

17 year olds in adult prisons: resolution

26th Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod May 2007 **SEVENTEEN YEAR OLDS IN ADULT PRISONS**

It was resolved that the Synod –

- 07.66 (a) Notes the Assembly Statement Dignity in Humanity: Recognising Christ in Every Person which states:

We pledge to assess current and future national public policy and practice against international human rights instruments, keeping in mind Christ's call and example to work for justice for the oppressed and vulnerable;

and

We encourage all members, groups, congregations and agencies of the Uniting Church to model respect for human rights in their daily lives and to advocate for policies consistent with human rights standards and against violations of human rights in all forms, both within Australia and internationally;

and

We encourage the councils of the Uniting Church to model respect for human rights in their work and mission.

- (b) Notes the Queensland Government's current practice of incarcerating seventeen year olds in adult prisons;

- (c) Affirms our belief in the unique value and preciousness of children. Therefore all juvenile offenders should be dealt with under a juvenile justice system that accommodates their developmental needs;

- (d) Affirms that the practice of incarcerating seventeen year olds in adult prisons is a breach of our international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- (e) Notes the Queensland Government's 1992 commitment to end the practice of incarcerating seventeen year olds in adult prisons;

- (f) Calls on the Government to fulfil their commitment and end the practice of incarcerating seventeen year olds in adult prisons; and

- (g) Requests the Moderator to write to the Premier expressing our dissatisfaction with the current practice of incarcerating seventeen year olds in adult prisons and request an immediate rectification of this practice consistent with the Government's previously stated commitment.

(Consensus)

extract of the minutes of the 26th Synod



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD