

AIJA Indigenous Youth Justice Conference

Panellist

Day 2 - Session 11: 'Cross-over kids': the drift of children from the child protection system into the criminal justice system Raising the age of criminal responsibility



Her Honour Magistrate Jennifer Bowles Children's Court of Victoria

Jennifer Bowles has been a Magistrate for 24 years and has sat for the majority of that time in the Children's Court of Victoria. She is the supervising Magistrate of the Children's Koori Court. She is a member of the Judicial Officers' Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Committee and chairs the Crossover Children Advisory Group

Committee.

In 2014 she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to review options for residential therapeutic treatment for young people suffering substance abuse/mental illness. Her research was conducted in Sweden, England, Scotland and New Zealand. Her recommendations included the establishment of a Youth Therapeutic Order, a Youth Drug Court and a Crossover List in the Children's Court.

She annotated the Children Youth and Families Act 2005 in the textbook 'Family Violence and Child Protection Law in Victoria' and co-authored the textbook 'Criminal Jurisdiction and Procedure in the Magistrates' and Children's Courts of Victoria.'