



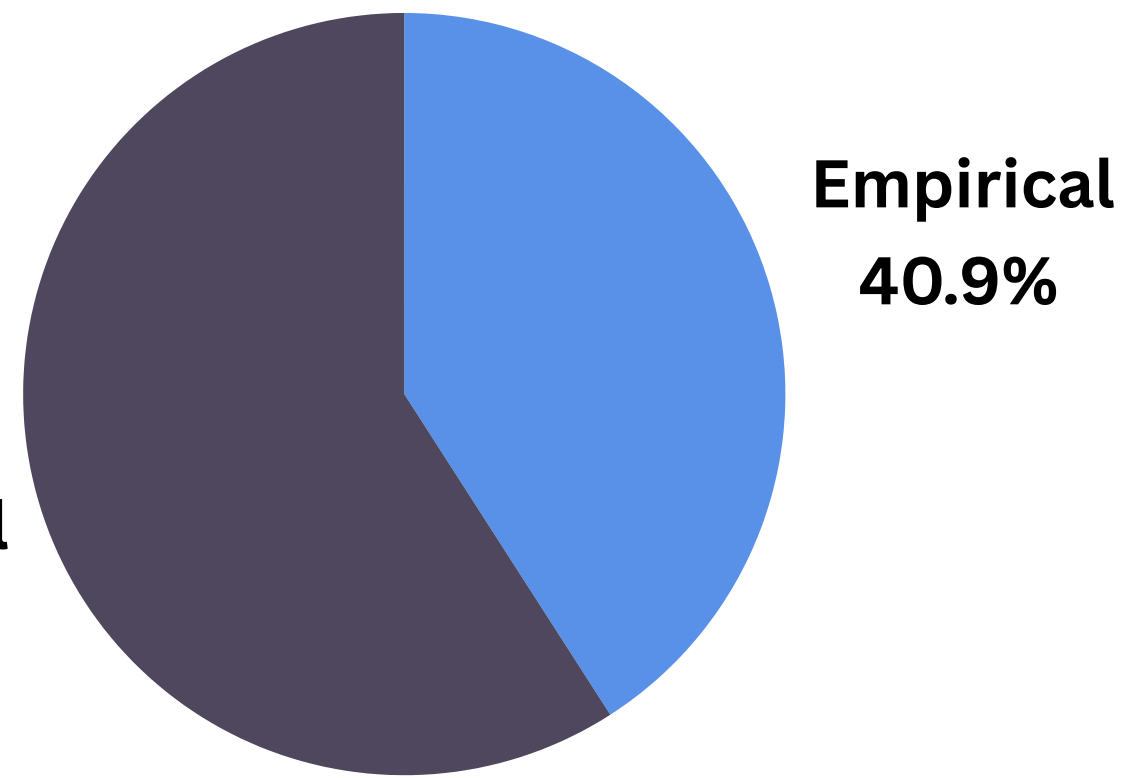
#RaiseTheAge

What is the #RaiseTheAge campaign?

#RaiseTheAge is an Australian wide campaign, supported by over 100 organisations lobbying the federal government to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) from 10 to 14 years of age.¹⁹



Figure 1. Proportion of Theoretical and Empirical Literature found on #RaiseTheAge



Factors Contributing to Punitive Attitudes Toward Youth Involved in the Justice System

Lack of Knowledge/Awareness ^{1,8}	Fear of Youth Crime ¹⁵
Media's Portrayal of Crime ³	Intolerance of Violent Crime ⁹

What factors influence public attitudes towards arguments both in favour of and against raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14, and what motivates their active participation in either supporting or opposing the #RaiseTheAge campaign?

Arguments

FOR

Motivation

"There is little evidence to suggest that 10 years is a sufficient age for **children to understand** the juridical consequences of their actions".^{5,21}

"Australia's current minimum age of criminal responsibility **violates** International Human Rights laws".^{13,23}

"Putting children in custody is **detrimental** to their **development and wellbeing**".^{13,2,21}

"The *doli Incapax* (incapable of deceit) provides **insufficient protection** for children in contact with the criminal justice system".^{13,4}

#1 Profession
Professions involved with youth therapeutically, such as social workers believe it's part of their practice to promote social justice.¹⁴

#2 Personal & Emotional Involvement
Advocacy is higher amongst individuals who have an emotional and/or personal connection with youth involved in the justice system.¹⁴

#3 Awareness
Greater awareness of evidence-based alternative approaches, such as therapeutic interventions to dealing with the consequences of youth criminalisation.²²

#4 Values a Child's Rights Approach
The belief that incarcerating children as young as 10 years of age is an infringement of International children's rights.¹⁷

AGAINST

"Belief that the current criminal justice system processes (**incarceration**) is an **effective solution to reduce crime**, increase community safety and facilitate child wellbeing".^{13,21}

"A punitive, '**Tough on Crime**' approach will deter further crime from occurring through fear of consequence".^{13,21}

#1 Vested Interest
Non-for-profit organisations often rely on government funding which introduces a major barrier to collective action as government can feel resistant to funding campaigns that directly dispute government policy.¹⁴

#2 Resistance from the Government to Change
This occurs through an effort not to stir potential winnings in the election. Otherwise known as a lack of political will.¹⁴

#3 Belief in the Effectiveness of Punitive Consequences.¹³

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