



Lonely and scary and traumatising”

Young people’s experience of adult custodial facilities



Hi, I’m Issy Crompton

I’m the Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People. It’s the Commissioner’s job to help everyone understand what’s important to children and young people from all over Tasmania, as well as standing up for their rights and wellbeing.

I’ve made this poster to share what I have heard from young people who have been detained in adult custodial facilities like watch-houses, police cells and court cells. In Tasmania, many children and young people who are arrested are placed in adult custodial facilities.

What are rights and why do they matter?

Every child has the right to be and feel safe, live a healthy life, go to school and much more.

These rights are listed in a document called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

A really important right listed in the UNCRC is the right for children and young people to have a say about the things that matter to them, and for adults to listen and take their views seriously. Another important right is that everyone should know what children and young people’s rights are.

That’s why Commissioners share posters like this – so that everyone will listen up!

Which rights did we talk about?

All children are entitled to the rights set out in the UNCRC.

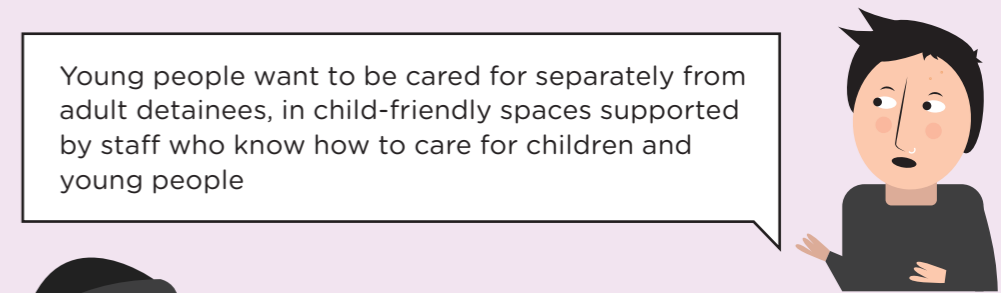
Young people’s experiences of adult custodial facilities raise questions about how their rights are being upheld, including their right to:

- have adults consider their best interests when making decisions that affect them
- be protected from violence, abuse, or neglect wherever they are
- only ever be detained as a last resort and for the shortest time possible
- be detained separately from adults.

What did young people say?



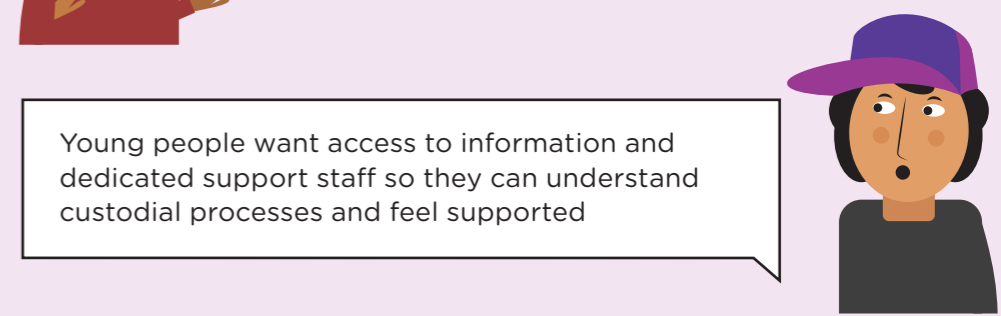
Young people feel scared and unsafe inside adult custodial facilities



Young people want to be cared for separately from adult detainees, in child-friendly spaces supported by staff who know how to care for children and young people



Young people want greater privacy in custodial facilities, especially when using the toilet



Young people want access to information and dedicated support staff so they can understand custodial processes and feel supported