



The Standing Council of Attorneys-General convened on 1 December 2023 in Canberra. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Commonwealth Attorney-General. All jurisdictions, except New Zealand, were represented.

## **CLOSING THE GAP JUSTICE POLICY TARGETS**

Participants:

- (a) **agreed** to return to the first meeting of 2024 with an update on work being progressed that directly addresses Closing the Gap Justice Targets and Outcomes 10 and 11.
- (b) **committed** to supporting the Justice Policy Partnership's progress towards the development of an Implementation Roadmap, containing four main strategic initiatives due to commence in early 2024.
- (c) **noted** the opening of the National Justice Reinvestment Program and the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program, and the expansion of Community Readiness Support.
- (d) **endorsed** the *Commonwealth, State and Territory Government Collaboration Principles for Justice Reinvestment*, developed to support national consistency and cooperation on justice reinvestment.

## **MINIMUM AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the positions and updates on minimum age of criminal responsibility reform in each jurisdiction.
- (b) **agreed** to share future updates on minimum age of criminal responsibility reform to the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.
- (c) **noted** the ACT has raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 and will further raise it to 14 in 2025.
- (d) **released** the Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group's Report.
- (e) **noted** officials will continue to work together to share lessons and consider cross-jurisdictional matters related to minimum age of criminal responsibility reform.
- (f) **noted** the Justice Policy Partnership will continue to consider community-led approaches to support minimum age of criminal responsibility reform, in line with its priority to achieve Targets 10 and 11 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.



## COMMUNIQUÉ

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### CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

Participants:

- (a) **endorsed** the progress report and environmental scan outlining actions advanced by jurisdictions under the three priority areas of the [Work Plan to Strengthen Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault 2022-2027](#) to improve the experiences of victim-survivors of sexual assault in the criminal justice system.
- (b) **agreed** the progress report and environmental scan be made publicly available on the Australian Attorney-General's Department website.

### RESPECT@WORK (RECOMMENDATION 39)

Participants:

- (a) **noted** jurisdictions' updates regarding the implementation of recommendation 39 of the Respect@Work Report to better protect alleged victims of sexual harassment who are witnesses in civil proceedings.
- (b) **agreed** to continue to consider recommendation 39 individually.

### VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Participants:

- (a) **discussed** jurisdictions' concerns regarding offences in the Commonwealth Criminal Code that limit the operation of state and territory voluntary assisted dying schemes.

### NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTER

Participants:

- (a) **noted** the update from the Commonwealth on the development of a National Firearms Register.