

## Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Youth Justice
Witness:	Minister Hutchins, Ms Jodi Henderson
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
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Relevant text:

**Mr RIORDAN:** No. Okay. So can we see the most recent People Matter survey?

**Ms HENDERSON:** Yes. I will take that on notice

Answer:

The most recent People Matters Survey results are from the 2019 survey. The Youth Justice results are attached.

Portfolio:	Youth Justice
Witness:	Ms Dannii de Kretser, Minister Hutchins
Committee member:	Mr David Limbrick
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Relevant text:

**Ms de KRETSER:** Sure. About 38 per cent in our annual survey last year I believe had a cognitive disability in youth justice—so around 40 per cent. Generally a cognitive disability is what we see in youth justice as well.

**Mr LIMBRICK:** And is a big factor in that acquired brain injury? Or what sort of—

**Ms de KRETSER:** I would not say it is a big factor, but it is a factor. I would have to get back to you on the data that we have, on notice, if that is okay.

**Ms HUTCHINS:** There is a factor, though, in these kids not having been diagnosed before they come to the system, as well.

**Mr LIMBRICK:** Thank you. What sort of cognitive disabilities are we talking about—a wide range? Or is there something that is—

**Ms de KRETSER:** A wide range. We have a lot of children on the autism spectrum as well—so a wide range. We are happy to provide any data that we have, on notice, if that is helpful.

Answer:

The *2019-20 Youth Parole Board Annual Report* notes that 38 per cent of children and young people in 2018-19 and 42 per cent of children and young people in 2019-20 in Youth Justice custody presented with cognitive difficulties that affect their daily functioning.

The 2019 annual Youth Justice survey, taken on 31 December 2019, indicates that of all young people under Youth Justice supervision (both in the community and custody):

- 31% presented with cognitive difficulty or disability.
- 14% presented with a diagnosis of Intellectual disability.
- 2% presented with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- 1% presented with a diagnosis of Acquired Brain Injury.
- 1% presented with a diagnosis of Language Disorder.
- 1% presented with a diagnosis of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Portfolio:	Youth Justice
Witness:	Ms Rebecca Falkingham, Ms Dannii de Kretser
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
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Relevant text:

**Ms FALKINGHAM:** It is a good figure. It is 34.5 per cent return to supervision. It is the second-lowest rate in Australia, behind the ACT.

**Mr RIORDAN:** Right. And how does that figure compare to the last two or three years? Is it heading up, down? What is happening with it?

**Ms de KRETSE:** I would have to take that on notice. I am sorry; I do not have that data on hand, but you can compare—

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's annual *'Young people returning to sentenced youth justice supervision 2018-19'* Report shows that Victoria has the second lowest rate in Australia (34.5 per cent) of young people aged 10-17 years returning to sentenced Youth Justice supervision who were under sentenced supervision at any time from 2000-01 to 2018-19. This is lower than the national rate of 40.7 per cent and second only to the ACT.

This is consistent with Victorian results over recent years:

- In 2016-17, Victoria's result was 33.4 per cent, the third lowest in Australia behind ACT and South Australia and below the national rate of 39.4 per cent.
- In 2017-18, Victoria's result was 34.2 per cent, the second lowest in Australia behind the ACT and below the national rate of 40.6 per cent.

This information is publicly available on the [AIHW's website](#).

Portfolio:	Youth Justice
Witness:	Ms Dannii de Kretser
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
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Relevant text:

**Mr RIORDAN:** What percentage of our youth justice population in percentage or numbers identify as Aboriginal?

**Ms de KRETSE:** A very low percentage. So I could tell you yesterday in custody we had four young people aged 10 to 17 of—today we have got—156 in custody. I can give you the numbers on notice for the rest of the population if that is helpful.

Answer:

As at midnight on 14 December 2020 there were 11 Aboriginal young people under *custodial supervision* (7.1 per cent of the total custodial population). Of these 11 young people, four young people were aged between 10-17 (3.7 per cent of the total number of 10-17 year olds in Youth Justice custody).

The AIHW publishes data on Youth Justice populations, including the daily average Aboriginal custodial population.