

# Proposed Motion

**Title:**

Condemnation of the Northern Territory Government's Youth Justice Amendments

**Mover:**

Jacob Fajzullin

**Seconded:**

Hayley O'Neill

**Motion Text:**

1. Expresses grave concern over the Northern Territory Government's recent amendments to the Youth Justice Act and Regulations, passed on 31 July 2025, which:
  - Remove the principle of detention as a last resort.
  - Reintroduce spit hoods in youth detention facilities.
  - Grant Youth Justice Officers expanded powers, including use of force.
  - Expand the list of offences ineligible for diversion.
2. Condemns the rushed and punitive nature of these reforms, introduced without meaningful consultation with key stakeholders including the NT Children's Commissioner, legal and health professionals, and Aboriginal leaders.
3. Endorses the criticisms of the NT Children's Commissioner, national human rights bodies, paediatricians, and advocacy groups, who argue these changes contravene international children's rights standards and the 2017 Royal Commission recommendations.
4. Calls on the AEU NT to:
  - Publicly denounce the Youth Justice amendments.
  - Advocate for youth justice reforms aligned with the Royal Commission's recommendations.
  - Support campaigns and action to protect the human rights of NT children in the justice system.
5. Requests the AEU NT to communicate this Sub-Branch's position to relevant government ministers, the NT Legislative Assembly, and through public media statements.

**Supporting Evidence Highlights:**

- The reforms reverse key recommendations from the 2017 Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT.
- Use of mechanical restraints and spit hoods increases trauma and risk for children, with disproportionate effects on Aboriginal youth.
- Experts warn the changes violate evidence-based practices that reduce youth offending and are likely to worsen long-term community safety.