



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Annual Report
2022-23

Acknowledgement of Country

The Commissioner for Children and Young People proudly acknowledges and pays respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands across Western Australia and acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation upon whose lands the Commissioner's office is located. I recognise the continuing connection to culture, lands, skies and waters, families and communities for all the Aboriginal peoples.

The Commissioner and her team also pay their respects to all Elders, past, present and emerging leaders. We recognise the knowledge, insights and capabilities of Aboriginal people, and pay respect to Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing.

A note about language

Prior to colonisation Aboriginal people primarily communicated through oral use of language, were well versed in multiple languages in order to converse with surrounding groups for different contexts and responsibilities dependant on where you were located. Seasonal movement was quite common for hunting, gathering and other related responsibilities and language was often expressed through various forms of art, dance, songs and storytelling. The written form of language where the interpretation of Aboriginal words were captured by historical documentation and later on by non-Aboriginal linguists who relied on western interpretation of

sounds. This then created various forms of spelling of Aboriginal words which can differ and are often accepted and recognised. For example, Noongar, Nyungar, Noongah.

For the purposes of this report, the term 'Aboriginal' encompasses Western Australia's diverse language groups and also recognises Torres Strait Islanders who live in Western Australia. The use of the term 'Aboriginal' in this way is not intended to imply equivalence between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, though similarities do exist.



Letter to Parliament

Hon. Alanna Clohesy MLC

President of the Legislative Council

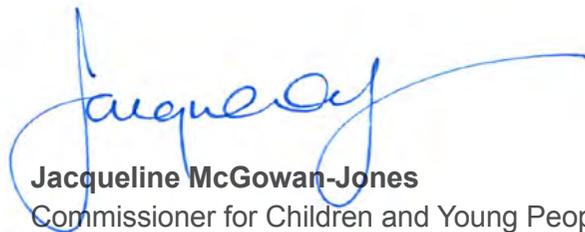
Hon. Michelle Roberts MLA

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People 2022–23

In accordance with section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit to Parliament for information the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.



Jacqueline McGowan-Jones

Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

31 August 2023



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia



There's definitely groups where I feel like I belong and it's just about finding those groups. It's important to seek out those people that you feel you do belong with." Oli, *Here I Am*



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A portrait of Kaya, the Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia, with grey hair and a white blazer, set against a background of abstract orange and yellow circular patterns.

Kaya

I am pleased to present the Annual Report on the activities of the Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia for 2022-23, showcasing our achievements and challenges in the 2022-23 financial year.

The Parliament of Western Australia established the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People on 10 December 2007, and I am the fourth person to have the honour of this role. This report covers my first full twelve month period as the Commissioner.

From the Commissioner



The foundation for my role is always to listen to children and young people across WA and advocate for their views to be meaningfully considered by community and government decision makers.”

In Western Australia there are around 634,000 children and young people aged 0-17 years. Approximately 105,000 of these children and young people are living in poverty. My office will continue to advocate at the state and national level for action to address poverty in Australia and, importantly, to advocate for a comprehensive child and family wellbeing approach to the design of policy and delivery of services and programs into the future.

In accordance with the functions in the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, I have ensured we continue to focus on the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people. With the ever-increasing over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the out-of-home care and youth justice systems, it is critical that we work together to ensure full implementation of all actions in the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*. We must focus on building a structured approach to hearing the voices of children and young people in all matters that affect them.

My office has also developed guidelines and templates to support both government and non-government organisations in undertaking child impact assessments when developing policies and programs. I would urge everybody to embed these processes into their organisations.

The foundation for my role is always to listen to children and young people across WA and advocate for their views to be meaningfully considered by community and government decision makers. This report outlines the ways in which their views influence my work in advocating for their rights and improved wellbeing.

During the reporting period, I have continued to undertake extensive consultation with children and young people across Western Australia. A total of 4,512 children and young people have shared their views with me on multiple issues including the environment, their wellbeing, homelessness and housing, youth justice, education, training, and employment.



To celebrate our milestone of 15 years since establishment

we worked with 15 inspiring young people who shared how they are making a positive contribution to their community in a publication, *Here I Am*, which was sent to all WA school libraries.

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Valuable insights have been gained through our Youth Advisory Committees, the Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community (YARiC) project, to trans and gender diverse young people who openly expressed their experiences and conveyed important messages to adults about their lives, as well as the numerous young people who have spoken out about vaping. Approximately 100 young people also attended a Forum where we sought their views on matters such as Advocacy as well as providing them with advocacy training. Each of these young people

has contributed in a significant way, offering us a deeper understanding of how we can enhance our support for the young people in Western Australia.



I continued regularly to meet with Ministers, departmental Directors-General and the Joint Standing Committee for the Commissioner for Children and Young People to provide them with the valuable feedback I have received throughout the year from our most precious resource – our children and young people. I have continued to engage in national conversations, through forums such as the Australia Children’s Commissioners and Guardians Group and the First Nations Children’s Commissioners and Guardians Caucus, to highlight the needs of Western Australian children and young people. Furthermore, I have met with international representatives holding similar roles to mine to discuss their progress and challenges and to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for children and young people in WA.

Over the last year youth justice has deservedly been in the spotlight. We have seen the decision to move some young people from Banksia Hill Detention Centre to Unit 18 within Casuarina Prison. There has been unrest in Banksia Hill and considerable public commentary around the wellbeing of young people held in detention.

My position remains unchanged – every decision made about young people in detention, and every response to their behaviour, needs to be aimed towards rehabilitation.

We need to focus on supporting the wellbeing of future generations to address the factors that lead to young people coming into contact with the justice system.

I have visited both Casuarina Prison’s Unit 18 and Banksia Hill Detention Centre at various points throughout the year and spoken directly to young people about their experiences. I thank the Department of Justice for facilitating these visits and acknowledge the announcement of a new model of care for Banksia Hill.

My office has been through a significant change since I commenced. I thank our current and former team members for their dedication and commitment to children and young people throughout their time with us.

My sincere thanks to every young person who shared their views over the last year – whether that be through a conversation with me at a school or youth service, a survey response or by being part of a focus group or research project. It is always my privilege to hear their perspectives and experiences.

Jacqueline McGowan-Jones

Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

2022–23 highlights

4,512 
children and young people consulted
 throughout metropolitan and regional WA

306 
representations made
 including 148 advocacy meetings and 16 submissions on issues such as child poverty, disability and education

13,190 
downloads
 of the Commissioner’s online publications

13 
publications released
 including:

- The views of home educated children and young people on their wellbeing
- Girls’ wellbeing
- The health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people in remote WA
- Here I am: Stories from young everyday leaders in Western Australia
- Profile of children and young people in WA 2023
- Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community (YARiC): Report on the YARiC wellbeing survey

The Talking About Vaping survey attracted over 4,000 responses from young people aged 12 to 18 years with a report to be released in late 2023.



Statistics on WA children and young people

Western Australia has approximately 634,000 children and young people

who make up 23 per cent of the State's population



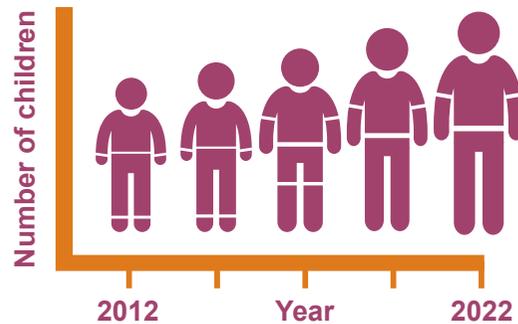
Poverty line



An estimated

105,000

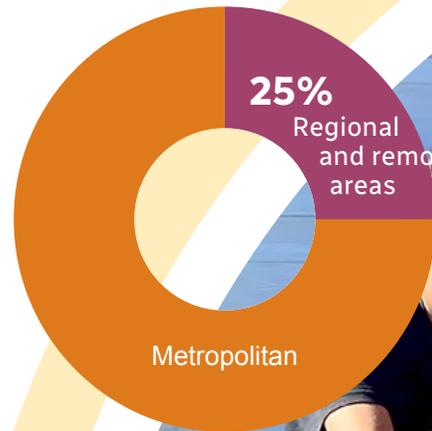
children and young people are living below the poverty line in WA



