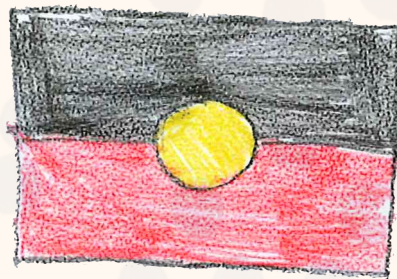


Annual Report 2025–26



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

**Commissioner for Children
and Young People**



Acknowledgement of Country

The Commissioner for Children and Young People proudly acknowledges and pays her respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters across Western Australia and acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation upon whose lands the Commissioner's office is located. She recognises the continuing connection to culture, lands, skies and waters, families and communities for all Aboriginal peoples. The Commissioner and her team also pay their respects to all Elders, past and present and emerging leaders. They 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 the oral use of language. They were well versed in multiple languages to converse with surrounding groups for different contexts and responsibilities depending on where they were located. Seasonal movement was quite common for hunting, gathering and other related activities and language was often expressed through various forms of art, dance, songs and storytelling. The written form of the language arose from the interpretation of Aboriginal words captured by historical documentation and non-Aboriginal linguists who relied on western interpretations of sounds. This then created various forms of spelling for Aboriginal words that can differ and are often accepted and recognised. For example, Noongar, Nyungar and Noongah.

For the purposes of this report, the term 'Aboriginal' encompasses Western Australia's diverse language groups and 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, although similarities do exist.

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, with appropriate consents obtained. All artworks featured are created by Western Australian children and young people and shared with their consent.

Quotations from children and young people

A selection of quotations is included in this report on relevant topics. The quotations are generally unedited to ensure that the voice of the child or young person is authentically represented. Editing has only been done where necessary for clarity, understanding or for confidentiality. In this instance, any changes or omissions are marked with square brackets or an ellipsis (...).

Alternative formats

Alternative versions of this report are available. Please contact the Commissioner's office on 08 6213 2297, countrywide free call 1800 072 444 or info@ccyp.wa.gov.au.

Publication date: September 2026



Statement of compliance

Hon. Alanna Clohesy MLC

President of the Legislative Council

Hon. Stephen Price MLA

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People 2025–26

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 2026.

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*.

Dr Jacqueline McGowan-Jones

Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

10 September 2026

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Message from the Commissioner

This year has highlighted, once again, the importance of placing children and young people at the centre of decision making in Western Australia. Their insights, experiences and aspirations have shaped our priorities and strengthened our resolve to ensure that every child grows up safe, supported and able to thrive.

The principles set out in the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* continue to guide our work. They remind us that every child and young person deserves to feel safe, be protected from harm, have their contributions valued and have their voices taken seriously, with families and communities supported in their vital role. These principles are not simply legislative requirements – they are commitments we uphold every day.

Across the state, many children and young people continue to flourish, surrounded by strong families, schools and communities. Yet, we also see a growing number of young people facing significant challenges, including financial hardship, unstable

housing, limited access to services and difficulties staying connected to education and support networks. These pressures are felt most acutely in regional, remote and outer metropolitan areas, where access to essential services remains uneven.

Throughout the year, I have had the privilege of meeting children and young people who have spoken with honesty, courage and clarity about their lives. Their perspectives have informed our advocacy and reinforced the need for systems that respond to their realities. Our work has focused on elevating their voices, addressing inequities and collaborating with government, community organisations and service providers to improve outcomes across health, safety, wellbeing and participation.

This report outlines the work undertaken over the past year – the progress made, the issues raised by children and young people, and the areas where further action is urgently needed. It reflects both the achievements we can acknowledge and the challenges that remain ahead.

I extend my sincere appreciation to every child and young person who engaged with us this year as well as to the families, carers, professionals and community members who continue to support them. Your commitment and partnership are essential. Together, we must continue working towards a Western Australia where every child and young person feels safe, valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

Dr Jacqueline McGowan-Jones
Commissioner for Children
and Young People



Oversight of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People



The Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory authority established under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act). The Act outlines the functions and role of the Commissioner, including reporting and accountabilities.

Find out more.



Under Part 6 of the Act, the Commissioner must prepare an annual report each year, which must include financial information as required by the *Financial Management Act 2006*. This process provides oversight of the activities of the Commissioner.

The Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Commissioner for Children and Young People was established under section 51 of the Act. The function of the Committee is to:

- (i) Monitor, review and report to Parliament on the exercise of the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- (ii) Examine annual and other reports of the Commissioner.
- (iii) Consult regularly with the Commissioner.

The Committee provides reports to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council in this regard.

During the 2025–26 financial year, the Committee met with the Commissioner to review the 2024–25 Annual Report and the work of the Commissioner.

Oversight is also provided by the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, specifically through Budget Estimates Hearings and approval of the budget appropriation to the Commissioner. The Hearings also discuss compliance with the Key Performance Measures determined by Treasury for the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, which are reported in the Annual Report. The Commissioner has again exceeded the Key Performance Indicator targets in 2025–26.

The Commissioner appeared at Estimates Budget Hearings in 2025–26 and responded to all queries raised. The appropriation was approved.



2025–26 snapshot



7,770

WA children and young people were consulted on issues that affect them.

More than **7,300** of those were in-person consultations, with the remainder online via surveys or digital submissions.

Speaking Out Survey 2025

We travelled the state and engaged with more than **17,000** children and young people during the 2025 calendar year.

Almost **50** schools were visited in the 2025–26 financial year as we finished our in-person surveys throughout WA.

Strong focus on youth justice, poverty and mental health

in meetings, speeches, presentations and media.

20 submissions made to state and federal inquiries and projects.

Increased positive media presence and media coverage (both statewide and national) on a range of important issues affecting children and young people.



Appeared at the Senate Inquiry into Australia's youth justice and incarceration system

Perth hearing alongside Eamon Ryan, WA Inspector of Custodial Services. This followed on from hearings held during the last financial year alongside fellow Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates from around Australia.

In February 2026, the **Commissioner was awarded a Doctorate of the University Honoris Causa from Edith Cowan University** in recognition of her significant contribution to education, Aboriginal affairs, child protection and advocacy for children and young people.

Plans are underway for a range of exciting projects in 2026–27.



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Annual Report 2025-26

These include:

- Policy recommendations and advocacy following the release of the results of the Speaking Out Survey.
- Responsibilities under section 19f of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* in relation to the child protection system.
- Building on our collaboration with children and young people through focus groups, forums and online engagement to inform laws, policies, practices, procedures and services affecting them.
- Continued engagement to progress the National Framework for the Protection of Australian Children (Safe and Supported), including a significant focus on implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan.
- Continuing the collaborative work across government agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Supporting agencies in developing child-safe complaints handling processes.
- Sponsoring initiatives that support the achievements of children and young people.
- Ensuring that the voices of children and young people are at the centre of the work we do every day.

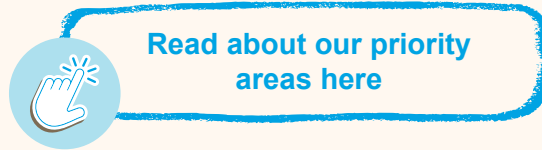


Our future in focus

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's four key priority areas are critical in ensuring that all children and young people are safe, supported and able to thrive, particularly those facing disadvantage. Together, these priorities focus on strengthening early support and prevention, improving system responses for vulnerable children and young people, amplifying their voices and addressing inequalities experienced by Aboriginal children and young people. By guiding advocacy, partnerships and reform efforts, they help drive a more coordinated, culturally responsive and child-centred approach across government and community services in Western Australia, which must now take urgent action to meet its obligations under Safe and Supported, including the appointment of a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People.

In addition to these priority areas, the Commissioner remains committed to upholding the rights of the child and advocating for the creation of a report card for Western Australia. It is critical for governments to embed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into jurisdictional

legislation. Unfortunately, without a Human Rights Act or Commission in Western Australia, we are unable to monitor or measure the performance of organisations and government in relation to the rights of the child.



Youth justice

In 2025–26, the Commissioner significantly strengthened advocacy in the youth justice space, focusing on systemic reform, child-centred approaches and the importance of listening to children and young people – particularly those with lived experience of the justice system.

Being appointed as an Ambassador for the Justice Reform Initiative was a major milestone, providing the Commissioner with a platform to advocate for children and young people and to share her Youth Justice Policy Position Statements and Policy Priorities

on a national stage. Informed by extensive consultation with more than 11,000 young people, these documents call for substantial reform, including raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14, reducing reliance on detention, and expanding therapeutic and trauma-informed responses.

The Commissioner consistently argued that children in the justice system should be treated differently from adults, with responses focused on rehabilitation rather than punishment. Youth offending was framed as closely linked to unmet needs, including trauma, poverty, disengagement from education and lack of culturally appropriate support.

Elevating the voices of children and young people was a defining feature of this work. The Commissioner continued to promote the findings from the Hear Me Out Inquiry and engaged directly with young people from diverse and marginalised backgrounds. This approach reinforced the importance of lived experience in shaping policy and highlighted the need for systems to actively listen to children. Visits to Banksia Hill Detention Centre and Unit 18 continued in 2025–26.

