



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Update on activities during 2021 to support the implementation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommendations

20 December 2021

The Commissioner for Children and Young People continues to support organisations in understanding and implementing the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Based on consultations with children and young people, several new resources were released for WA organisations throughout the year:

- [Information and checklist for staff and volunteers working with children and young people](#)
- [Participation Guidelines: Ensuring children and young people's voices are heard](#)
- [Child Friendly Complaints Guidelines](#).

The Commissioner produced new resources for the National Office for Child Safety to inform young people, adults and organisations on child-friendly complaints processes. The [Speak up and make a complaint](#) resources include posters, brochures and videos which have been widely distributed nationally and translated into many languages.

To encourage continuous improvement of complaints systems to ensure that they are child friendly, the Commissioner provided a new self-assessment tool to government agencies participating in the Commissioner's statutory monitoring of complaints systems. The tool assisted agencies to evaluate their alignment with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and a report on the complaints monitoring process will be released in early 2022.

In agreement with the Minister for Child Protection, the Commissioner undertook an [independent review of the Department of Communities' policies and practices](#) in the placement of children with harmful sexual behaviours in residential care. Nine recommendations, which link directly to the Royal Commission recommendations, were tabled in the WA Parliament in September, and the Commissioner continues to monitor progress on strengthening the response to harmful sexual behaviours.

Recognising the importance of professional development opportunities for organisations, the Commissioner coordinated WA Government sponsorships to enable the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse symposium on young people and harmful sexual behaviours to be held in Perth in May.

The Commissioner continues to advocate for all recommendations from the Royal Commission to be implemented and to benchmark WA's progress with other states and territories. The Commissioner engaged KPMG to undertake a [rapid review of national progress](#) on implementing the 24 recommendations in Volume 6 of the Final Report: Making Institutions Child Safe. This review found that two of the 24 recommendations have been completed by all jurisdictions, with 21 found to be in varying levels of progress.

The Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians group also [advocates for full implementation of all Royal Commission recommendations](#) as well as improvements in the transparency and quality of public reporting, and independent oversight of implementation progress.