



Work Plan 2021

Strategic priorities

1. Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people
2. Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people
3. Prioritising the needs of children and young people who are our most disadvantaged and vulnerable

Current projects

Current projects	Overview	Strategic priority link		
		1	2	3
Implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Child Safe Organisations – the office will support agencies and others to develop their own industry appropriate training of the Child Safe Organisations standards and practice. Our future direction will be training and support that targets Executive and Board level training.2. Harmful sexual behaviours – monitor and support the development of policy and practice within agencies in addressing harmful sexual behaviours. Facilitate the presentation of a national symposium in Perth in May.3. Monitor and oversight the implementation of all agreed recommendations with particular priority to Child Safe Standards, developing models of accreditation and independent oversight.4. Expand the approach to monitoring complaints by children and young people within agencies with a sharper focus of agencies with direct service to children and young people.	√ √ √	√ √ √	√ √ √

Oversight of vulnerable children and young people	Develop an approach to oversight of vulnerable children and young people in service delivery, wherever possible engaging children and young people in the design and process.	√	√	√
Speaking Out Survey	<p>Administer, analyse and promote the findings of the 2021 Speaking Out Survey engaging up to 15,000 children and young people in Western Australia.</p> <p>Commence the development of trend data using both SOS19 and SOS21.</p> <p>Develop and implement a process to engage children and young people with disability to complete the survey.</p> <p>Through the SOS21 process, engage with children and young people in Aboriginal communities and investigate the impact COVID-19 has had on their wellbeing.</p> <p>Investigate the opportunity to conduct future whole of population surveying and how the data could be utilised in promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. Investigate how the data could be maximised to shape necessary research to respond to the voice of children and young people in the survey.</p>	√	√	
Wellbeing Monitoring Framework	<p>Continue to update information as it arises within the wellbeing framework and monitor changes as it is applied. Incorporate the voice of children and young people from SOS21 to ensure their views are considered within this analysis.</p> <p>Commence a register to track strategic recommendations aimed at addressing areas of concern, including the progress of implementation and evaluation of effectiveness.</p>	√	√	√
			√	

Monitor work in child protection	<p>Complete an inquiry via a case study of children in residential care who have been exposed to harmful sexual behaviours and report back to the Minister on systems failures and concerns that permitted this to occur.</p> <p>Investigate an oversight approach of children and young people in secure care.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
Projects and consultations with children and young people	<p>Responding to concerns raised by female children and young people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete a literature review on perceptions by and of female children and young people and the impact this has on their wellbeing and life trajectory. 2. Develop a consultation with female children and young people about the findings, and with male children and young people to note their response to it. 3. Form a number of children and young people advisory groups to inform the Commissioner in this work. <p>Continue to develop children and young people's responses to their lived environment. Complete a paper based on the consultations and conduct a seminar in June/July 2021 with children and young people to explore the positives and concerns raised. Note specific differences between metro and regional children and young people.</p> <p>In partnership with the Department of Education, complete a training process with Aboriginal young people in Roebourne to skill them to be researchers within their own community about a new school development.</p> <p>Support consultation with children and young people in WA on the National Children's Strategy.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>

<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>Continue advocating for an Aboriginal Commissioner for Children and Young People to work in a collaborative partnership within the office to specifically address the over representation of Aboriginal children and young people in an array of government supported services.</p> <p>Establish an advocacy approach to significant issue of child poverty, mental health of children and young people.</p> <p>Develop a paper reflecting diversionary practice as a result of COVID-19 to trial beyond the pandemic.</p> <p>Develop a paper to demonstrate an alternative approach to youth justice, including raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and repurposing Banksia Hill Detention Centre.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
<p>Promotion of the Commissioner's Statement of Commitment</p>	<p>Promotion of young people's rights including advocacy for the implementation of impact statements on children and young people in future government legislation and policy development.</p>		<p>✓</p>	
<p>Child poverty</p>	<p>Lead the national Children's Commissioners and Guardians to develop a position on child poverty to inform and advocate to the Federal Parliament.</p> <p>Develop a coalition of support at the state level to raise awareness and investigate actions to undertake in addressing child poverty.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	

Ongoing work

The Commissioner will continue to undertake a substantial body of work on an ongoing basis, including publishing submissions, supporting research, seminars and presentations and media activity, to advocate for what is in the best interests of WA children and young people across a range of issues.

In undertaking this work, the Commissioner will draw on his ongoing program of meetings with children and young people, their families, and service providers in metropolitan and regional areas, in addition to contemporary research and evidence of existing and emerging issues.

The Commissioner, through Corporate Services, implements and manages the public sector legislation, policies and procedures within the Commissioner's office including maintaining and advocating for public sector professionalism and integrity. This includes responding to emerging trends and issues that occur in the public sector as a whole and to engage in continuous improvement in service delivery.

The Commissioner is also planning for future work as resources are made available:

Horizon projects

Horizon projects	Overview	Priority link		
		1	2	3
Vulnerable groups to consult/advocate/monitor or research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation into the influence drugs and alcohol have on the wellbeing of children and young people. 2. Investigate the influence IT, social media, artificial intelligence and future technology has on children and young people's wellbeing and development. 3. Investigate issues arising from SOS21 affecting children and young people, including safety, mental health and disability 		√	√