Public advocacy throughout the year strongly criticised punitive approaches and called for holistic reform. The Commissioner described the youth justice system as a ‘crisis of care’.

The overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in the justice system remains a central concern. The Commissioner highlighted systemic inequalities and advocated for Aboriginal-led solutions, self-determination and stronger connection to culture and community. These factors were identified as essential for reducing reoffending and supporting long-term wellbeing.

The Commissioner also used digital engagement and public communication to raise awareness, promote evidence-based approaches and highlight the links between youth justice, mental health, education and social disadvantage.

Overall, the Commissioner’s youth justice work positioned children as rights-holders whose experiences and insights must shape reform. The year’s work consistently emphasised the importance of prevention, early intervention, cultural safety and reducing reliance on detention in favour of more compassionate and effective approaches.

Child protection

In 2025–26, the Commissioner’s work in the child protection space focused on strengthening child-centred, rights-based systems that prioritise safety, wellbeing and participation. The Commissioner consistently advocated for children and young people to be recognised as active rights-holders whose voices must be central to the decisions affecting their lives. This included commencing an Inquiry into the child protection system in Western Australia.

It is clear that Western Australia is not on track to meet either the Closing the Gap targets or the goals under Safe and Supported to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care. Rather, the percentage of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care remains over 60%, representing an increase of 2% since 30 June 2022 and more than 7% over the past 10 years.

Another key priority for 2025–26 was ensuring that children in the child protection system are genuinely heard and involved in care planning and decision-making processes. The Commissioner emphasised the importance of stable placements,

trusted adult relationships, culturally safe and trauma-informed care, and accessible pathways for children to raise concerns and make complaints. Throughout the year, the voices of children and young people with lived experience in care were elevated through consultations and public advocacy, reinforcing the need for systems to respond meaningfully to their experiences.

The Commissioner also maintained a strong focus on prevention and early intervention. Advocacy highlighted that many drivers of child protection involvement are linked to broader social determinants such as poverty, housing instability, mental health needs and lack of access to support services.





The Commissioner called for greater investment in community-based support that strengthens families before issues escalate rather than relying on reactive, crisis-driven responses.

Family and domestic violence was another major focus area. The Commissioner emphasised that children should be recognised as victim-survivors in their own right, with distinct experiences and needs. Advocacy efforts highlighted the developmental and mental health impacts of exposure to violence and called for more child-focused, trauma-informed responses within domestic violence systems.

The overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in the child protection system remains a critical concern. The Commissioner consistently highlighted the role of intergenerational trauma, systemic disadvantage and structural inequities, and advocated for Aboriginal self-determination, community-led solutions and culturally safe practices. Maintaining connection to family, culture, language and Country was identified as essential to Aboriginal children's identity, wellbeing and long-term outcomes.

Systemic accountability was another key theme. The Commissioner used public advocacy, media engagement and policy work to draw attention to issues such as placement instability, workforce pressures and service gaps. The importance of transparent reporting, independent oversight and evidence-informed policy was strongly emphasised, alongside the need for whole-of-government responses.

The Commissioner's use of wellbeing indicators and data further supported this work by highlighting the challenges faced by children in care, including mental health concerns, educational disengagement, risk of homelessness and difficulties transitioning out of care. These insights reinforced the importance of coordinated, long-term support systems.

Overall, the Commissioner positioned child protection as a shared societal responsibility, requiring coordinated efforts to support children, families and communities. The work during 2025–26 reinforced that effective child protection systems must go beyond statutory intervention to address underlying causes of vulnerability and prioritise children's voices, rights and wellbeing.

Health and mental health

The Commissioner's work in health and mental health during 2025–26 highlighted the growing urgency of addressing wellbeing challenges among children and young people. Mental health was positioned as a foundational issue, deeply connected to broader social, economic and environmental factors.

Work continued to promote the updated Health and Mental Health Policy Position Statements and Policy Priorities. These documents outlined a reform agenda focused on prevention, early intervention, improved access to services and culturally safe care. Key priorities included reducing waiting times, improving affordability, expanding community-based services, addressing regional inequalities and strengthening coordination across the health, education and community sectors.

The Commissioner consistently emphasised that mental health should not be viewed solely as a clinical issue but as a whole-of-community concern influenced by factors such as housing, family wellbeing, education, discrimination and social connection. This holistic perspective underpinned ongoing

advocacy for integrated and coordinated systems of support.

Throughout the year, the Commissioner highlighted systemic gaps in mental health services for children and young people, including long waiting lists, fragmented service delivery and insufficient early intervention options. Building on previous inquiries, the Commissioner's office called for sustained reform and a comprehensive system that supports children across the full continuum, from wellbeing promotion to crisis care.