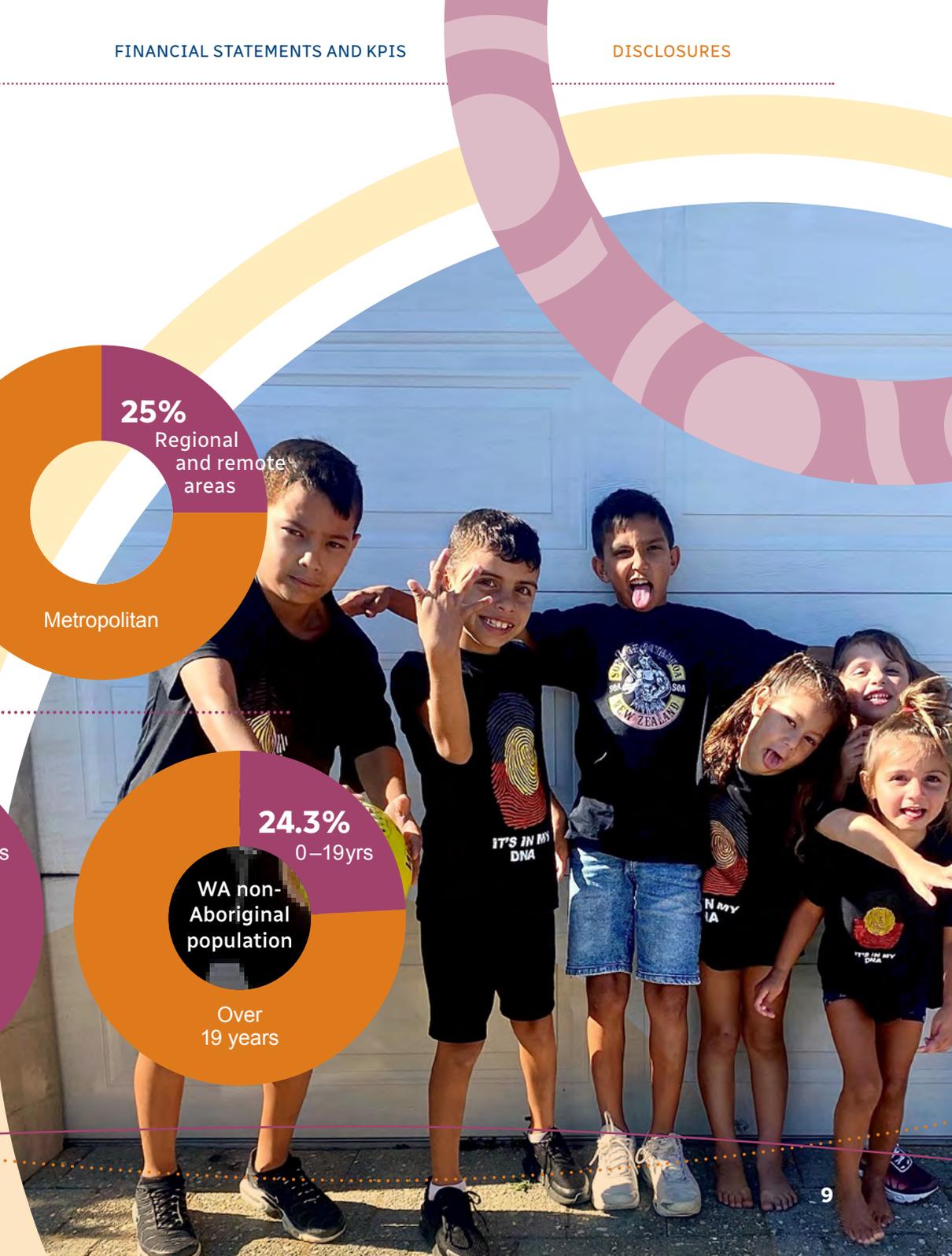
In the last 10 years there has been a **17 per cent** increase in the number of children aged 6 to 11 years living in WA

Aboriginal children and young people

Around **154,000** of children and young people in WA live in regional and remote areas



There are about **50,000** Aboriginal children and young people aged 0 to 19 years in WA



About us

Vision

That all children and young people are heard, are healthy and safe, reach their potential and are welcomed as valued members of the community and in doing so we build a brighter future for the whole community.

Values

Respect, honesty, inclusivity, creativity, positivity, determination, independence and integrity.



ABOUT US

Commissioner's role

The Commissioner's work is underpinned by the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act).

The Act outlines the guiding principles, powers and functions of the office. In accordance with statutory obligations, the Commissioner:

- advocates for children and young people
- promotes the participation of children and young people in decision making that affects their lives
- promotes and monitors the wellbeing of children and young people in the community
- monitors the way in which government agencies investigate or otherwise deal with complaints from children and young people
- monitors trends in complaints made by children and young people to government agencies
- initiates and conducts inquiries into any matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people
- monitors, reviews and makes recommendations on laws, policies, programs and services affecting the wellbeing of children and young people

- promotes public awareness and understanding of matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people
- conducts, coordinates and sponsors research into matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people
- consults with children and young people from a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds and age groups throughout Western Australia each year.

The Act requires the Commissioner to give priority to, and have a special regard for, the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, and children and young people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged for any reason.

Under the Act, the role of the Commissioner is not to deal with complaints made by, or on behalf of, individuals; however, she may respond to issues that identify possible systemic matters that affect the wellbeing of children and young people more broadly.

The Commissioner can provide a young person or their advocate(s) with information about services and avenues for support.

Guiding principles



As outlined in the Act:

- children and young people are entitled to live in a caring and nurturing environment, protected from harm and exploitation
- the contributions made by children and young people to the community should be recognised for their value and merit
- the views of children and young people on all matters affecting them should be given serious consideration and taken into account
- parents, guardians, families and communities have the primary role in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of their children and young people and should be supported in carrying out this role.

Approach

The Commissioner's work has regard to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and is informed by the views and opinions of children and young people and the best available knowledge and evidence of what works well.

ABOUT US

Independence

The Commissioner, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, is an independent statutory officer who provides reports directly to the Parliament of Western Australia. The Commissioner can table reports in the Parliament, conduct inquiries and require agencies to provide information on matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Parliament has a Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People which regularly consults with the Commissioner, and reviews and reports to Parliament on the Commissioner's exercise of her functions under the Act.

The Commissioner formally met with the Committee twice during 2022-23, and also engaged with members of the Committee individually during her Listening Tour program and at other events. In addition, some Committee members met with the Commissioner's staff and young people at Parliament House as part of the Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community project.

More information about the Joint Standing Committee is available on the Parliament of Western Australia website. ► [Link](#)

The office

The office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People provides support for the Commissioner to advocate for all Western Australian children and young people through three key platforms:

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 disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people.

In providing these functions and services the organisation is divided into four main functions: Policy; Research and Evaluation; Media, Engagement and Communication; and Executive Support.

Staff development

Staff training and development is a high priority for the Commissioner. In 2022-23, the Commissioner engaged a consultant to deliver Project Management training to the leadership team, including designing of project templates. All staff were also provided with Aboriginal Cultural Safety and Gender and Sexuality Diversity training.

Many staff attended development and training programs relevant to their roles and career aspirations including developing writing skills; developing reports and business cases; and Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation. Staff also attended conferences and forums on issues such as early childhood development, youth justice and education.

Personal and professional development continue to be a priority for the office and is a key component of staff performance and development plans.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People team were one of the first public sector organisations to achieve 100% completion of the Public Sector Commission's 2023 Public Sector Census and will use available information to guide staff and cultural development.

Policy

This team monitors and reviews legislation, policies, programs and services affecting children and young people.

The Policy team also reviews outcomes of the work undertaken by the Research and Evaluation team to inform discussion papers, advocacy platforms and priorities for action by the Commissioner.

ABOUT US

Organisational chart



ABOUT US

Research and Evaluation

The Research and Evaluation team undertake research and consultation as well as developing evidence-based resources to inform the continual development and evolution of legislation, policy and services.

They are responsible for leading surveys and undertaking comprehensive analysis of the data to prepare quality reports which highlight the voices of children and young people.

Media, Communications and Engagement

The Media, Engagement and Communication team supports children and young people's participation in the work of the Commissioner by promoting the ways in which children and young people positively contribute to their communities.

Working across the agency they also assist in the development of information and resources to promote community awareness and understanding about the wellbeing of children and young people.

They manage the engagement of media including working with the Commissioner to develop opinion pieces and respond to media requests. A key component is managing the events and sponsorships that highlight achievements of children and young people in WA.

Executive Support

Supporting organisational performance and ongoing business operations, the Executive Support team ensure good governance, reporting and accountability.

Ambassadors for Children and Young People

The Commissioner's Ambassador initiative recognises eminent people living in Western Australia who have a significant role in the community and a commitment to supporting children and young people and their families.

The Ambassadors work with the Commissioner to increase community awareness and understanding of factors that affect the wellbeing of children and young people and, where appropriate, provide input and guidance in the projects undertaken by the Commissioner and her staff.

Western Australia's Ambassadors for Children and Young People are:

- Professor Donna Cross OAM
- Mrs Annie Fogarty AM
- Dr Robert Isaacs AM OAM JP PhD (Hon)
- Mrs Tonya McCusker AM
- Ms June Oscar AO
- Dr Donald Payne
- His Honour Denis Reynolds
- Ms Linda Savage
- Hon Barbara Scott OAM
- Dr Casta Tungaraza.



ABOUT US

Performance Management Framework

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's Performance Management Framework is consistent with the State Government goal of *Safe, Strong and Fair Communities: Supporting our local and regional communities to thrive*.

Desired outcome for the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon.

Key effectiveness indicators:

- extent to which children and young people in various regions of the state are consulted
- extent to which issues affecting children and young people are researched, advocated for and promoted.

Service undertaken by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Consultation, research and advocacy of the wellbeing of children and young people.

Key efficiency indicators:

- unit cost per child
- unit cost per representation.

Planning

The Commissioner's *Strategic Directions 2023-24* outlines the broad focus areas of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and aims to inform and engage the community in the work of the Commissioner. The Commissioner's annual work plan supports the strategic directions.

The work of the office for this reporting period is outlined under the strategic plan's three key platforms:

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 disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people.



Agency performance



AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Platform 1

Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people

In accordance with the Strategic Directions for 2023-24, the Commissioner continued to visit schools, organisations and other places where children and young people gather, to hear their voices.

Listening tour

In the past year the Commissioner visited metropolitan, regional and remote areas of WA to hear from children and young people, as well as their families and those who work to support their wellbeing.

The Commissioner met with children and young people in schools, advisory groups, and support services throughout the metropolitan area as well as in Kalgoorlie, Albany, Esperance, Northam, Broome, Balgo, Merredin and the South-West region. She also regularly visited schools, non-government organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations across the state.

Advisory committees

Throughout 2022, the Commissioner had two advisory committees that informed the Commissioner's ongoing work on girls' wellbeing. Two student groups from Margaret River Senior High School and Penrhos College worked with the Commissioner throughout the year and advocated for free period products in schools as well as participating in talks with school leaders, local councils and local members of Parliament to advocate for young people to be included in discussions around gender inequality, early consent education and the need for more inclusive school environments.

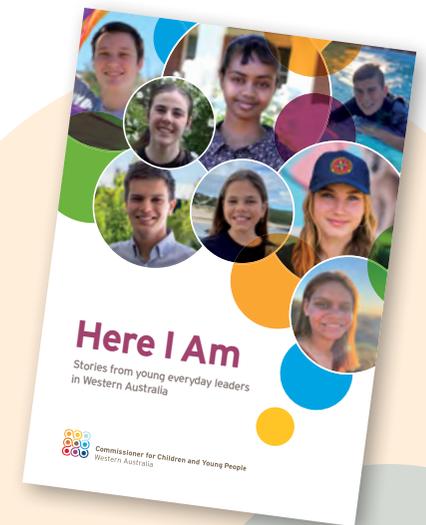
At the end of 2022 the work of these young people was celebrated with an afternoon tea co-hosted by His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, Governor of Western Australia and the Commissioner.

