



Policy Position Statement: **Education**

Principles

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006 (WA) establishes that the Commissioner's paramount concern must be the best interests of children and young people in Western Australia (WA). The Commissioner undertakes research with children and young people to ensure their voices inform the activities and priorities of the Commissioner.

Children and young people must be informed of their rights, and their views should be given serious consideration when making decisions that affect them. Significant international evidence demonstrates the value of integrating lived experience into the development of policy, programs and services.

The Commissioner advocates to uphold the United Nations (UN) Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); the Rights of Indigenous People (DRIP); and the UN International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (UN ICERD).

Position

The Commissioner strongly supports the right of every child to an education that meets their needs, empowers them to reach their potential, to participate and contribute throughout their life. An equitable and holistic approach to education that prioritises educational engagement, early identification and intervention for learning challenges, support for community and family engagement and ensures the wellbeing of children and young people is critical.

Children and young people have the right to a quality education where they are encouraged to go to school to the highest level they can.

In line with national and international evidence, the Commissioner advocates for education to be focused on the following six priorities:

- Building strong foundations for learning in the early years
- Quality learning and education attainment
- Inclusive and equitable education
- Connection and engagement to education and supported, successful transitions
- Education that has a positive impact on social and emotional health and wellbeing
- Child and youth-centred approaches that values the voices of children and young people

The Commissioner will prioritise additional issues of concern to provide evidence-informed recommendations to Government as needs arise.

