SOME ACHIEVEMENTS continued ...

- Conducted mentoring workshops for young, vulnerable people with Mission Australia (2008)
- Defended children's rights to all-day visits with their mothers at Emu Plains Correctional Centre (2006)
- Defended Australian prisoners' right to vote (2006, 1997)
- Created a TAFE mentoring course aimed at ex-prisoners with 22 graduates of the first course (2003)
- Initiated the computer project, with over 100 computers donated to prisons from the corporate and community sectors (1999)
- Facilitated the creation of the Australian Prisoners Union (1999)
- Lobbied the Wood Royal Commission on corrupt police and wrongful convictions (1997)
- Initiated Richard Lynott's case against the Government for negligence due to its failure to supply clean needles and syringes in prison, which resulted in his death (1996)
- Forced the reform of the corrupt police practice of concocting confessions known as verbals (1994)
- Hosted the Hilton Hotel bombing defence (1982)
- Changed the law with Women Behind Bars on domestic violence murder cases through the Violet Roberts Campaign (1980)

GET INVOLVED

SEND US INFORMATION AND IDEAS!

Join the team!
We welcome students, lawyers, ex-prisoners, families, media and marketing people, event organisers ...

We have an Internship Program.
Apply with your CV!

Donate to help sustain the effort!
Bank is NAB World Square, Sydney
BSB: 082 024 Acct: 6625 11299



Australian Prisoners Union is an organisation led by and for Australian Prisoners. Its mission is to enable meaningful advocacy of people detained in prisons and locked hospitals. The APU exists to give prisoners a collective voice and defend their rights.

australianprisonersunion.org.au

iExpress is the world's first webpage and interactive email system for people in prisons and hospitals. It reduces social exclusion by allowing them to exercise their voice and encourage interaction.

iexpress.org.au

Breakout Media Communications is the social enterprise sponsoring JA, helping to fund its independence and allowing it to advocate freely for detainees' rights. Let Breakout provide you with top quality print, design and web services at the same price you are now paying, to help fund the work of Justice Action.

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CONTACT JUSTICE ACTION

PO Box 386, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia
Telephone: +612 9283 0123
Email: ja@justiceaction.org.au
Unit 10/2 Catherine St. Glebe
NSW 2037 Australia
justiceaction.org.au

JUSTICE ACTION

Defending Human Rights in the Hardest Places



JA Team defending physical visits at Silverwater Correctional Complex

Representing people locked in Australian prisons and hospitals

ABOUT JUSTICE ACTION

The movement to provide a voice, and show support for prisoners dates back to when Australia was settled as a penal colony. It arose in response to the inhumane slavery and degradation of convicts at that time.

Justice Action (**JA**) continues that spirit and tradition by insisting on the humanity and rights of the most marginalised and disempowered—those detained in our legal and mental health systems—and exposing and targeting abuses against them.

JA fights for detainees' own voices to be heard. We believe that positive justice and mental health outcomes can be achieved only if their voices are respected and embraced as part of the solution.

JA engages in policy development, initiates campaigns and liaises with stakeholders. It also aims to improve the social and mental health of prisoners and involuntary patients through prisoner, mental health and court support.

JA is a place where prisoners, victims, families, students, lawyers, judges, members of parliament, the media and others unite with their skills, knowledge and passion to bring justice to our judicial and mental health systems, to the benefit of all of us.

We welcome all who wish to join us in our work!



STRATEGIC PLAN



Some of our many team members, who work online or one day a week

Empowerment: ensuring detainees' access to tools and information to defend and develop themselves

Building connections among detainees, victims, families and others to maintain community and services

Exposing and fighting abuses through media, parliament, and engaging directly with those in power

Addressing needs of victims and the wider community to support relationship repair, personal reform and positive community re-engagement

Prisoner, mental health and court support including investigating complaints and following focus cases

Advancing justice and community safety by promoting policy changes and alternatives to imprisonment

Working with local, national and international organisations to ensure human rights obligations and standards are being met

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

JA is campaigning for computers in cells. The provision of online services will enable prisoners and involuntary patients to access independent counselling, education, legal and family support.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Worked with industry and international experts to prove counselling etc could be securely delivered directly to prisoners by external, mainstream providers (2026)
- Defended NSW prisoners and their families from having in-person visits replaced by video calls (2025)
- Facilitated the Nairobi Declaration for Detainee Telecommunications Rights (2023)
- Won our fifth Supreme Court decision for the right to publish a newspaper for prisoners (2022)
- Joined the Community Justice Coalition in securing computer tablets for all NSW prisoners (2017)
- Showed prisoners' legal living space is so small that gorillas' rights in zoos are much better (2015)
- Defended Life Prisoners' Right to personal development, NSW Parliament (2015)
- Established iExpress, the world's first platform for prisoner communication, social presence and information (2013)
- Defended the right of mental health involuntary patient Saeed Dezfouli to his identity and to education (2014, 2010)
- Published "Mad in Australia", which exposed abuse of mental health patients (2013)
- Launched four Justice Reform Initiative papers at the International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA) 14 in Trinidad (2012)
- Represented Australians held against their will at the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) Consultation (2009)
- Defended convicted paedophile Dennis Ferguson's right to resettlement after release (2009)



Nairobi CURE Conference attendees at the Naivasha Prison