Here I Am: Stories from young everyday leaders in Western Australia

December 2022 marked 15 years since WA first appointed a commissioner to provide an independent voice for the state's children and young people. To mark this milestone, the Commissioner released *Here I Am*, a publication of 15 stories of young people making a difference in their communities. The publication was distributed to all WA school libraries.

An accompanying teacher resource was developed to encourage teachers to use *Here I Am* stories within the classroom. Approximately 30 schools will be incorporating the young people's stories within classroom learning.

► [Click here to view](#)



AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Youth engagement co-design project

As part of the commitment to review and build on the opportunities for children and young people to be heard in the work of the office, including consultations on specific policy issues and providing feedback on our work, the Commissioner partnered with the Youth Affairs Council of WA to co-design a youth engagement strategy. A key component of the project was to convene a youth steering group to carry out investigations to co-design the Commissioner's youth engagement approaches for 2024 and beyond.

Following an expression of interest process in May-June 2023, the steering group will commence the co-design process in the second half of 2023. This project will provide the Commissioner with the views of children and young people about how best to engage them into the future, and gain advice from a broad cross-section of children and young people.

'Stand Up, Be Heard' youth forum

Around 100 students from schools across the metropolitan area joined the Commissioner at WA Museum Boola Bardip in late June to take part in a workshop to promote young people's rights to have their voices heard and develop their advocacy skills.

As part of the workshop, young people explored the barriers to having their voices heard and ways in which to add their views to community discussion. A report on the outcomes from event will provide some guidance to the co-design project.

Celebrating best practise in consulting children and young people

The Commissioner sponsors several awards that celebrate organisations and individuals making a difference in the lives of WA children and young people.

Mentally Healthy Education Award

The Commissioner sponsors the Mentally Healthy Education Award as part of the Western Australian Mental Health Awards. These Awards are hosted by the Western Australian Association for Mental Health with the support of the Mental Health Commission. The award recognises education institutions such as WA primary and secondary schools that encourage good mental health for their students, staff and volunteers. Westfield Park Primary School was the 2022 winner of the Award.

◀ The WA Youth Awards

Since 2010, the Commissioner has consistently supported the WA Youth Awards managed by the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia. In 2022, the Commissioner sponsored the Participate Award, which recognises a young person aged 12 to 17 years who has shown outstanding dedication to making a positive change in their community, and who has inspired their peers.



AGENCY PERFORMANCE

The recipient of the Commissioner's 2022 Participate Award was Fatoumata Toure, an impressive young person whose outstanding volunteering, mentoring and leadership through football makes her an important role model in her community.

▼ Youth Choices Film Competition

Managed by Constable Care Foundation, the Youth Choices Film Competition asks students aged 12 to 18 years to create short films that raise awareness of important public safety issues for WA young people. The Commissioner sponsored the Student Choice Award which was awarded to two Cornerstone Christian College students in Busselton for their film which tackled the topic of online addiction and its impacts on young people.

Best Practice in Children's Consultation Award

The Commissioner sponsored an award for Best Practice in Children's Consultation which recognises excellence in listening to and using the views of children and young people to achieve significant outcomes.

The inaugural award is part of the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) WA Achievement Awards which aim to recognise individual and organisational excellence in public service.

There were two joint winners of the Award in 2022, Telethon Kids' Institute *Sun Safe* Project and Nature Play WA's *Talk N Walk* Program.

Information about these awards is available on the Commissioner's website. ► [Link](#)

Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas

The Commissioner sponsored Awards for a logo design competition for the Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas (ACYWA). The level of creativity and artistic expression displayed by young minds across Australia was truly inspiring. In addition, all participants had the chance to engage in a live Question and Answer session with the Creative Director of the Neuropower Group.

The ACYWA will map data on children across Australia, enabling the visualisation, analysis and monitoring health and wellbeing metrics for children. The visibility will provide more specificity and utility of the data available for public policy investment and commissioning decisions enabling maximum impact on the lives of children and families. The Commissioner is a partner in this project. ► [Link](#)

Talking About Vaping survey

Coinciding with announcements of stronger regulation around e-cigarettes, the Commissioner invited WA young people aged 12 to 18 years to have a say on use and access to e-cigarettes or 'vapes'.

This online survey asked young people what they think makes these products appealing to young people, whether it is easy to access these products, and what advice or support they would like from adults on vaping.

Over a five-week period, the survey attracted 3,300 responses to be used in data analysis and reporting, making this the largest qualitative study conducted with WA young people on this topic. Their responses will provide key insights for government, including schools, on how to best address the needs of children and young people in relation to the use of e-cigarettes. The responses will be collated and the Commissioner will release a summary report later in 2023.



AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Platform 2

Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people

Child Safe Organisations

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommend that all organisations that work with children and young people are child safe, and ensure their processes respond to complaints and concerns are child focussed.

The Commissioner continues to provide and promote resources and guidance to support Western Australian organisations to implement child safe guidelines and child-friendly complaints processes and engages with key stakeholders regarding opportunities for children and young people's voices to be heard throughout the process.

Child protection

The Commissioner continued to review annual progress reports from government on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Commission's 2021 *Independent Review into the Department of Communities' policies and practices in the placement of children with harmful sexual behaviours in residential care settings*.

The Commissioner continues to support the appointment of an Independent Advocate for children and young people in care, as well as mechanisms for independent oversight and accreditation and will continue to advocate for their establishment.

The *Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031* continues to guide the jurisdictional efforts in relation to improving the child protection system towards the shared goal of significant and sustained progress in reducing the rate of child abuse and neglect and its intergenerational impacts. The Framework was developed by the Australian and State and Territory Governments in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and the non-government sector. The Commissioner is a member of the National Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group and provides significant input into the implementation and monitoring of the action plan in accordance with the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*.

Monitoring complaints made by children and young people

Under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, the Commissioner is required to monitor trends in complaints by children and young people to government agencies.

Every two years, the Commissioner contacts WA government agencies about their complaints systems and the complaints received from children and young people. The most recent survey results from 2021 were published in early 2022. Planning is underway on how to best to undertake the next survey in 2023-2024.

Each year, individuals contact the Commissioner seeking information or to make complaints about other agencies. In the reporting period, 74 complaints about external agencies were received. While the role of the Commissioner is not to deal with complaints made by, or on behalf of, individual young people, her team provide information and support to community members about appropriate complaints systems and advocacy services.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

In line with the functions outlined in the Act, the Commissioner reviews all complaints received to identify systemic matters affecting the wellbeing of children and young people.

In 2023, the Commissioner reached an agreement with the Ombudsman to gain de-identified information on all complaints they receive from, or on behalf of, children and young people, to strengthen the ability of the Commissioner to identify systemic issues.

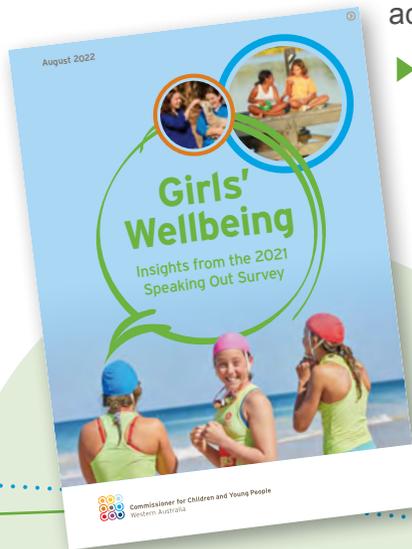
Girls' Wellbeing survey

Almost 1,000 young people took part in an online survey around girls' wellbeing in late 2022.

To further understand the findings from the Speaking Out Survey 2021, in which female students consistently rated their wellbeing below that of their male peers, young people were asked questions around gender transition, gender equality and self-esteem.

The survey responses have been analysed and collated, with a report to be released in mid-2023.

▶ [Click here to view](#)



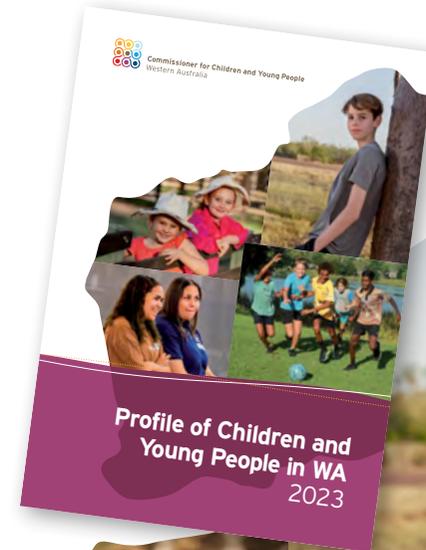
Profile of Children and Young People in WA

The annual Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia was published in early 2023.

The report provides a demographic profile of WA's 634,000 children and young people. It includes a focus on children and young people who experience vulnerability and hardship, such as those in the juvenile justice system, in out-of-home care, with disability and living in poverty.

The report is a component of the Commissioner's Wellbeing Monitoring Framework and can be used by government and non-government organisations to help them allocate resources for children and young people across WA.

▶ [Click here to view](#)



AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians Group (ACCG)

The ACCG is a coalition of independent Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates for children and young people that aims to:

- promote the rights of children and young people, including their right to participate in decisions relating to them, as articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ensure the best interests of children and young people are considered in the development of policies and programs
- give voice to the views of, and encourage direct consultation with, children and young people on matters that affect them
- encourage systemic improvement, informed by evidence-based research, in areas that impact on the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and young people.

In the past year, the ACCG met three times and supported cohesive statements on youth detention and the Uluru Statement from the Heart. At their April 2023 meeting, they endorsed the 11 Advocacy Priorities developed by the First Nations Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates Caucus (FNCCGA Caucus) as the priorities for the ACCG.

The ACCG is supported by a Policy Officers group, who meet before and after meetings of the ACCG and First Nations Caucus. Their role is to action priorities of the groups and includes representatives from all Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates.