Youth voice remained central to this work. Through consultations and engagement initiatives, children and young people identified key drivers of declining wellbeing, including stress, anxiety, loneliness, bullying, school pressure, family conflict and cost-of-living challenges. They also called for more accessible, non-judgemental and youth-friendly services, better mental health education and greater access to trusted adults and safe spaces.

A major achievement for the year was the completion of the fieldwork for the Speaking Out Survey, which saw more than 17,000 children and young people participating in face-to-face surveys across the 2024–25 and 2025–26 financial years. This survey is the largest of its kind in Australia and provides valuable insights into the wellbeing of children and young people across Western Australia. The data has been weighted and analysed, and the report has been drafted and is expected to be tabled in September 2026.

The Commissioner continued to use the Indicators of Wellbeing framework to monitor trends, highlighting increasing psychological distress (particularly among adolescent girls), ongoing suicide risks and disparities affecting Aboriginal children and vulnerable groups. This evidence supports calls for improved data collection and greater accountability in measuring outcomes.

Digital wellbeing emerged as an important area of focus, with the Commissioner engaging in discussions around social media, online safety and the role of digital environments in shaping mental health. The

work recognised both the risks and benefits of online spaces, particularly for connection and identity formation among young people.

A strong emphasis was also placed on Aboriginal wellbeing, with advocacy for culturally grounded and community-led approaches to mental health. Connection to culture, family and Country was consistently identified as a key protective factor.

Overall, the Commissioner's work reinforced that mental health is central to all aspects of children and young people's lives and requires long-term, coordinated and culturally responsive reform. Prevention, early support and meaningful youth participation were positioned as critical to improving outcomes.





Education

During the 2025–26 financial year, the Commissioner for Children and Young People focused strongly on advancing an education system that is inclusive, equitable and centred on the wellbeing of children and young people. The Commissioner's work emphasised that education is not only about academic achievement but also about ensuring that students feel safe, connected, supported and heard within their school environments.

A central pillar of this work was the continued promotion and implementation of the Commissioner's Education Policy Position Statement and associated policy priorities. These priorities were informed by extensive consultation with thousands of children and young people across Western Australia and reinforced key principles, including the importance of safe and inclusive learning environments, stronger student participation in decision making, equitable access to quality education, culturally responsive schooling, and improved support for students with disabilities and diverse learning needs.

A defining feature of the Commissioner's approach was the strong emphasis on elevating student voice. Through face-to-face consultations, digital engagement such as DigiMe and social media platforms, children and young people shared their experiences on issues including belonging, bullying, mental health, teacher relationships, discrimination, school attendance and digital learning. These insights reinforced the Commissioner's position that students are experts in their own lives and that education systems are more effective when student voices are meaningfully embedded in policy and practice.

The Commissioner also maintained a strong focus on educational engagement and wellbeing, highlighting growing concerns about disengagement, school refusal and the impacts of anxiety and mental health challenges on attendance. Attention was drawn to exclusionary practices such as suspension and the long-term risks associated with disengagement, including pathways into youth justice systems. In response, the Commissioner advocated for early intervention, trauma-informed approaches, flexible learning pathways and strengthened wellbeing supports within schools.

Equity remained a central theme throughout the year. The Commissioner consistently highlighted the systemic barriers faced by vulnerable cohorts, including Aboriginal children, and children and young people in care, with disabilities, in regional and remote areas, or experiencing homelessness, family violence or discrimination. Culturally safe, inclusive and accessible educational environments, alongside improved transitions between education systems and services were key advocacy positions.

Aboriginal education continued to be a key priority, with the Commissioner emphasising the importance of culturally responsive approaches, Aboriginal-led solutions, and recognition of the strengths, identity and cultural knowledge of Aboriginal children and young people. Connection to family, culture and Country was consistently framed as critical to both educational success and overall wellbeing.

The Commissioner also used the Indicators of Wellbeing framework to support evidence-based advocacy, highlighting links between mental health and school engagement, disparities in outcomes and the effects of socio-economic disadvantage. This work reinforced the need for broader measures of educational success that include wellbeing, connection and participation – not solely academic results.

Overall, the Commissioner's education work reinforced that schools play a critical role in shaping children and young people's wellbeing, resilience and sense of belonging. Education was positioned as both a fundamental right and a key protective factor influencing long-term life outcomes, requiring a holistic and child-centred approach.





