

On 21 November 2018, The West Australian reported on the arrest of three men allegedly planning a terrorist attack in suburban Melbourne. In the report, Magistrate Simon Zebrowski expressed concern for the well-being of the youngest member of the group, stating that he “would be particularly vulnerable while in custody because of his age”, which the report gives as 21 years. In another recent report, psychiatric services are being offered to youths in detention on Nauru Island when they are brought to Australia.

Meanwhile, as you have heard, for the past 9 weeks I have been offering refuge in my two-bedroom unit to a 30-year-old man from Darwin who was incarcerated in Darwin’s notorious Berrimah Prison as a result of charges laid when he was 15 years of age. Three and a half years later he was tried before Chief Justice Brian Martin in the Darwin Supreme Court. By then, aged almost 19, he was sentenced to seven years, with parole available after 5 years. He did not take the parole, and served the full term, during which I visited him several times. By 2013 he was released, institutionalised and suffering from anxiety and other untreated psychiatric issues resulting from his internment - a youth of Aboriginal descent treated worse than a terrorist (in another publicised case an accused terrorist of similar ages was held in juvenile detention and protected from the adult penal system).

I have followed this case from its inception in 2003 and have been a friend of the family since 1972, having worked with his grandfather, an Aboriginal man from Oombulgurri (Forrest River Mission) near Wyndham in WA. Not surprisingly, since his release the young man has been unable to cope with life on the outside and his mother rang me and asked if I could help.

I can identify with many of the issues he is dealing with, and being grateful for all the help I have received in my own recovery over many years, agreed to the mother’s request (I have known her since she was a child and used to stay with her aunt when visiting Darwin).

As you can see from the link below, since 2003 I have documented this case in great detail. I believe it is an example of a gross miscarriage of justice that should be corrected. The odds are stacked against this young man, and the results are often tragic, as I have witnessed in the past.

I don’t expect you to read the mass of information on my website, but it will help you to understand my motivation.

Bill

Maylands

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<http://www.drbilldayanthropologist.com/kyle-horace.php>