Public commentary

There are many ways in which the Commissioner advocates for WA's children and young people, raising awareness of the issues affecting their wellbeing and encouraging positive change in our society.

The Commissioner makes public comment in the media where it is in the best interests of WA children and young people. In 2022–23, the Commissioner advocated for children and young people in the youth justice system and promoted issues around education, the wellbeing of young women, access to childcare for children with complex needs and disabilities, and to encourage young people to participate in the Talking About Vaping survey.

The Commissioner's message reached a wide audience through five opinion pieces in the West Australian newspaper and interviews with WA Today, ABC, Radio 6PR, Bumma Bippa Media, and channels Seven, Nine and Ten. The Commissioner also maintains an active presence on social media and networking platforms.

First Nations Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (FNCCGA) Caucus

In January 2023, the eight First Nations Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates established a Caucus of the ACCG. The decision by the Australian Capital Territory to establish a new Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People will increase the number to nine.

At their inaugural face to face meeting in January 2023, they developed 11 advocacy priorities to guide collective efforts to improve outcomes, not only for First Nations children and young people, but for all children and young people.

The Caucus provides First Nations Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates the opportunity to provide cultural support and advice to each other and the ACCG.

In the 2022-23 financial year, the Caucus met face to face on two occasions and had two online meetings.

The Caucus meets in advance of the Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians Group (ACCG).

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Platform 3

Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people

Youth justice

The Commissioner continues to advocate for changes to the WA youth justice system to improve the opportunities and outcomes for young people in the system and their families.

In November, the Commissioner attended a key stakeholder meeting with the then-Premier of WA Mark McGowan MLA which was convened to discuss youth justice issues. The Commissioner meets regularly with the Director-General of the Department of Justice and the Commissioner for Corrective Services to discuss matters raised by children and young people in contact with the youth justice system.

The Commissioner visited Banksia Hill Detention Centre six times and visited Unit 18 of Casuarina Prison three times, and engages directly with the children and young people. She has also met with families of those detained.

The Commissioner supported the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services' announced inspection of both Banksia Hill and Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison in February 2023. A report on this visit was tabled in Parliament in May.

The Commissioner supported Social Reinvestment WA in the development and launch of the *Blueprint for a Better Future: Paving the Way for Youth Justice Reform in Western Australia*, and fully supports the Blueprint and its implementation.

The ACCG released a joint statement in October reiterating their calls to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years and continues to prioritise youth justice.

Child poverty

Evidence was provided to the Senate Community Affairs Committee's Poverty in Australia Hearing in April, highlighting the experiences WA children and young people have shared with the Commissioner on the impacts of poverty.

In June the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People completed their Inquiry into the most effective ways for Western Australia to address food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty. The Commissioner's submission to the Inquiry advocated for a nationally-agreed methodology for measuring child poverty, the development of a state-wide child and family wellbeing strategy and the use of child impact assessments.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people

The Commissioner and her team worked with seven young Aboriginal women in the Goldfields to provide training as peer researchers so that they can support other children and young people in having a say about issues that affect them.

The *Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community (YARiC)* project further investigated issues raised about the wellbeing of young women through the *Speaking Out Survey 2019 and 2021*.

Culturally appropriate training was designed in collaboration with Curtin University and wellbeing support was provided by Better Heart Self Care. Kalgoorlie *Follow the Dream* (Polly Farmer Foundation) program staff assisted the Commissioner to recruit seven young Aboriginal women aged 12 to 18 who undertook three days of training before they surveyed 54 young people. A report was presented to the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People and published on the Commissioner's website. [▶ Link](#)

The Commissioner is a member of the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee which brings together State Government agencies with the Kimberley

regional Governance Group to support and enable Aboriginal-led solutions to improve youth wellbeing.

The Commissioner regularly engages with Aboriginal cultural leaders, Elders and communities on a range of topics.

Trans and gender diverse children and young people

Trans and gender diverse children and young people participated in focus groups to discuss issues they face and what they want adults to know about their experiences.

Representatives from TransFolk of WA, Perth Inner City Youth Service, the Freedom Centre and the Youth Pride Network, together with representatives with lived experience of being trans and gender diverse, supported this work.

A report on the key consultation themes will be released in the second half of 2023.

Mental health

The Commissioner has advocated strongly for improved access to mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services for children and young people in WA. This is a priority given the findings in the 2021 Speaking Out Survey, which demonstrated a significant decline in girls' wellbeing.

The Commissioner meets regularly with the Mental Health Commissioner.

The Commissioner is a member of the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee.

The Commissioner continues to monitor implementation of the recommendations from the March 2022 *Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0–18 years in Western Australia*.

Disability

During 2021 and 2022 Lotterywest funding was used to extend the *Speaking Out Survey 2021* to children and young people with disability outside of mainstream education. As part of this extension, the Commissioner's office piloted modified survey questionnaires for the different cohorts, reaching 545 children and young people with hearing or vision impairments, behavioural and engagement challenges, and multiple complex needs.

Two key groups of students participated in this project, with the support of their schools and teachers. Students in the Schools of Special Educational Needs completed the main SOS21 survey, while students participating in education support schools and centres across government and non-government schools completed one of two modified versions of the main survey.

A report summarising these findings is in its final stages and is due to be published later this year.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Inaugural Ambassador for First Nations

On 6 June 2023, the Commissioner met with Mr Justin Mohamed, the Australia's inaugural Ambassador for First Nations who was appointed on the 7 March 2023. The Ambassador has extensive experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, social justice and reconciliation. He leads the government's efforts to embed Indigenous perspectives and develop a First Nations Foreign Policy Strategy.



The Ambassador heads the Office of First Nations Engagement within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, working in partnership with the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

The Ambassador was formerly the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Victoria and was keen to understand the Commissioner's role and responsibilities in WA. Discussions centred on the lack of a regulatory role for the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the importance of establishing a First Nations Commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people.

Ombudsperson for Children Mauritius

On 22 November 2022, the Commissioner met with the Ombudsperson for Children Mauritius, Mrs Rita Venkatasawmy, to discuss inclusive education opportunities for children with disabilities. Mrs Venkatasawmy aims to conduct an international comparison of good practice in Australia and recommend reforms to the Mauritian Government. She also discussed measures implemented by the Commissioner's office to support inclusive education in Western Australia, such as the Indicators of Wellbeing and the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework.

Other key discussion items included the lack of regulatory functions for the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA and key issues for children and young people. In addition, there was considerable discussion on First Nations matters and their over representation in out-of-home care and youth justice.

United States Consul General

In August 2022, the Commissioner met informally with Siriana K. Nair, the US Consul General in Perth. With prior diplomatic posts in Indonesia, the Philippines, and India, the Consul General has a wealth of experience regarding the Indo-Pacific region. Prior to her appointment as the American Consul General in Perth, Australia, Ms Nair worked as the Deputy Political Counsellor at the American Mission in Brasilia, Brazil, where she advanced bilateral geopolitical goals during a time of change in Brazil's foreign policy.

The Commissioner provided an overview of her role and functions, and compared this to similar roles nationally and internationally.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Formal submissions 2022–23

The following table shows the major submissions made by the Commissioner in 2022–23; it does not indicate all submissions or representations made by the Commissioner during the year.

Inquiry into the most effective ways for Western Australia to address food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty

Delivered to

Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People



July 2022



July 2022



Consultation Draft Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit Declaration Implementation plan)

Blueprint for a Better Future: Paving the Way for Youth Justice Reform in Western Australia

Delivered to

Social Reinvestment WA



August 2022



August 2022



Response to Child Safe Awareness Policy for Local Government Consultation paper
Delivered to
Department of Communities

Missing and murdered First Nations women and children

Delivered to

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs References Committee



December 2022



January 2023



Response to the Next chapter of WA's liquor laws
Delivered to
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Review of sexual offences and the law related to consent

Delivered to
WA Law Reform Commission

February 2023



Inquiry into the Extent and nature of poverty in Australia

Delivered to
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
References Committee

March 2023



Best practice guide for services providers that engage with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse

Delivered to
National Office of Child Safety

April 2023



Inquiry into Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws (2023)

Delivered to
Australian Law Reform Commission

February 2023



WA Government Review of WA's COVID-19 Response

Delivered to
Department Of Premier and Cabinet WA

March 2023



AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Financial targets summary

Financial targets

\$000	2023 Target ⁽¹⁾	2023 Actual	Variation ⁽²⁾
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	3,274	3,119	(155)
Net cost of services (sourced from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	3,274	3,109	(165)
Total equity (sourced from Statement of Financial Position)	768	1,340	572
Approved salary expense level	1,923	1,799	(124)

(1) As per Budget Paper.

(2) Explanation of variances are contained in Note 8.

Working cash targets

\$000	2023 Target	2023 Actual	Variation
Agreed working cash limit	818	1,018	200

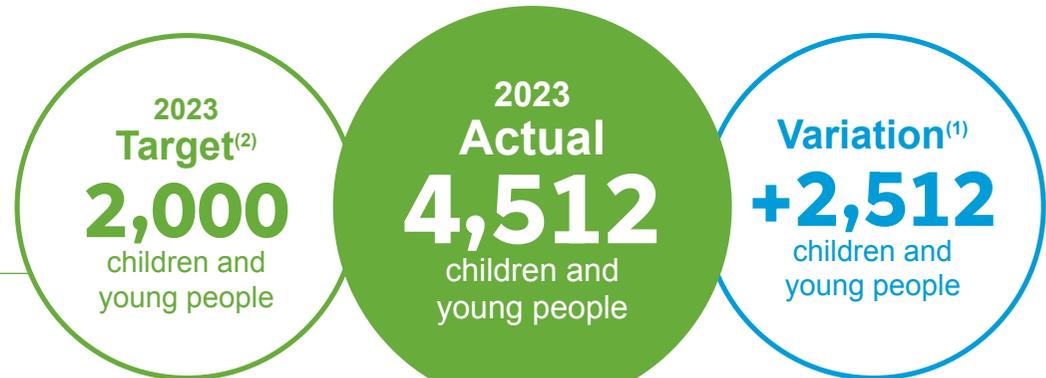
AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Summary of key performance indicators

Outcome 1: The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon:

Key effectiveness indicator:

Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted



Key effectiveness indicator:

Unit Cost per Child



Key effectiveness indicator:

Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched, advocated and promoted



Key effectiveness indicator:

Unit cost per Representation



(1) Explanation of variances are contained in the KPI Statement. (2) As per Budget Paper.