Statistics on Western Australia's children and young people

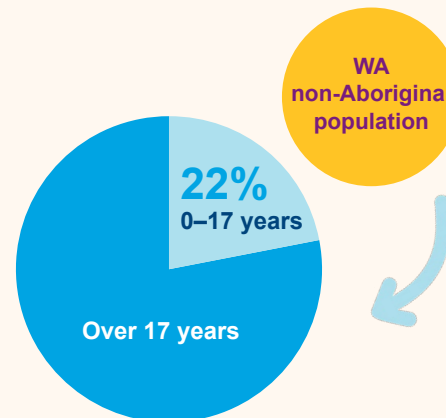
656,987

children and young people live in Western Australia and make up 21.7% of the state's population

It is projected that approximately **48,121** Aboriginal children and young people live in WA in 2026.

Around **157,000** children and young people in WA live in regional and remote areas.

Less than 33% of children in Perth got their **two-year-old child health check** in 2024.



Poverty Line

It was estimated that the child poverty rate **increased to 15.6%** of children and young people in 2025. This means that about **103,900 children and young people in WA** are now living below the poverty line.

Over the past 10 years there has been a **24.5%** increase in the number of children and young people aged 10 to 14 living in WA.

Western Australia's 2024 Australian Early Development Census results for five year olds went backwards more quickly than the rest of Australia. The biggest drops in WA were:

4.6% in social competence
4.1% in emotional maturity

In 2025 **33,217** births were registered in WA.

25% of children aged 5 to 17 in WA were overweight or obese in 2022. This has not changed for over a decade and is starting to be seen as 'normal'.

On an average night in WA in 2025, **4.5 Aboriginal boys** aged 10 to 13 years old were held in detention without sentence.

139 children aged 10 to 13 years were held in detention during 2024–25. None were sentenced.

Places visited

From cities to regional and remote towns, the Commissioner and her team travelled throughout Western Australia to hear directly from children and young people. In 2025–26 they connected with thousands of young people, amplifying their voices and advocating for their rights and wellbeing.





Vision

We strive for a better world for all children and young people where their voices and rights are valued and respected.

Values

In all we do we will ensure that:

- children and young people are central to everything that we do
- we show care and support for everyone we work with
- we value everyone's life experiences
- we will have honest conversations and encourage diverse views
- we are individually and jointly responsible for our actions.



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 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. 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 how 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.

Approach

The Commissioner's work has regard to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Declaration 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.

