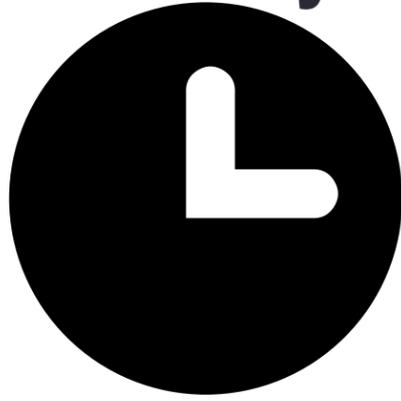


Most youths locked up in juvenile detention last year had not yet been sentenced

Chris Hook **7NEWS**



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Most young people
been sentenced

The [Australian
Australia 2017-](#)
youngsters aged

year were waiting to be sentenced or for the outcome of their legal matter to be resolved.

So they had been charged but not yet faced court, or were guilty and awaiting sentencing.

The report also shows that nearly a third - 1592 - of the young people in detention across Australia during the whole of last year were locked up in NSW.

But Queensland had the largest proportion of young people under youth justice supervision in the community at 29 per cent.

And putting the two figures together, 31 per cent of all youths under supervision - in both detention and in the community - were in Queensland, with just 24 per cent in NSW.

Across Australia, 10,638 youths were supervised - in jail or the community - by the justice system over the 2017-18 period.

And 60 per cent of those in detention on an average day throughout the year had yet to be sentenced.

Impact hits Indigenous youths

But the brunt of the youth justice system is felt most heavily by the Indigenous community with almost half the young people under supervision on an average day identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Despite making up just 5 per cent of the populations, Indigenous youth accounted for 49 per cent of youngsters under justice system supervision.

Indigenous youths were 17 times more likely than non-Indigenous youth to find themselves under justice system supervision across the country.

That over-representation was lowest in Tasmania where Indigenous youths were four times more likely to be under justice supervision than their non-Indigenous counterparts and worst in Western Australia where they were 27 times as likely to be caught up in the system.

Things are improving

But there have been improvements.

Over the five years from 2013-14 to 2017-18, the rate of Indigenous youngsters under supervision on an average day fell from 199 to 187 Indigenous youths per 10,000.

There was also a drop in the rate of supervision of non-Indigenous youths, which fell from 13 to 11 youngsters per 10,000.

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