Disclosures and legal compliance



Financial statements

Certification of financial statements

For the reporting period ended 30 June 2023

The accompanying financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the reporting period ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position as at 30 June 2023.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included within the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



C. Uren
Chief Finance Officer
23 August 2023



J. McGowan-Jones
Accountable Authority
23 August 2023

Independent auditor's report



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2023

Commissioner for Children and Young People

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Commission) which comprise:

- the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2023, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended
- Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Commissioner for the financial statements

The Commissioner is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions
- such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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7th Floor Albert Facey House 469 Wellington Street Perth MAIL TO: Perth BC PO Box 8489 Perth WA 6849 TEL: 08 6557 7500

In preparing the financial statements, the Commissioner is responsible for:

- assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Commission.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf.

Report on the audit of controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People. The controls exercised by the Commissioner are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework during the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Commissioner's responsibilities

The Commissioner is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

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Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagement ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the controls design to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including an assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures include testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2023. The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commission's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Commissioner's responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The Commissioner is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal controls as the Commissioner determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the key performance indicators, the Commission is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instructions 904 *Key Performance Indicators*.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the entity's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 904 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments, I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The Commissioner is responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and key performance indicators or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

The auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2023 included in the annual report on the Commission's website. The Commission's management is responsible for the integrity of the Commission's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Commission's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Jordan Langford-Smith
Senior Director Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
24 August 2023



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cost of Services			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	2.1(a)	2,012,313	1,963,098
Supplies and services	2.2	751,828	780,177
Depreciation expenses	4.1,4.2	7,751	10,440
Finance costs	6.3	853	209
Accommodation expenses	2.2	318,436	285,573
Other expenses	2.2	26,527	36,265
Loss on disposal of leased asset	4.3	1,400	-
Total cost of services		3,119,108	3,075,762
Income			
Other income	3.2	9,500	147
Total income		9,500	147
NET COST OF SERVICES		3,109,608	3,075,615
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	3.1	3,115,000	3,075,000
Income from other public sector entities	3.1	-	208,649
Resources received free of charge	3.1	199,528	240,365
Total income from State Government		3,314,528	3,524,014
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		204,920	448,399
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		204,920	448,399

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.4	1,018,400	1,065,337
Receivables	5.1	40,473	32,650
Total Current Assets		1,058,873	1,097,987
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.4	41,574	34,871
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	572,000	548,000
Plant and equipment	4.1	5,855	8,926
Right-of-use asset	4.2	23,074	4,650
Total Non-Current Assets		642,503	596,447
TOTAL ASSETS		1,701,376	1,694,434

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position (continued)

As at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.3	151,673	141,873
Lease liabilities	6.1	3,646	4,801
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	169,445	279,552
Contract liabilities	5.4	-	71,351
Total Current Liabilities		324,764	497,577
Non-Current Liabilities			
Lease liabilities	6.1	19,792	-
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	16,877	61,834
Total Non-Current Liabilities		36,669	61,834
TOTAL LIABILITIES		361,433	559,411
NET ASSETS		1,339,943	1,135,023
Equity			
Contributed equity		10,000	10,000
Accumulated surplus		1,329,943	1,125,023
TOTAL EQUITY		1,339,943	1,135,023

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	Contributed equity \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2021		10,000	676,624	686,624
Surplus		-	448,399	448,399
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	448,399	448,399
Balance at 30 June 2022		10,000	1,125,023	1,135,023
Balance at 1 July 2022		10,000	1,125,023	1,135,023
Surplus		-	204,920	204,920
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	204,920	204,920
Balance at 30 June 2023		10,000	1,329,943	1,339,943

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from State Government			
Service appropriation		3,091,000	3,050,000
Net cash provided by State Government		3,091,000	3,050,000
Utilised as follows:			
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(2,165,777)	(2,107,105)
Supplies and services		(544,100)	(552,633)
Accommodation		(318,436)	(285,573)
GST payments on purchases		(104,201)	(79,229)
Other payments		(97,878)	(33,461)
Receipts			
GST receipts on sales		950	526
GST receipts from taxation authority		95,429	80,838
Other receipts		9,500	73
Net cash used in operating activities		(3,124,513)	(2,976,564)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payments			
Principal elements of lease payments		(6,720)	(10,478)
Net cash used in financing activities		(6,720)	(10,478)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(40,234)	62,958
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		1,100,208	1,037,251
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	6.4	1,059,974	1,100,208

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Budget \$	2023 Actual \$	2023 Variance \$
Delivery of Services			
Item 11 net amount appropriated to deliver services	2,858,000	2,858,000	-
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes – <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	257,000	257,000	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	3,115,000	3,115,000	-
TOTAL	3,115,000	3,115,000	-

Notes to the financial statements

1. Basis of preparation

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) is a WA Government entity and is controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. The CCYP is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities have been included in the 'Overview' which does not form part of these financial statements.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the CCYP on 23 August 2023.

Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

1. The *Financial Management Act 2006* (**FMA**)
2. The Treasurer's Instructions (**TIs**)
3. Australian Accounting Standards (**AASs**) Reduced Disclosure Requirements
4. Where appropriate, those **AAS** paragraphs applicable for notforprofit entities have been applied.

The FMA and TIs take precedence over AASs. Several AASs are modified by the TIs to vary application, disclosure format and wording. Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, applying the accrual basis of accounting, and using the historical cost convention. Certain balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except that the:

1. Amount of GST incurred by the CCYP as a purchaser is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset's cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense; and
2. Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Contributed equity

Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to, transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 *Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Comparative information

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements. AASB 1060 provides relief from presenting comparatives for:

- Property, Plant and Equipment reconciliations
- Intangible Asset reconciliations; and
- Right-of-Use Asset reconciliations.

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

2. Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the CCYP's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the CCYP in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Employee benefits expenses	2.1(a)
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)
Other expenditure	2.2

2.1(a) Employee benefits expense

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Employee benefits	1,800,701	1,776,402
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	170,751	167,863
Other related expenses	40,861	18,833
Total employee benefits expenses	2,012,313	1,963,098

Employee Benefits include salaries, accrued and paid leave entitlements and paid personal leave.

Superannuation is the amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of comprehensive income comprises employer contributions paid to the WSS, other GESB schemes or other superannuation funds.

Other related expenses include staff training.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2.1(b) Employee related provisions

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave	86,183	122,050
Long service leave	82,537	156,307
	168,720	278,357
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	725	1,195
	725	1,195
Total current employee benefits provisions	169,445	279,552
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave	16,802	61,556
	16,802	61,556
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	75	278
	75	278
Total non-current employee benefits provisions	16,877	61,834
Total employee related provisions	186,322	341,386

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of annual leave and long services leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

Annual leave liabilities are classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Long service leave liabilities are unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the CCYP does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the CCYP has the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as the CCYP does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date. These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement, discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Employment on-costs involve settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses Note 2.2' and are not included as part of the CCYP's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

Employment on-costs provision

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Carrying amount at start of period	1,473	2,008
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	(673)	(535)
Carrying amount at end of period	800	1,473

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – long service leave

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating the CCYP's long service leave provision. These include:

- expected future salary rates
- discount rates
- employee retention rates
- expected future payments.

Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2.2 Other expenditure

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Supplies and services		
Communications	5,768	5,180
Consultants and contractors	431,897	386,559
Consumables	66,622	86,361
Travel	115,415	96,436
Lease, rent and hire costs	24,221	17,537
Licence, fee and registration	26,744	18,941
Publications	48,256	55,677
Sponsorship and corporate membership	27,529	14,811
Other	5,376	98,675
Total supplies and services expenses	751,828	780,177
Accommodation expenses		
Office rental	304,431	284,198
Repairs and maintenance	14,005	1,375
Total accommodation expenses	318,436	285,573
Other expenses		
Internal and external audit fee	27,200	36,800
Employment on-costs	(673)	(535)
Total other expenses	26,527	36,265
Total other expenditure	1,096,791	1,012,015

Supplies and services expenses are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

Office rental is expensed as incurred as Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between the CCYP and the Department of Finance for the leasing of office accommodation contain significant substitution rights.

Repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses as incurred.

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Employment on-cost includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-cost liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liabilities is included at note 2.1(b) Employee related provisions. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how the CCYP obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the CCYP is and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Income from State Government	3.1
Other income	3.2



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3.1 Income from State Government

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriation	3,115,000	3,075,000
Total appropriation received	3,115,000	3,075,000
Income received from other public sector entities during the period:		
- Lotterywest – recognition of grant revenue ^(a)	-	208,649
Total grants and subsidies	-	208,649
Resources received from other public sector entities during the period:		
- Department of Justice – IT services support	97,660	106,081
- Government Offices Accommodation – Leasing	13,145	11,486
- Government Offices Accommodation – Fixtures & Fittings depreciation	63,684	113,243
- Department of Education – HR systems support	847	1,679
- State Solicitors Office – Legal services	-	7,876
- Department of Communities- resource for one Senior Policy Officer	24,192	-
Total resources received free of charge	199,528	240,365
Total income from State Government	3,314,528	3,524,014

a) The CCYP received a grant from Lotterywest in 2019-20. The grant monies were used for the CCYP's Speaking Out Survey 2021 to strengthen the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and those with disabilities who do not attend mainstream schools and to hear their views especially in relation to the impact of COVID-19. The work was completed in 2021-22.

Service appropriations are recognised as income at fair value of consideration received in the period in which the CCYP gains control of the appropriated funds. The CCYP gains control of the appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury.

Income from other public sector entities is recognised as income when the CCYP has satisfied its performance obligations under the funding agreement. If there is no performance obligation, income will be recognised when the CCYP receives the funds.

