



**Committee Secretary**  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia  
Hi there,

I wish to follow through on a message from Warren Mundine concerning Aboriginal youth dysfunctionality.

I live in a well-populated Aboriginal Community (Kempsey) and am appalled at the apparent disinterest in the work ethic.

Is it not time to address the issues associated with Youth Under-employment?  
Is it not time to engage with Aboriginal Leaders and the Australian Community at large in a Conversation with a view to providing an impetus towards "A Job for Everyone"?

Chris Sara Cherborg Principal (Stronger, Smarter) [Key Word Conversation] would be my choice to **DRIVE** such a Community Engagement.

A common misconception is that **Consultation** means 'listening'. To quote Jane Francis Kelly of the Grattan Institute "**Consultation** should be taken out and shot" as desirable end results are pre-determined and passed off as being a Community decision.

**WHY IS IT SO?** (With due respect to Advocate Professor Julius Sumner-Miller):

- # That multi-National *coloured* so-called **Boat People** are generally speaking *accepted* whilst Aboriginal people are broadly-speaking not shown the same degree of respect.
- # That there is so much to gain by BOTH CULTURES working together. The **Indigenous & the Mod lot** each showing *respect* for the other and celebrating their **ART and ARTIFACTS** and **INDIVIDUALITY**
- # That successive Governments are afraid to bite the bullet.
- # That **TOO HARD** could & should become **TOO EASY**
- # **DON'T WAIT....DO IT NOW**

**Biblio:ABC Radio National "Big Ideas" Stronger, Smarter**

Yours faithfully,

cc Sister Cabrini:: Kempsey Shire Council  
Warren Mundine

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**David B Fry**

Dear David,

Kids belong in classrooms, not courtrooms.

Yet [a series of media reports](#) regarding the incarceration rates of Indigenous youth shows the appalling rate of young people who are entering, and being trapped in, the justice system. As a nation, we need to take action.

Like many Australians, at GenerationOne we believe that diversionary programs focussing on education and employment are crucial to reversing the statistics. Through a Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) a holistic approach can be used to ensure our young people don't enter the criminal justice system. The [VTEC model](#) works for Indigenous people who have been long term unemployed – we can replicate this for Indigenous youth who are at risk of falling through the cracks.

**The facts are:**

- On an average day in 2011-12 Indigenous youth were 31 times as likely to be in juvenile detention as non-Indigenous youth.
- Aboriginal people are returned to prison at a higher rate than they are retained in either high school or university.
- 35.9 per cent of the Indigenous population is under the age of 15 – the time for action is now.
- 90 per cent of young Indigenous people that appear before the Children's Court go on to appear before the adult criminal court. Young Indigenous offenders are repeat offenders; small crimes turn into big crimes and the whole community loses. We can change that.

**Actions you can take:**

1. Make a submission to the [Value of a Justice Reinvestment Approach to Criminal Justice](#) in Australia. It is not everyday that politicians listen, but they are listening now.
2. Share your knowledge; send us information you have about existing diversionary programs and projects that focus on education and employment that are working. Here is one example: [White Lion](#)
3. Make some (useful) noise. Share this information with your friends and ask them to be [part of the generation for change](#) then hit social media using **#Gen1 #justreinvest**

There are huge disparities in employment, participation and economic outcomes for Indigenous people in Australia. Criminal records are a major barrier to many Indigenous people finding work. The Closing the Gap Clearinghouse identified that criminal history adds a layer of complexity to employment in addition to the socioeconomic disadvantage Indigenous ex-offenders experience. Please join us in this important campaign.

Warren Mundine