



Attorney-General

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Mr Michael Bell
Convenor - Advisory Committee
Woor-Dungin Criminal Record Discrimination Project
Room 2.15B
247-251 Flinders Lane
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Bell

I write in relation to the work being undertaken by the Woor-Dungin Criminal Record Discrimination Project to bring attention to a historical practice that means records for care and protection orders for children were kept in the same way as records for criminal offences.

I understand that these practices were used during the time that the Children's Court of Victoria did not have separate divisions or processes to distinguish between children in need of protection and young people who were dealt with for criminal offending.

I am extremely concerned about the nature of these historical practices and I have asked the Department of Justice and Regulation to undertake a detailed examination of these practices.

I have also asked the Department of Justice and Regulation to advise me about actions to address these historical practices, including any legislation that may be required to correct these records, so that care and protection orders for children are recorded appropriately.

I would like to thank your organisation for its work in facilitating support and advocacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in highlighting this important issue, which is particularly concerning for the many indigenous people forcibly removed from their families as children.

Yours sincerely

THE HON MARTIN PAKULA MP
Attorney-General