Resources received from other public sector entities are recognised as income (and assets or expenses) equivalent to the fair value of the assets or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3.2 Other income

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Subsidies		
- Catholic Education Western Australia – contributions to Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community Kalgoorlie project	2,000	-
- Polly Farmer Foundation – contributions to Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community Kalgoorlie project	7,500	-
Total subsidies	9,500	
Other		
- Disposal of obsolete minor equipment	-	73
Total other		73
Net gains on disposal of leased asset		
Net proceeds from disposal of leased asset	-	2,804
Carrying amount of leased asset disposed	-	(2,730)
Net gain on disposal of leased asset	-	74
Total other income	9,500	147

Subsidies are recognised as income when the CCYP obtains control of the funding. The CCYP is deemed to have assumed control when the subsidy is received.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Key assets

This section includes information regarding the key assets the CCYP utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about the performance of these assets:

	Notes
Plant and equipment	4.1
Right-of-use assets	4.2

4.1 Plant and equipment

Year ended 30 June 2023	Office Equipment \$	Total \$
1 July 2022		
Gross carrying amount	15,351	15,351
Accumulated depreciation	(6,425)	(6,425)
Carrying amount at start of period	8,926	8,926
Depreciation	(3,070)	(3,070)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	5,855	5,855
Gross carrying amount	15,351	115,351
Accumulated depreciation	(9,496)	(9,496)

Initial recognition

Items of plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no cost or significantly less than fair value, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Subsequent measurement

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Useful lives

All plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life: Years
Office equipment	5 years
Computer hardware	3 years
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments are made where appropriate.

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised.

Where an asset measured at cost is written down to its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However, this reversal should not increase the asset's carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

4.2 Right-of-use asset

Year ended 30 June 2023	Vehicle \$
Carrying amount at beginning of period	4,650
Disposal	(23,766)
Depreciation write-back	21,700
Depreciation	(4,681)
Acquisition	25,171
Net carrying amount as at end of period	23,074

The CCYP has a lease for one operational pool vehicle with State Fleet.

The CCYP has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Department of Finance for the leasing of office accommodation. This lease is not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Finance and are accounted for as an expense as incurred.

Initial recognition

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, including the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received.

The CCYP has no short-term leases (with a lease term of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

Depreciation and impairment of right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

Right-of-use assets are tested for impairment when an indication of impairment is identified.

There were no indications of impairment to the CCYP's right-of-use asset.

4.3 Loss on disposal of leased asset

	Vehicle \$
Net loss on disposal of leased asset	
Carrying amount of leased asset disposed	23,766
Clear lease liability remaining at cessation of leases	(2,142)
Depreciation write-back	(21,700)
Adjustment charge	1,476
Net loss on disposal of leased asset	(1,400)

Loss on disposal of a leased asset was from the return of one operational pool vehicle.

5. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the CCYP's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes
Receivables	5.1
Amounts receivable for services	5.2
Payables	5.3
Contract liability	5.4

5.1 Receivables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
GST receivable	40,473	32,650
Total current	40,473	32,650
Total receivables	40,473	32,650

The CCYP does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements as security for receivables.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Non-current	572,000	548,000
Balance at end of period	572,000	548,000

Amounts receivable for services represent the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement. Amounts receivable for services are considered not impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the Holding account).

5.3 Payables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Trade payables	50,800	39,200
Payables to the ATO	36,754	35,590
Accrued expenses	28,400	30,000
Accrued salaries	32,325	33,396
Accrued superannuation	3,394	3,340
Payroll liabilities	-	347
Balance at end of period	151,673	141,873

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the CCYP becomes obliged to make future payments because of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 10-20 working days.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the reporting period end. The CCYP considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

5.4 Contract liabilities

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current	-	71,351

In 2021-22, the CCYP had a contract liability. It related to a grant received from Lotterywest for the CCYP's Speaking Out Survey 2021 to strengthen the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and those with disabilities who do not attend mainstream schools, and to hear their views especially in relation to the impact of COVID-19. In June 2022, the performance obligations were met, and the grant was acquitted with Lotterywest via their grant management tool. The monies unspent were refunded to Lotterywest in the 2022-23.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cash flows of the CCYP.

	Notes
Lease liabilities	6.1
Assets pledged as security	6.2
Finance costs	6.3
Cash and cash equivalents	6.4

6.1 Lease liabilities

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Lease liabilities		
Not later than one year	3,646	4,801
Later than one year and not later than five years	17,288	-
Later than five years	2,505	-
	23,438	4,801
Current	3,646	4,801
Non-current	19,793	-

At the commencement date of the lease, the CCYP recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease which is provided by State Fleet in their calculation model.

State Fleet determines what lease payments are included as part of the present value calculation of lease liability.

The interest of the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest of the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Subsequent measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications.

This section should be read in conjunction with note 4.2.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6.2 Assets pledged as security

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets pledged as security		
The carrying amounts of non-current assets pledged as security are:		
Right-of-use-asset-vehicles	23,074	4,650
Total assets pledged as security	23,074	4,650

The CCYP has secured the right-of-use assets against the related lease liabilities. In the event of default, the rights to the leased assets will revert to the lessor.

6.3 Finance costs

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest expense		
Interest expense on lease liabilities	853	209
Total interest expense	853	209
Total finance costs	853	209

Finance costs includes the interest component of the lease liability repayments to State Fleet.

6.4 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	1,018,400	1,065,337
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	41,574	34,871
Balance at end of period	1,059,974	1,100,208
Non-current		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(a)	41,574	34,871

a) Funds held in the suspense account for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that occurs every 11th year. This account is classified as noncurrent for 10 out of 11 years.

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise of cash at bank.

The accrued salaries suspense account consists of amounts paid annually, from the CCYP appropriations for salaries expense, into a Treasury suspense account to meet the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. Financial instruments and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the CCYP.

	Notes
Financial instruments	7.1
Contingent assets and liabilities	7.2

7.1 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,018,400	1,065,337
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	41,574	34,871
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	572,000	548,000
Total financial assets	1,631,974	1,648,208
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost ^(b)	151,673	146,674
Total financial liabilities	151,673	146,674

a) The amount of receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

b) The amount of financial liabilities at amortised cost excludes GST payable to the ATO (statutory payable).

7.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

The CCYP has no contingent assets or liabilities to disclose at the end of the reporting period.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Events occurring after the end of the reporting period	8.1
Key management personnel	8.2
Related party transactions	8.3
Related bodies	8.4
Affiliated bodies	8.5
Remuneration of auditors	8.6
Explanatory statement	8.7

8.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

The CCYP had no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that impacted on the financial statements.

8.2 Key management personnel

The CCYP has determined key management personnel to include cabinet ministers and senior officers. The CCYP does not incur expenditures to compensate Ministers and those disclosures may be found in the *Annual Report on State Finances*.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of the CCYP for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band

(\$)	2023	2022
300,001 – 350,000	1	-
200,001 – 250,000	-	1
150,001 – 200,000	-	1
101,000 – 150,000	-	1
50,001 – 100,000	6	4
	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total compensation of senior officers	784,612	847,883

8.3 Related party transactions

The CCYP is a wholly owned public sector entity that is controlled by the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the CCYP include:

- all cabinet ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities
- other departments and public sector entities, including related bodies included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly owned public sector entities)
- associates and joint ventures of a wholly owned public sector entity
- Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Material transactions with related parties

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the CCYP, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

8.4 Related bodies

The CCYP has no related bodies.

8.5 Affiliated bodies

The CCYP has no affiliated bodies.

8.6 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements controls and key performance indicators	28,400	27,300

8.7 Explanatory statement for controlled operations

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the CCYP undertaking transactions under its own control, as represented by the primary financial statements.

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2023, and between the actual results for 2023 and 2022 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances which vary more than 10% from their comparative **and** the variation is more than 1% of the following variance analyses for the:

Estimate and actual results for the current year

- Total Cost of Services of the estimate for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$3,274,000); and
- Total Assets of the estimate for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% \$1,447,000).

Actual results for the current year and the prior year actual

- Total Cost of Services for the previous year for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$3,075,762); and
- Total Assets for the previous year for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$1,694,433).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8.7.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$	Variance between actual and estimate \$	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	1	2,281,000	2,012,313	1,963,000	(268,687)	49,215
Supplies and services	2	437,000	751,828	780,177	314,828	(28,349)
Depreciation expenses		24,000	7,751	10,440	(16,249)	(2,689)
Finance costs		-	853	209	853	644
Accommodation expenses	3	405,000	318,436	285,573	(86,564)	32,863
Other expenses	4	127,000	26,527	36,265	(100,473)	(9,738)
Loss on disposal of leased asset		-	1,400	-	1,400	1,400
Total cost of services		3,274,000	3,119,108	3,075,762	(154,892)	43,346
Income						
Other income		-	9,500	147	9,500	9,353
Total Revenue		-	9,500	147	9,500	9,353
NET COST OF SERVICES		3,274,000	3,109,608	3,075,615	(164,392)	33,993
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation		3,115,000	3,115,000	3,075,000	-	40,000
Income from other public sector entities	A	-	-	208,649	-	(208,649)
Resources received free of charge	5,B	159,000	199,528	240,365	40,528	(40,838)
Total income from State Government		3,274,000	3,314,528	3,524,014	40,528	(209,486)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		-	204,920	448,399	204,920	(243,479)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		-	204,920	448,399	204,920	(243,479)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Major estimate and actual (2023) variance narratives

- 1) Employee benefits expense was less than the estimate due to staff vacancies and delays in recruitment of staff.
- 2) Supplies and services exceed the estimate due to the use of labour hire arrangements whilst permanent vacancies were being filled, higher resources received free of charge and travel expenses for both interstate and remote trips.
- 3) Accommodation expense for the year was lower than the estimate provided by the Department of Finance to CCYP for the annual budget.
- 4) Other expenses were lower than the estimate due to the rescheduling of internal audits and review of internal policies to 2023-24.
- 5) Resources received free of charge was higher than the estimate due to inclusion of resources received free of charge from the Department of Finance for office accommodation leasing services and depreciation of office fixtures and fittings. The estimate was subsequently amended in the mid-year budget review.

