



“Somewhere to go”

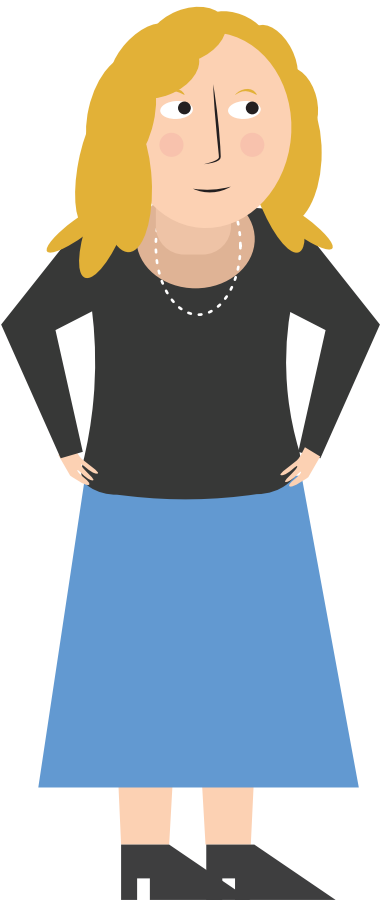
Young people’s experiences of leaving detention

Hi, I’m Isabelle Crompton

I’m the Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People. It’s my 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 some of the things I have heard from young Tasmanians about what it is like for young people to leave detention, including the kind of ongoing support that they may need.

Thanks for reading!



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.

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.

When young people were talking about what it feels like leading up to and after release from places of detention, this raised issues that relate to their right to:

- have their wellbeing considered by adults
- be safe, develop and grow healthily
- not be separated from their parent/s, unless there is a safety issue
- be protected from violence, abuse and neglect
- have access to good health, healthcare, clean water, healthy food and a safe environment
- legal help, fair treatment and chances to start over, when things go wrong
- be able to rest, play and take part in cultural and community life.



What did young people say?



Leaving a place of detention can feel scary and unfamiliar and young people can feel unprepared about the changes we will experience



Many young people do not have safe accommodation options for when it’s time to leave detention



Young people need and value supportive relationships after they leave detention



Things can feel harder if there’s nobody to provide support or guidance for things like helping young people to complete paperwork so that they can access support