

	<b>Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation</b> Providers of TOP END LINK UP SERVICE	
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12 April 2019

Social Policy Scrutiny Committee  
 GPO Box 3721  
 DARWIN NT 0801  
 Email [SPSC@nt.gov.au](mailto:SPSC@nt.gov.au)

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Re: Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

Our organisation is providing this submission to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee on the 'Youth Justice Bill'.

We provide advocacy, social and emotional wellbeing and referral services for Stolen Generation members of the Top End and their descendants, including assistance for reconnection with land, family, language and culture.

The formation of our organisation was the result of the express wishes of our members since the early 1970s, which included members of many institutional groups such as Croker Island, Garden Point, Retta Dixon, Kahlin Compound and Groote Eylandt, as well as those removed through adoption and foster care arrangements.

The welfare, safety, social and emotional wellbeing of our Aboriginal children and youth are important to us.

We want the Committee to hear and know our views on the Youth Justice Bill. We recommend to the Committee the following on what should be the Youth Justice Bill.

- The law should no longer punish children under the age of 12.
- Children under the age of 14 should not go to detention and be removed from their families and community.
- Services and programs for bail and youth diversion should work with the child, parents, family and community.
- The crime of Breaching Bail should not be allowed for children.
- Children who are in police cells must be held there for the smallest possible time and be safe from harm. It is necessary that Judges must check on the safety of children every four hours.
- Children should be arrested only as a last resort.
- Aboriginal children should always have access to an interpreter in their own language to understand.



- Children should not be named and shamed by the media and their privacy protected by a closed court.

We thank the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for considering our submission.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Eileen Cummings  
Deputy Chairperson

**NTSGAC acknowledges all traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their rights to continuing connection to land, sea and community. We also pay our respects to them, and their cultures, and to our Elders past, present and future.**

*“Bringing families together”*