Major actual (2023) and comparative (2022) variance narratives

- A) There was no income from other public sector entities in 2022-23. In 2021-22, revenue from a Lotterywest grant was recognised following the completion of the extension work that CCYP undertook for the Speaking Out Survey.
- B) Resources received free of charge was lower than prior year due to lower resources received from Department of Finance in relation to depreciation of office fixtures and fittings.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8.7.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$	Variance between estimate and actual \$	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		789,000	1,018,400	1,065,337	229,400	(46,937)
Receivables		29,000	40,473	32,650	11,473	7,823
Total Current Assets		818,000	1,058,873	1,097,987	240,873	(39,114)
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		29,000	41,574	34,871	12,574	6,703
Amounts receivable for services		555,000	572,000	548,000	17,000	24,000
Plant and equipment		12,000	5,855	8,926	(6,145)	(3,071)
Right-of-use asset	6	33,000	23,074	4,650	(9,926)	18,424
Total Non-Current Assets		629,000	642,503	596,446	13,503	46,056
TOTAL ASSETS		1,447,000	1,701,376	1,694,433	254,376	6,942
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		28,000	151,673	141,873	123,673	9,800
Lease liabilities		8,000	3,646	4,801	(4,354)	(1,155)
Employee related provisions	7,C	454,000	169,445	279,552	(284,555)	(110,107)
Contract liabilities	8,D	124,000	-	71,351	(124,000)	(71,351)
Total Current Liabilities		614,000	324,764	497,577	(289,236)	(172,813)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Variance Note	Estimate 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$	Variance between estimate and actual \$	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$
Liabilities						
Non-Current Liabilities						
Employee related provisions	7,C	41,000	16,877	61,834	(24,123)	(44,957)
Lease liabilities	E	24,000	19,792	0	(4,208)	19,792
Total Non-Current Liabilities		65,000	36,669	61,834	(28,331)	(25,165)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		679,000	361,433	559,411	(317,567)	(197,978)
NET ASSETS		768,000	1,339,943	1,135,023	571,943	204,920
Equity						
Contributed equity		10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-
Accumulated surplus		758,000	1,329,943	1,125,023	571,943	204,920
TOTAL EQUITY		768,000	1,339,943	1,135,023	571,943	204,920

Major estimate and actual (2023) variance narratives

- 6) Right-of-use asset was lower than the estimate as CCYP only had one leased vehicle with State Fleet, whereas the estimate included two leased vehicles.
- 7) Employee provisions (current and non-current) actual was less than the estimate. This is due to leave cleared and transferring of leave accrual to other agencies.
- 8) The contract liability was for Lotterywest grant for the work on the Speaking Out Survey. The work has been fully completed and the unspent grant was returned to Lotterywest in 2022-23.

Major actual (2023) and comparative (2022) variance narratives

- C) Employee related provisions – see explanation in variance note (7).
- D) Contract liabilities – see explanation in variance note (8).
- E) Lease liabilities (non-current) is higher than prior year due to a new State Fleet vehicle lease entered into by CCYP in 2022-23 which has a lease term of more than 12 months.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8.7.3 Statement of Cash Flows Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$	Variance between estimate and actual \$	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$
Cash flows from state government						
Service appropriation		3,091,000	3,091,000	3,050,000	-	41,000
Holding Account drawdown		8,000	-	-	(8,000)	-
Net cash provided by State Government		3,099,000	3,091,000	3,050,000	(8,000)	41,000
Cash flows from operating activities						
Payments						
Employee benefits		(2,286,000)	(2,165,777)	(2,107,105)	120,223	(58,672)
Supplies and services	9	(273,000)	(544,100)	(552,633)	(271,100)	8,533
Accommodation	10	(360,000)	(318,436)	(285,573)	41,564	(32,863)
GST payments on purchases		(91,000)	(104,201)	(79,229)	(13,201)	(24,972)
Other payments	11,F	(168,000)	(97,878)	(33,461)	70,122	(64,417)
Receipts						
GST receipts on sales		-	950	526	950	424
GST receipts from taxation authority		88,000	95,429	80,838	7,429	14,591
Other receipts		-	9,500	73	9,500	9,427
Net cash used in operating activities		(3,090,000)	(3,124,513)	(2,976,564)	(34,513)	(147,949)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8.7.3 Statement of Cash Flows Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$	Variance between estimate and actual \$	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$
Cash flows from financing activities						
Payments						
Principal elements of lease payments		(9,000)	(6,720)	(10,478)	2,280	3,758
Net cash used in financing activities		(9,000)	(6,720)	(10,478)	2,280	3,758
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		-	(40,234)	62,958	(40,233)	(103,192)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		818,000	1,100,208	1,037,251	282,209	62,958
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		818,000	1,059,974	1,100,208	241,974	(40,234)

Major estimate and actual (2023) variance narratives

- 9) Supplies and services – see explanation in variance note (2) for the Statement of Comprehensive Income.
 10) Accommodation – see explanation in variance note (3) for the Statement of Comprehensive Income.
 11) Other payments – see explanation in variance note (4) for the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Major actual (2023) and comparative (2022) variance narratives

- F) Other payments is higher than prior year due to the refund of unspent grant monies to Lotterywest.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Audited Key Performance Indicators

Certification of Key Performance Indicators

I hereby certify that the Key Performance Indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Commissioner for Children and Young People's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.



Jacqueline McGowan-Jones
Accountable Authority
23 August 2023

Detailed Key Performance Indicators information

Commissioner For Children And Young People Approved Outcome Based Management Structure

Government Goal

Safe, Strong and Fair Communities: Supporting our local and regional communities to thrive

Agency Level Desired Outcome(s)

The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon

Service

Consultation, research and promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people

Key Effectiveness Indicators

- 1.1 Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted
- 1.2 Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched advocated and promoted

Key Efficiency Indicators

- 2.1 Unit cost per child
- 2.2 Unit cost per representation

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key Effectiveness Indicator 1.1

Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted

Description

It is a responsibility of the Commissioner to consult with a broad range of children and young people throughout Western Australia (WA) each year. The scope and goals for this are set out in the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act) and the Strategic Plan. Consultation will comprise a number of discrete projects, involving the Commissioner (or the staff of the office, or a consultant/contractor employed to act on the Commissioner's behalf) seeking the considered views of children and young people on a range of issues in both metropolitan and regional locations across WA.

Target

2,000 children and young people consulted

Number of children and young people consulted in regional and metropolitan areas

Reporting period	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Regional	6,673	675	300
Metropolitan	11,226	612	126
Online ¹	78	301	4,086 ³
Total number of children and young people consulted	17,977²	1,588	4,512³

Notes

Note 1 – The online number represents children and young people from the metropolitan and regional areas. The identification of regional participants was not possible across all the online platforms, and therefore the volume of responses has been collated together.

Note 2 – The number of children and young people consulted in 2020-21 was significantly higher due to the Speaking Out Survey 2021, which was a large-scale research project. The next Speaking Out Survey project is not intended until 2025.

Note 3 – In 2022-23, the CCYP has exceeded its target mainly due to an online vaping survey that was conducted by the Commissioner with 3,235 young people responding to the survey.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key Effectiveness Indicator 1.2

Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched, advocated and promoted

Description

The Commissioner's role includes analysing and interpreting the information collected through the consultation and research process to identify issues and trends affecting children and young people. The Commissioner is responsible for making representations that explore the impact of these issues, and advocate for and promote the views of children and young people and matters that are in the best interests of their wellbeing.

Target

250 representations

Number of representations¹

Type of representation Reporting period	Number of representations		
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Submissions	18	28	16
Publications	35	23	13
Evidence before Parliamentary Committee	0	0	1
Speeches and presentations	41	41	34
Media articles	32	35	73
Forums and seminars	1	0	2
Strategic advocacy meetings	228	217	148
CCYP support for research proposals	4	5	5
Community consultations	9	39	14
Total	368	388	306²

Notes

Note 1 – Representations include submissions; publications; evidence to Parliamentary inquiries and committees; presentations and speeches; media articles; forums and seminars; strategic advocacy meetings, support for research proposals; and community consultations.

Note 2 – In 2022-23, the CCYP has exceeded its target.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key Efficiency Indicators

Consultation, research, and the promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people are services provided by CCYP, and the scope and goals for these are prescribed in the Act. The key efficiency indicators measure the level of resources used to deliver the services.

Key Efficiency Indicators

	Actual 2020–21	Actual 2021–22	Actual 2022–23	Target 2022–23
2.1 Unit cost per child	\$87	\$699	\$330 ¹	\$498
2.2 Unit cost per representation	\$4,898	\$4,967	\$5,322 ²	\$6,769

Notes

Note 1 – The unit cost per child was less than the 2022-23 target reflecting the increased number of consultations held online (including an online vaping survey), and greater opportunities for larger-sized group consultations creating efficiencies and economies of scale.

Note 2 – The unit cost per representation was less than the 2022–23 target due to the actual number of representations exceeding the target. An increasing number of strategic advocacy meetings held by the Commissioner now occur in a virtual meeting format.

Good governance

Integrity Strategy for WA Public Authorities 2020–2023

To meet the Public Sector Commission's requirement to implement the Integrity Strategy for WA Public Authorities 2020–2023, Corporate Executive and managers reflected on the office's policies, procedures and processes. Integrity is one of the Commissioner's eight values, which are Respect, Honesty, Inclusivity, Creativity, Positivity, Determination, Independence and Integrity.

Integrity and conduct are standing items at all Corporate Executive, leadership and staff meeting agendas.

Integrity and the Code of Conduct form part of the induction process.

Internal Audit Committee

In responding to the Public Sector Commission's key actions of promoting integrity and helping prevent misconduct and corruption, the Commissioner has an Internal Audit Committee. In 2023 a new Internal Audit Committee Chair was onboarded, and the Internal Audit Charter and Audit plans will be updated in the 2023/24 year.

Risk management

A formal review of any identified corporate risks (e.g., human resources, integrity and conduct, ICT governance including cyber security and child safety) is incorporated into the monthly Corporate Executive meeting agenda and in all templates for project management. The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed by Corporate Executive as a standing item on the agenda each quarter.