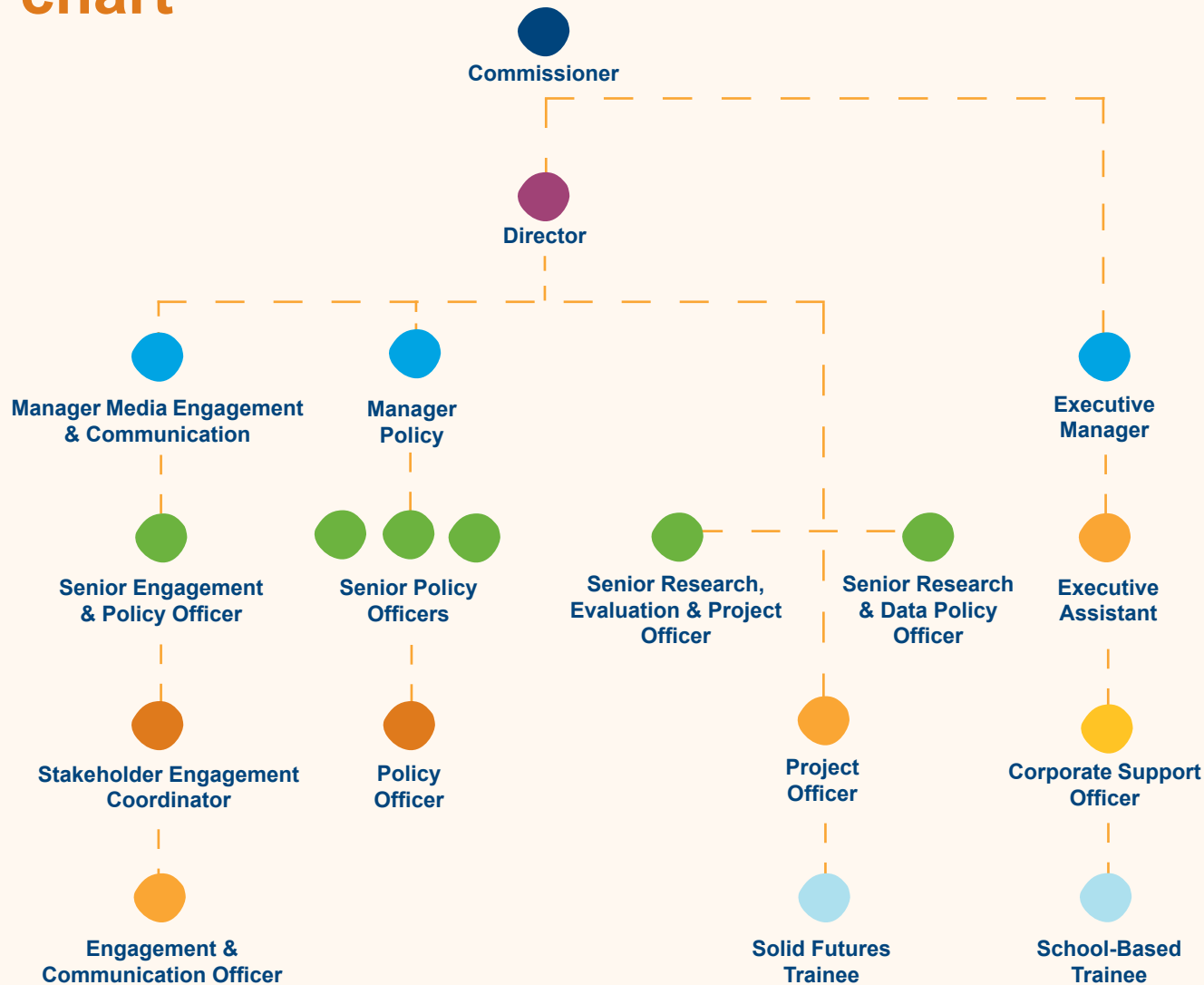
Independence

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





Organisational chart



Commissioner for Children and Young People

Dr Jacqueline McGowan-Jones began as Commissioner for Children and Young People in January 2022 and her term will cease at the end of 2026.

Jacqueline is a proud Arrente-Warumunga Aboriginal woman. She brings extensive senior executive and leadership experience across government, non-government agencies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

As Commissioner, she has a statutory responsibility to monitor, protect and advocate for the rights and wellbeing of all Western Australian children and young people. Jacqueline is a strong advocate for children's voices and is deeply committed to ensuring that young people are heard and meaningfully engaged in decisions that affect their lives.

The Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People supports the Commissioner in advocating for all Western Australian children and young people.

The Office is divided into four main teams: Policy; Research and Evaluation; Media, Engagement and Communication; and Executive Support.

Policy

The Policy team delivers high-level policy analysis and advice on strategic issues and emerging trends affecting children and young people. The team informs, monitors and reviews legislation, policies, programs and services to support the Commissioner's advocacy priorities. It prepares discussion papers, advocacy and policy position papers, and lead the development of submissions.

Research and Evaluation

The Research and Evaluation team conducts research and consultation and develops evidence based resources to support the ongoing improvement of legislation, policy and services. The team leads major surveys and conducts robust data analysis to produce high-quality reports that amplify the voices of children and young people. In 2025–26, a key focus of the team's work was the planning and delivery of the Speaking Out Survey. The team contributes to advocacy platforms and priorities for the Commissioner.

Media, Engagement and Communication

The Media, Engagement and Communication team supports the participation of children and young people in the Commissioner's work by promoting their contributions to their communities. Working collaboratively across the agency, the team develops information and resources to build community awareness and understanding of children and young people's wellbeing. The team manages media, web and social media engagement and leads the coordination of events and sponsorships that highlight young people's views and achievements across Western Australia.



Executive Support

The Executive Support team provides high-level administrative, strategic and operational support to enable the effective delivery of the Commissioner's mandate. The team plays a critical role in ensuring compliance with regulatory and policy requirements, while fostering strong relationships across government, community organisations and young people to support advocacy, research and initiatives that promote the wellbeing and rights of children and young people.



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:

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

Service undertaken by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

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

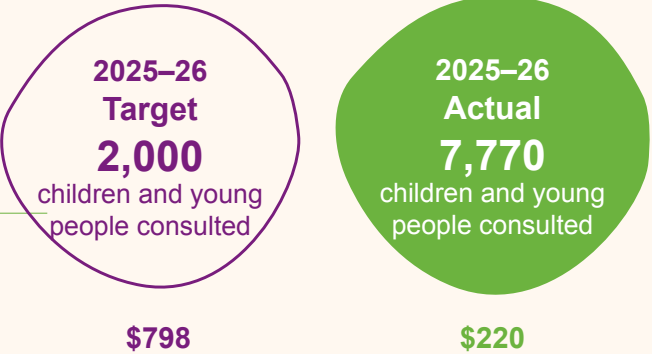
Key efficiency indicators:

