



What is JA?

JA is a community-based criminal justice organisation consisting of academics, lawyers, students, prisoners, ex-prisoners, victims of crime and other community activists. JA relies on volunteers and does not receive any government funding. We are funded solely by Breakout Design + Print. This permits a rigorous watchdog function.

JA promotes awareness of the inadequacies and failures of the criminal justice system and actively assists those who suffer. We maintain ongoing communication with prisoners and monitor their complaints. These communications form the basis of our campaigns to prevent abuses from occurring.

Want to get involved?

Volunteer: You can volunteer by contacting us. See below for contact information.

Donate: You can donate to our campaigns directly, or you can use Breakout Design + Print for your next printing job.

Subscribe: You can subscribe to our magazine, Framed. Just ask for a complimentary copy and fill out the subscription form on the back.

Meetings: You can come to our regular meetings on Tuesday nights at 5:30. There's always something on the boil!

justice ACTION

65 Bellevue Street Glebe NSW 2037
PO Box 386 Broadway, NSW 2007
Ph: 612 9660 9111 Fax: 612 9660 9100
JA@justiceaction.org.au
www.justiceaction.org.au

Our campaigns include:

HRMU - The focus of this campaign is to make public the conditions in the High Risk Management Unit at Goulburn. It arises out of letters we receive from HRMU prisoners and their families which describe conditions that violate UN conventions, such as lack of fresh air and sunlight. The NSW Bar Association has formed a subcommittee to head an independent inspection.

JA Mentoring - bringing the expertise of ex-prisoners to help reduce recidivism. This campaign is a long-term project to form groups of people adversely effected by the criminal justice system to help each other prevent offending and re-offending. JA graduated its first class of 22 TAFE accredited mentors on December 5, 2003.

Political Communication - Protecting prisoners' right to vote. Despite the fact that prisoners still have the right to vote, How To Vote material was refused entry into NSW jails for the March 2003 State election and again at the 2004 federal election. Justice Action and other community and social justice organisations came together to produce *The Australian Prisoners' Election Newspaper* in order to protect that basic right and the long-term health and safety of the Australian community by including prisoners. This newspaper was the subject of a NSW Supreme Court hearing shortly before the 2004 federal election.

Inspector General/Ombudsman - who's watching over DCS and how well are they doing it? This campaign arose after a meeting with the Justice Minister who informed us that the office of NSW IG would be up for review. After the closure of the office in August 2003, the campaign has focused on ensuring that the Ombudsman has the capacity to undertake a rigorous watchdog function over DCS.

Framed - Our publication which goes into jails across Australia and to judges and politicians, as well as our subscriber list. Despite being banned in NSW jails, *Framed* is accepted and appreciated in every jail in every other state in Australia. The HREOC is now reviewing the ban. *Framed* has now been in print for over 15 years, publishing critical articles on criminal justice issues, advice on coping with life in jail, letters from prisoners, and exposing the ugly realities that prison authorities would rather keep hidden.

Prisoner Labor Rights - This campaign arose out of harsh new sanctions being imposed on prisoners at Lithgow Jail. Considering that both good job skills and the love and support of a family are major factors in reducing recidivism, JA decided to fight this new measure. A policy statement on prisoner labour is now being considered by the NSW Labor Council.
