



Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into Public School Funding

Hearing date: 12 March 2026

Question taken on notice

Directed to: Youthlaw

Received date: 9 April 2026

1. **Anasina GRAY-BARBERIO, page 66**

Question Asked:

Lee CARNIE: Smart Justice for Young People has released a report called the *Working Together* action plan, which outlines which cohorts of children and young people are subjected to overpolicing and underserving and as a result are over-represented in Victoria's criminal justice system. That includes children in out-of-home care, Aboriginal children, children from multicultural backgrounds –

Anasina GRAY-BARBERIO: Which ones specifically? Which cultural groups?

Lee CARNIE: There is a range of groups. I might have to take that question on notice, but I can provide that – and also children with disabilities.

Response:

Broadly the term “children from multicultural backgrounds” is used to refer to children and young people who are of refugee and migrant backgrounds, including those born in Australia, and whose cultural, ethnic and racial diversity distinguishes them from young people with Anglo, Caucasian and European backgrounds.

In practice, the multicultural groups that are most overrepresented in the Victorian criminal justice system are from African, Maori and Pasifika backgrounds. The Youth Parole Board no longer captures data on the cultural background of young people in detention, however the most recent data from 2017 showed that 19% of young people in youth justice custody were of African background and 15% were of Maori or Pacific Islander background. In our experience, and from research done by the Centre Against Racial Profiling, this overrepresentation in police stop and search data is also higher among young people from Middle-Eastern, Asian and Indian backgrounds.