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



Summary of Key Performance Indicators

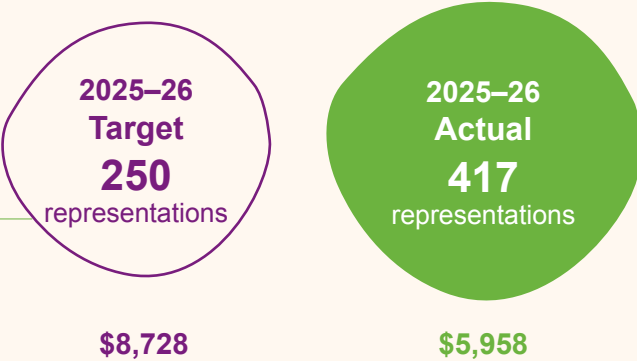
Key effectiveness indicator 1.1:
Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted.



Key efficiency indicator 2.1:
Unit cost per child.

2025–26 Target	2025–26 Actual
\$798	\$220

Key effectiveness indicator 1.2:
Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched, advocated and promoted.



Key efficiency indicator 2.2:
Unit cost per representation.

2025–26 Target	2025–26 Actual
\$8,728	\$5,958

* A full breakdown of the Key Performance Indicators data appears on pages 88–89.



Strategic Plan 2024–27

The Commissioner's **Strategic Plan 2024–27** 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 work of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for this reporting period aligns to the strategic plan and its five strategic pillars:

1

Engage with children and young people to hear their voice

- Quality engagement with children and young people.
- Listen to children and young people from across all Western Australia.
- Children and young people to define their requirements for engagement into the future.
- Provide opportunities for children and young people to share their experiences to inform policy and resource development.

2

Enhance the Commissioner for Children and Young People's profile and reputation to improve our reach and impact

- Best practice data to inform the sector.
- Commissioners' presence across the sector to influence change.
- Collaboration and engagement with key research partners.
- Be seen as an employer of choice.

3

Powerfully share the voice of children and young people to influence change

- Stakeholder influence on critical organisations that affect children and young people.
- Sharing the voices of children and young people.
- Media focus on key issues impacting children and young people.
- Maintain a focus on Aboriginal, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people.

Our Strategic Pillars

Engage with children and young people to hear their voice

Enhance the Commissioner for Children and Young People's profile and reputation to improve our reach and impact

Powerfully share the voice of children and young people to influence change

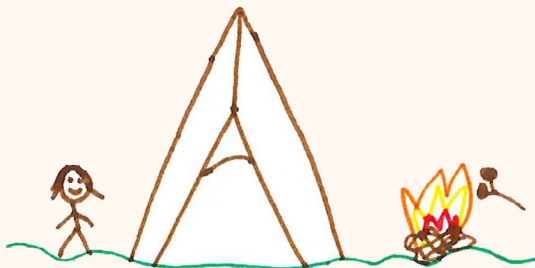
Strengthen the organisation and achieve corporate best practice

Build relationships and strategically influence key stakeholders to drive change for children and young people

4

Strengthen the organisation and achieve corporate best practice

- Best practice corporate governance.
- Organisational culture that builds engagement.
- Excellence in fiscal management.
- Organisational accountability and professional business leadership.



5

Build relationships and strategically influence key stakeholders to drive change for children and young people

- Strategic national and state portfolio engagement on issues impacting children and young people.
- Leadership in the Safe and Supported: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.
- Membership of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (ANZCCGA).
- Influence positive change in the policies programs and services impacting children and young people.

Engage with children and young people to hear their voice



Over the past year, more than 7,770 children and young people have shared their experiences with us through classrooms, youth centres, creative forums and online platforms. Their openness, insight and optimism reinforced the importance of ensuring that their voices remain central to our work.

These engagements directly shape and inform the priorities of the office. By creating safe and respectful spaces for children and young people to be heard, we have strengthened our understanding of their experiences and deepened our commitment to advancing their rights and wellbeing.

This ongoing work continues to guide our focus on ensuring that children and young people can meaningfully influence our agenda and contribute to decisions about their lives, as well as identifying gaps in services, supports, policies and practices across government and non-government sectors.



Listening to young voices to shape reform

The Commissioner undertakes a Listening Tour each year to engage with children and young people from across the state to hear their voices on what matters to them.

During these events, children and young people are encouraged to lead conversations, give voice to their concerns and share their opinions about where they live and the lives they lead.

This year the focus was on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The children and young people discussed which of the rights were most important and which were not being upheld.

The young people demonstrated a clear understanding of children's rights and expressed strong views on fairness, inclusion and participation. Key messages included:

- The importance of having a genuine voice in decisions that affect them.
- The need for greater awareness and promotion of children's rights.
- The value of hearing diverse perspectives.
- The belief that rights should be accompanied by responsibility and respect.

