



## PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Committee on Children and Young People

1 July 2022

### MEDIA RELEASE

## Offering more support to children of imprisoned parents

A report tabled by the Committee on Children and Young People recommends that more be done to support children of imprisoned parents.

The Chair of the Committee, Peter Sidgreaves MP, said children of imprisoned parents are highly vulnerable and more likely to have poorer health, wellbeing, and education outcomes.

"Our report contains 40 recommendations that focus on delivering better support for this vulnerable cohort," Mr Sidgreaves said.

"During public hearings, we heard that children of imprisoned parents often 'fall through the cracks' due to siloed government service provision.

"Although parental imprisonment can have profoundly negative consequences for children, no government agency has clear responsibility for their wellbeing."

The Committee recommends creating a specific role within the Department of Communities and Justice to monitor and advocate for these at-risk children, and to improve the experience for children visiting their parents in prison.

"There is also insufficient data on how many children in NSW are affected by parental incarceration and this is a deficiency that needs to be addressed.

"The Committee also recommends that greater consideration be given to the impacts of parental imprisonment when bail or sentencing decisions are made. Even short periods of parental imprisonment can have significant impacts for children – regardless of whether a parent is serving a sentence, or on remand awaiting sentencing."

The Committee's report was published 25 years after the Standing Committee on Social Issues first conducted an inquiry into children of imprisoned parents.

"Our inquiry found that there are now more supports available for children of imprisoned parents, but much more can be done to reduce and prevent the impacts of a parent or primary caregiver being taken into custody," Mr Sidgreaves said.

The report can be found on the [Committee's webpage](#).

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