the establishment of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

## What are the changes?

The Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill is designed to improve the conditions and treatment of vulnerable children and young people in detention.

The Bill will make amendments to the *Youth Justice Act* and the Youth Justice Regulations and addresses seven of the key Royal Commission [recommendations](#).

These changes will:

- prohibit the use of force, restraints and isolation for the purposes of disciplining a child or young person in detention
- clearly define and limit the circumstances upon when and how the use of force and restraints can be used towards young people in detention;
- regulate and restrict the circumstances when strip searches can be conducted; and
- prohibit the isolation of young people, and clarify the circumstances and ways in which young people can be separated when in detention.

## Why is the law being changed?

The Royal Commission's inquiry into the detention and care and protection systems of the Northern Territory revealed systemic and shocking failures.

The current law authorises the use of force, restraints and isolation for the purposes of disciplining a child or young person in detention with minimal safeguards to protect their wellbeing.

## How will the changes be implemented?

All Youth Justice Officers are working towards a Certificate IV in Youth Justice qualification, with additional training focussing on restorative practice and trauma informed care.

Territory Families Training Advisory Group is also reviewing further conflict management training to ensure it complies with the proposed amendments.

Changes will also be communicated and implemented appropriately with staff, young people in detention and stakeholders through targeted information sessions.

## Who will be affected?

The amendments will directly affect children and young people in detention and Youth Justice staff.

## Will this benefit the community?

In the long term, yes. The Royal Commission found that children and young people were leaving detention more likely to commit crime.

As a society, we have a responsibility to ensure our children grow up safe, supported and thriving in strong communities.

If we strive for positive long term life outcomes for our children, young people and families, we will reduce crime and keep the community safe.

## When will this happen?

The Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced to the Legislative Assembly on 21 March and will be read again after 30 days.

For further information please find the links below.

[Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill](#)

[Explanatory Speech](#)

[Explanatory Statement](#)