

IN MY BLOOD
IT RUNS

Host a watch party for Children's Ground



We're really excited for you to host a screening of *In My Blood It Runs*. The beautiful thing about watching a film with other people is the ability to discuss, self-reflect, and share thoughts and experiences - which is integral to promoting understanding and change.

In My Blood It Runs and Children's Ground have partnered together to produce this 'Host A Screening' guide as a starting point for post-film discussion. Whether you're screening to a room of hundreds of strangers, a group of colleagues, or just a 'watch party' with your family at home, it's inevitable that everyone in the room you watch with will have different experiences - so we hope that these suggested tips help build a bridge to share your learnings. Together we are able to learn more and understand about our shared history and future and what we can do to create change.

Our robust impact strategy has three main aims:

1. Tackling racism
2. Reforming juvenile justice including to #RaiseTheAge of incarceration to 14
3. Reforming education and advocating for a First Nations led education system

Visit inmyblooditruns.com/takeaction and childrensground.org.au for more information

Synopsis

In My Blood It Runs follows the life of ten-year-old Arrernte/Garrwa boy Djujan and his family. The film charts the challenges Djujan faces as he meets the overt and concealed prejudices still perpetuated against First Nations people in Australia today: in school, at home and on the streets of Alice Springs. *In My Blood It Runs* reveals the ways marginalised First Nations communities negotiate the colonial culture and keep their identities and cultures alive through self-determination, the revitalisation of languages and cultural practices.

Ten-year-old Djujan is a child healer, a good hunter and speaks three languages. Yet Djujan is 'failing' in school and facing increasing scrutiny from the police. As he travels perilously close to juvenile detention, his family fight to give him a strong Arrernte education alongside his western education. We walk with him as he grapples with these pressures, shares his truths and somewhere in-between finds space to dream, imagine and hope for his future self.

Pre-screening

1. Make an Acknowledgement of Country to open the event.
2. Explain that in September 2019 Djujan became the youngest person at age 12 to address the United Nations Human Rights Council. As part of the impact campaign for the film, he and his family presented the film to delegates of the United Nations. This is what he said:

"Werte. My name is Djujan, I am 12 years old. I am from Arrernte and Garrwa Country and I have travelled here from Australia. Adults never listen to kids - especially kids like me. But we have important things to say. I came here to speak with you all because our government is not listening. I am in a new documentary, In My Blood It Runs. In this film there are some messages for you. There are some things I want to see changed:

I want my school to be run by Aboriginal people who are like me and understand me.

I want the adults to stop locking up 10 year old kids in prison.

I want my future to be out on land with family, strong in culture and language.

I hope you can find a way to make things much more better. Thank you - I hope you enjoy my film."

Post-screening discussion

Hear what the family has to say! [Watch this short Q&A with Dujuan and his family.](#)

By engaging in the below discussion questions, you can be a part of change. Change starts with us sharing and discussing important issues as a society. This begins at home, with friends, with people we know. Together we are able to learn more and understand about our shared history and future and what we can do to create change.

Here are some starting questions you can explore...

Education

- What was your experience of mainstream Australian education teaching history?
- How do you recall being taught?
- What has been your process of education since leaving school?
- How do you think Australian education reform should look?
- Should our education and history lessons include the Black Lives Matter movement and what it means for Black people, People of Colour and First Nations people?
- Do you think it is important to cover recent history in history class (present day protests, ongoing human rights violations, increasing political tensions?)

Language

- How does language have an impact on Dujuan's educational journey?
- Have you experienced any situations in life when language has had an exclusionary impact on your life?
- When you have felt excluded, how did it impact your overall wellbeing? How would you deal with this if it was a daily occurrence?
- How do you think your educational journey would have differed had you been forced to learn in a language other than your own? Are you confident you would have had the same experience in school and beyond?



Identity

- Are there elements of your identity you feel as though you have not yet had the ability to fully explore due to external pressures or inadequate support structures?
- Are there elements of your identity you feel mainstream society does not champion?
- How do you respond when your identity is challenged by mainstream culture?

Country

- Do you feel connected to specific places?
- How do these places contribute to your understanding of yourself?
- Do they hold significance because of history or family?
- How would you feel if your connection to this location was irreparably damaged and you could not return?

Autonomy

- Can you think of a recent example when you made a decision that greatly impacted your life? Did you have to deal with external pressures when making this decision?
- Have you ever had the privilege of choice taken away from you?



**"I just want to be me,
an Aborigine."**

– Dujuan Hoosan

Legal age of criminality

- What is your earliest memory?
- Do you have any memories of being the age 10?
- Did you ever worry about being picked up by the police when you were 10? For most Aboriginal kids in places like Alice Springs, they or their families have been picked up by the police, been in the back of police vans or spent time in jail.
- Could you imagine facing imprisonment at age 10? Could you imagine facing imprisonment as an adult? How would it impact your relationships, work, future outcomes, mental health, physical health?
- What would be the most significant loss in your life, if you were to be incarcerated at this point in time?

Living under scrutiny, racism and threat to your family

Children's Ground Chair, William Tilmouth, says ***"we spend our life under surveillance, our families live in fear of losing their kids to welfare and the families to jail"***

In the film, Dujuan walks between the strength of his culture and being labelled as a failure in school, with the constant threats of being taken by welfare or picked up by the police. His mum is in fear of losing her child, having her child fail school and losing her centrelink payments impacting on her ability to feed her children. His Grandmother fears for the future of her grandchildren and lives a life of worry.

- What impact do you think this has on people's lives – their health, their mental health, their family and community – especially if this is a normal experience for all the families you know.
- Discuss racism – what does it look like?

Progress forward

- What steps can you take to progress the rights of First Nations people?
- First Nations people don't need 'saving.' They want non-Aboriginal people to support truth telling, to build a shared and honest history of our country, to celebrate First Nations cultures, to better understand our many cultures and nations across Australia – to hear and see the strengths and resilience and solutions and visions that First Nations people have – and to support these brought to life. How can you be an ally in your daily life?



***In My Blood It Runs* is not just a film, it's also a campaign for change.**

Visit inmyblooditruns.com/takeaction to see the most up-to-date ways to support the campaign

If you want to continue supporting the work of *In My Blood It Runs* and Children's Ground, please take action in these simple ways.

National Education Reform

- [Sign the petition](#) for Aboriginal kids rights to education in First language and culture
- Donate to [Education For All](#), a campaign by Children's Ground aiming to establish a school on Dujuan's homeland

Juvenile Justice Reform

- [Sign the petition](#) to #RaiseTheAge of criminal responsibility 14 years
- Write to your Attorney General now. *In My Blood It Runs* has a simple tool available [on their website](#).

Practice active anti-racism

- Host another screening of *In My Blood It Runs* for a new group of people
- Encourage your friends and families to hold a watch party and discussion with others – spread the conversation, build understanding
- Watch Children's Ground's [In Conversation](#) webinar series
- Listen to [William Tilmouth's speeches](#)
- Encourage students to ask their teachers to show the film in their school. More information for educators is available at inmyblooditruns.com/education