

## Inquiry into children of imprisoned parents

[REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**  
**Your position or role:**

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

My step-father (who was in my life from the age of two months) went into custody in Melbourne at least once but possibly twice for stealing a truck and in the second case which requires some verification, probably for drug offences. In the first case, we were living in QLD but his offences were in Melbourne so he was ferried to Pentridge (according to my recollection).

Both of my parents were long-term unemployed and polysubstance abusers and heavy drinkers. The impact on my father going to prison was that we had less income. As a consequence, I recall my mother engaging in sex for money and I believe we were forced to move in with another family for a duration which exposed me to a high-risk environment. The impact of my father's imprisonment was destabilising our environment. We were already very destabilised, moving from suburb to suburb every six months, the impact of living a life that includes drug dealing. But when my father was away, this was exacerbated. Not only was he the 'head' of the family, but he kept my mother together and out of trouble. I am not exactly sure how our situation could have been addressed as when I think about that time in my life, it's like we were not even part of an underclass. My parents kept friends for only very short stints, they burnt bridges, got banned from chemists where they got their methadone and forced their families (my aunts, uncles and grandparents) to disengage with them. In effect, we were not connected to any support services; the only way anyone with any influence really knew that there was a person in prison with a kid on the outside, was via centrelink. Centrelink actually might be one way to flag whether there are kids at risk due to parental imprisonment. I am happy to talk before a committee if it is helpful [REDACTED]

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**  
**File2:**  
**File3:**

**Signature:**  
[REDACTED]