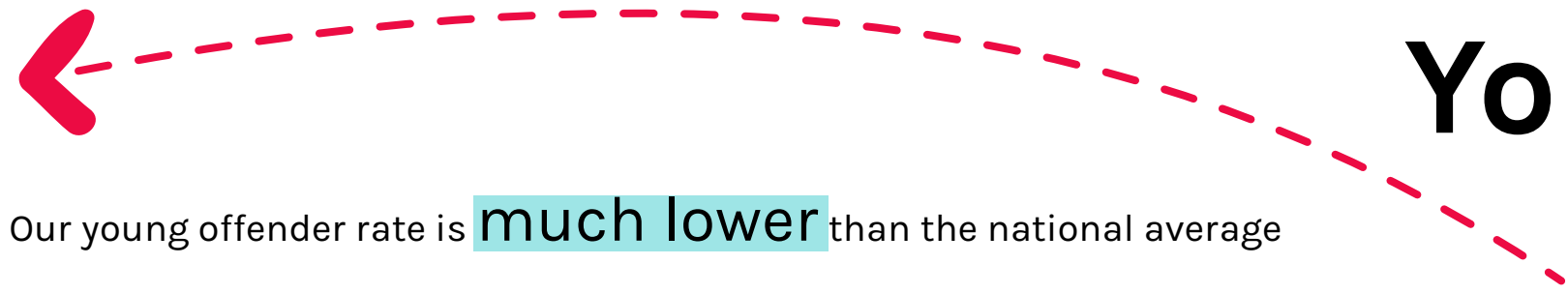


No.
In fact...



Youth Offending

Know the facts

Our young offender rate is **much lower** than the national average

Fewer than 2% of young Victorians aged 10-17 are alleged by police to have committed a crime

Fewer than 1% get a sentence in the Children's Court

Over the 6 years up to December 2015, the **number of young people sentenced** in the Children's Court **fell by 43%**

Most young Victorians who commit crimes are classified as **'low' offending ...**

Most will **outgrow their bad behaviour** or be turned away from crime via :

Is Victoria in the middle of a 'mass youth crime wave'?



So... why are there so many problems?

police cautioning

one of our great youth diversion programs

The young people who end up in youth justice centres are **not just 'bad kids'.**

They are **some of the most disadvantaged teens** in Victoria.

Aboriginal young people are **over represented**, making up **16%** of young people in youth justice centres

We must remember **3 things:**

63% have been victims of **trauma, abuse and neglect**

45% have been on a **previous child protection order** and **19%** are on a **current order**

62% have been **suspended or expelled from school**

40% have a **parent or sibling in jail** and **12%** are **parents themselves**

11% are **registered with disability services** and **24%** have **'issues concerning their intellectual functioning'**

30% present with **mental health problems** and **18%** have a **history of self harm**

1 Most young people who come into contact with police will **outgrow** or be **diverted from crime.**

2 Children and young people **under the age of 18 are not adults.**

3 **Locking up** more and more young people **doesn't help in the long run.**

What does work, then?

Prevention is better than cure.

Young people's rates of NOT re-offending after two years vary according to programs they've taken part in:

