



AIDA

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

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ACT leads the way in raising the age

The Australian Capital Territory led the nation in endorsing raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 on Thursday, a move which mirrors the recommendations of the United Nations and many Indigenous community leaders.

Though the ACT government gave in principle support to raising the age, it stopped short of committing to changing the law.

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) welcomed the potential development and congratulated the campaigners pushing for the change.

"AIDA welcomes this long-awaited reform and the benefits it will bring to our communities," said AIDA President, Assoc. Prof. Kris Rallah-Baker.

"To see moves toward real action following the historic signing of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is encouraging, and we commend those who have worked so hard to raise the age in the ACT.

"We hope all states will take the same stance in future."

Amnesty International campaigner, Joel Clark said there "should be nothing stopping other jurisdictions following suit."

"The longer they wait, the longer little kids are exposed to the harmful conditions of prison," he said.

Last month the Council of Attorneys-General (CAG) voted to delay raising the age of criminal responsibility until 2021, when a COAG report into the issue is set to be released.

ENDS

Direct AIDA media enquiries to Alasdair Young
Senior Communications and Marketing
M: 0424 774 971
P: 02 6273 5013
E: communications@aida.org.au