

No.
In fact...

Our young offender rate is **much lower** than the national average

Youth Offending

Know the facts

Fewer than 2% of young Victorians aged 10-17 are alleged by police to have committed a crime

Fewer than 1% get a sentence in the Children's Court

Over the 6 years up to December 2015, the **number of young people sentenced** in the Children's Court **fell by 43%**

Most young Victorians who commit crimes are classified as **'low' offending ...**

Most will **outgrow their bad behaviour** or be turned away from crime via :



The young people who end up in youth justice centres are **not just 'bad kids'.**

They are **some of the most disadvantaged teens in Victoria.**

63% have been victims of trauma, abuse and neglect

45% have been on a previous child protection order and **19%** are on a current order

62% have been suspended or expelled from school

40% have a parent or sibling in jail and **12%** are parents themselves

11% are registered with disability services and **24%** have 'issues concerning their intellectual functioning'

Aboriginal young people are over represented, making up **16%** of young people in youth justice centres

30% present with mental health problems and **18%** have a history of self harm

We must remember **3 things:**

1 Most young people who come into contact with police will **outgrow** or be **diverted from crime.**

2 Children and young people **under the age of 18 are not adults.**

3 **Locking up** more and more young people **doesn't help in the long run.**

What does work, then?

Prevention is better than cure.

Young people's rates of NOT re-offending after two years vary according to programs they've taken part in:

Detention	43%
Youth Justice Group Conferencing pre-sentence diversion program (Jesuit Social Services)	80%
Right Step pre-plea diversion program for young people at risk of repeated offending	61%
ROPES pre-plea diversion program for first time offenders	88%