Financial management

A monthly financial management report is provided for endorsement at Corporate Executive meetings. The Financial Management Manual is reviewed and updated by the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer to ensure currency with legislative and policy changes.

Policies and procedures

The Commissioner's policies and procedures are reviewed, updated and new policies are added to the Corporate Governance Framework once endorsed by Corporate Executive.

Ministerial directives

Except under Section 26 of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, the Commissioner is not subject to direction by a Minister or any other person in the performance of her functions.

There were no directions under Section 26 of the Act in 2022–23.

Other financial disclosures

Board and committee remuneration

The Commissioner does not have any State Boards or Committees as defined in the Premier's Circular 2022/02 – State Government Boards and Committees.

Workers' compensation

There were zero workers compensation claims in 2022–23, and zero work-related injuries. The Commissioner's office complies with the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* and the Public Sector Commissioner's Circular 2012/05 and would ensure that, should there be any work-related injuries, they would be managed and reported in accordance with these requirements.



Other legal requirements

Advertising

Section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907* requires public agencies to report details of expenditure to organisations providing services in relation to advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. The agency has not incurred expenditure of this nature.

Credit cards

Staff in the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People are allocated corporate purchasing (credit) cards where their functions demonstrate a need for this facility. During the 2022-23 financial year, there were three instances of personal use and the Chief Finance Officer was informed immediately they occurred. The nature of the expenditure was immaterial and characteristic of an honest mistake. A reimbursement was promptly made on each occasion and the total for the three instances was \$147.66.

OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Commissioner's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2022-2026 aims to demonstrate best practice and ensure that children and young people with disability have equitable access to facilities and services provided by this organisation. The Youth Disability Advocacy Network of WA (YDAN) have assisted in reviewing the current plan.

Recruitment templates have been updated to increase accessibility, and a program of updating corporate information and templates to AA standard (WACAG 2.0) was commenced in 2022/23 and will continue as a standard practice. All published documents meet the Accessible Word documents guidelines, and all of our publications are available in alternative formats on request.

Further, in accordance with our Plan, the Commissioner's projects and policies consider and outline any specific requirements of children and young people with a disability. Staff and contractors are made aware of our DAIP and supporting policies and strategies.

Throughout the year, the Commissioner has paid particular attention to consultation strategies that consider the needs of children and young people with a disability and requirements to support their participation.

The plan is included as part of the Commissioner's performance appraisals for all staff, and is available in the records management system of the office and on the website.

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and ethical codes

The Commissioner expects and is committed to high standards of monitoring and ensuring compliance with the Public Sector Standards, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and the office Code of Conduct. The Corporate Executive leads and promotes these standards.

The Commissioner's policies, procedures and processes support the application of:

- the WA Public Sector Code of Ethics
- the WA Public Sector Standards in Human Resources Management
- the Commissioner's Code of Conduct and Management of Conflict of Interest Policy
- ethical and accountable decision-making
- a family-friendly workplace.

Throughout 2022–23, the Commissioner held regular staff meetings where any matters relevant to Public Sector Standards could be raised and discussed. Integrity and risk are standing agenda items in Corporate Executive Leadership and Staff meetings.

The Commissioner has established procedures to ensure compliance with s31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

No Breach of Standard Claims was lodged in the current reporting period.

There have been no breaches of the Public Sector Code of Ethics or the Commissioner for Children and Young People Code of Conduct. Nor were there any public interest disclosures regarding the activities of the Commissioner's office.

Recordkeeping Plan

The Recordkeeping Plan for the Commissioner's office was approved by the State Records Commission in August 2019. Recordkeeping forms part of the induction process for new staff members and staff are regularly updated and reminded about their recordkeeping responsibilities by email.

The corporate record keeping system was upgraded to maintain the integrity of records, including refresher training to all staff in June 2023. The Recordkeeping Plan is due to be updated and submitted to the State Records Office by May 2024.

Government policy requirements

WA Multicultural Policy Framework

The Commissioner supports an inclusive and harmonious society where everyone, especially children and young people, has a strong sense of belonging, can participate and contribute fully in all aspects of life, and can achieve their goals.

The Commissioner has a legislative requirement to give priority to, and have a special regard for, the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, and children and young people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged for any reason.

The Commissioner's Multicultural Plan 2021-2026 outlines the commitment and actions of the office to ensure that all WA children and young people, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, have the opportunity to participate equitably in every aspect of civic, social and economic environments. The Commissioner's own policies, projects, research and consultations each aim to be culturally responsive and inclusive.

The Multicultural Plan is aligned with the WA Multicultural Policy Framework and the three policy priority areas along with the

Commissioner's corresponding strategies and actions for each, which include:

Harmonious and inclusive communities:

- Promote the benefits of cultural and linguistic diversity and celebrate the achievements of people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds.
- Address racism and discrimination at both an individual and institutional/systemic level, including implementing the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality.
- Develop workplace cultures that are welcoming and inclusive of all Western Australians.

Culturally responsive policies, programs and services:

- Provide language services to ensure language is not a barrier to equitable access to information and services, including complaints processes.
- Collect and analyse cultural and linguistic data to contribute to the identification of client needs, the development of policies and programs, and evaluation of outcomes.
- Enable culturally diverse communities to have meaningful input into policies, programs and systems through co-design and planning, co-delivery and implementation, and evaluation processes.

- Implement recruitment and selection processes that facilitate workforce diversity, and provide opportunities for the development of cultural competencies across the workforce.

Economic, social, cultural, civic and political participation:

- Implement recruitment and career development processes that support employment and progression of staff from CaLD backgrounds.
- Achieve equitable representation of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds at all levels and in decision making.
- Identify, develop and promote initiatives that support the development of businesses and the entrepreneurial potential of Western Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse community.
- Identify, develop and implement initiatives that encourage social, cultural, civic and political participation by members of Western Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse community.
- Develop and strengthen global connections through partnerships with Western Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse communities and businesses.
- Implement recruitment and career development processes that support employment and progression of staff from CaLD backgrounds.

GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

- Achieve equitable representation of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds at all levels and in decision making.

This year, the Commissioner and her staff engaged in a Cultural Safety Workshop led by Marilyn Morgan from Kambarang Services. The workshop focussed on racism, anti-racism strategies and mapping out future steps to advance the cause of anti-racism.

The Commissioner's listening tours prioritised metropolitan schools with a significant population of culturally and linguistically diverse children and young people. These tours aimed to actively engage with and understand the unique needs and perspectives of these communities.

Staff turnover, in the past year, has presented the Commissioner with an opportunity to adopt a more diverse workforce, intentionally including individuals with English as an additional language and Aboriginal staff members. Recognising the value of diverse perspectives and experiences, the Commissioner actively seeks to create a team that reflects the multicultural and indigenous communities they serve.

Substantive equality

Substantive equality aims to achieve equitable outcomes for all Western Australians as far as possible. The Commissioner represents and advocates on behalf of children and young

people under the age of 18 years in WA. The Commissioner is required to have special regard for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, and other vulnerable children and young people. The work of the office supports substantive equality.

Reconciliation

All work undertaken by the Commissioner is underpinned by the legislative requirement to have special regard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

- An Acknowledgement of Country is made in all speeches and meetings as well as in the banner of all Commissioner's office related emails.
- In planning regional visits, the Commissioner respects cultural authority and requests permission from Elders to visit communities and engage with their young people.
- All submissions to the Corporate Executive are reviewed to consider and identify any implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
- Any consultations conducted by, or on behalf of, the Commissioner for Children and Young People must include young Aboriginal people or their representatives where appropriate.
- All staff participated in an Aboriginal cultural awareness workshop held in May 2023 and

completed the online Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training which is mandatory for all public sector employees.

- The representation of Aboriginal people in the team has significantly increased and recruitment activities seek to continue this trend.

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and Child Friendly Complaints Mechanisms

The Commissioner has comprehensive child safe strategies in place, including a structured approach to risk management to clearly identify, analyse, evaluate and implement mechanisms to eliminate or mitigate identified risks to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in all work, consultations, advisory committees and in the community.

National Principle Six details the implementation of child friendly complaints processes. The Commissioner has readily accessible mechanisms for children and young people and their families or advocates to provide feedback and to make complaints that meet the expectations of this principle.

In 2022–23, feedback from children and young people was proactively sought in consultation activities. No complaints were made by children and young people or adults about the Commissioner's projects, activities or office.

GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Occupational safety, health and injury management

Active and continuous improvement in safety management practices at the Commissioner's office demonstrates dedication to this aspect of office life by the Commissioner and her staff.

Occupational safety and health is a standing item on the monthly Corporate Executive meeting agenda, fortnightly leadership agenda, and on the monthly staff meeting agenda. This enables any staff member to raise concerns or requests.

All workstations have been provided with a sit-stand desk attachment.

Workplace assessments are undertaken by request of a staff member and recommendations are actioned in a timely manner.

There have been no critical incidents to report for the 2022–23 year.

Occupational safety and health data in this reporting period

Measures	Results 2020-21	Results 2021-22	Results 2022-23	Targets	Comments about targets
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0	Target met
Lost time injury and disease incidence rate	0	0	0	0 or 10% reduction in incidence rate	Target met
Lost time injury and severity rate	0	0	0	0 or 10% reduction in severity rate	Target met
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (i) within 13 weeks	0	0	0	Actual target to be stated	Target met
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (ii) within 26 weeks	0	0	0	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target met
Percentage of managers* trained in work health and safety injury management responsibilities, including refresher training within 3 years	100%	100%	16%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target not met for 2022-23. Additional training required due to trained staff turnover. Training to be held once recruitment is complete. Prior to this, 100% of staff were training in work health and safety injury management responsibilities.

*The average tenure for managers is less than one year.

Alternative formats

Alternative versions of this report are available. Please contact the Commissioner's office on 6213 2297, countrywide free call 1800 072 444 or info@ccyp.wa.gov.au

Photographs of children and young people

All photographs featured in this annual report are of Western Australian children and young people and have been taken by or for the Commissioner for Children and Young People's office.



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Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

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