

Dear Committee members

re Kids belong in classrooms, not courtrooms

I believe that diversionary programs focusing on education and employment are crucial to reversing the detention statistics.

Through a Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) a holistic approach can be used to ensure young Indigenous Australian 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.

I have worked on youth and adult literacy and numeracy programs linked with further training and employment programs - they all work together and create successful outcomes.

Please encourage the implementation of many new VTECs.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Sue Collings