Other discussions highlighted key issues such as education, mental health and wellbeing, safety, access to services and opportunities for inclusion and participation.

Students raised both practical and systemic challenges, including access to mental health support, safety in public spaces, transport issues and the need for more engaging and flexible approaches to learning.

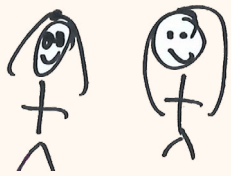
The forums successfully created a supportive and engaging environment that enabled the children and young people to share their perspectives and contribute meaningfully to discussions about their rights and experiences.

Their feedback highlights the importance of continuing to create inclusive and participatory spaces, strengthening opportunities for collaboration and ensuring that young people's voices are not only heard but also actively inform decision-making processes.

The Commissioner also attended individual schools and engaged with established youth advisory mechanisms such as the Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN), Youth Pride Network (YPN), Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC), Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA), Ministerial Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) and Education Youth Advisory Council as well as with other multicultural and youth events.

The Commissioner met 5,208 children and young people in the Perth metropolitan region and 2,118 in regional WA between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026. This included visits to primary schools, secondary schools, vocational schools and non-government organisations.





The participating schools the Commissioner visited or engaged with in 2025–26 included:

- Perth College
- The Y School Mirrabooka
- Ballajurra Community College
- Kiara College
- Swan View Senior High School
- Singleton Primary School
- Rockingham Lakes Primary School
- Settlers Primary School
- Bungaree Primary School
- Warnbro Primary School
- Hillman Primary School
- Safety Bay Senior High School
- Rockingham Montessori School
- Kolbe Secondary College
- Baldivis Secondary College
- John Curtin College of the Arts
- Lakeland SHS
- All Saints College
- Port School
- Morley Primary School.

A highlight this year was a youth forum hosted by the Commissioner in February 2026, which created a dedicated space for young people to speak directly about the issues impacting their lives.

The forum brought together youth representatives from YDAN, YHAC, YACWA, YPN, The Integrity Initiative and the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, who shared their lived experiences and outlined key issues and practical solutions for change to members of ANZCCGA.

The discussions focused on key issues affecting young people, such as mental health and wellbeing, housing insecurity, discrimination, disability inclusion, education and employment pathways, and cost-of-living pressures.

Participants highlighted the importance of culturally safe and inclusive services, stronger protections for vulnerable young people and greater accountability across government and community systems.



East Metro forum



South Metro forum



“I got to speak my opinion with no judgement”

“Enjoyed sharing my ideas with the Commissioner”

“Get to share my thoughts with like-minded people”

“Tell the government what we said today”



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Youth Week WA 2026

Youth Week WA 2026 was recognised from 10 to 16 April throughout the state, under the theme 'Strength in Our Stories'. As Western Australia's largest annual celebration of young people aged 10 to 25, the week provided an opportunity for young people to express their ideas, raise important issues, create entertainment and celebrate their contribution to the community.

The Commissioner ran a social media campaign throughout the week to mark the occasion and bring the voices of young Western Australians to the fore.

A highlight of this year's campaign was a social media takeover by Layla, the Commissioner's School-Based Trainee. Over the course of the week, Layla introduced herself to our audiences, shared her own perspective on the theme and brought a genuine young person's voice to the work of the Commissioner's office. Content included an introductory video, a get-to-know-me graphic, posts inviting young people to respond to the Commissioner's DigiMe question for Youth Week and a series of creative reels produced in collaboration with the communications team. Layla's takeover concluded with a personal reflection on what the week meant to her.

Case study

Layla's experience

While working for the Commissioner for Children and Young People's office, I have taken part in a lot of exciting experiences that include the WA Youth Award judging and attending the Youth Awards. That was an inspiring opportunity to be a part of because I got to hear all about what young people have been doing around WA and making a difference in their communities. It has been incredible to see the Commissioner working with the children during a youth forum too.

Another thing I got to experience was taking over the Commissioner's social media for Youth Week. That was a great opportunity to be a part of because I got to see all the different posts people are doing, which was incredible! It has been amazing working at the Commissioner's office.

Youth Week reel 1

Youth Week reel 2





Children's Week

Children's Week is an annual event dedicated to celebrating children and promoting the rights of the child, as proclaimed by the United Nations in 1954.

In 2025, the Commissioner launched Children's Week in Western Australia at the Bullsbrook Community Event, delivered by Meerilinga. The event brought together families and community members to celebrate children and highlight the importance of their participation, wellbeing and rights. The 2025 theme, 'Everyone should know about Children's Rights', focused on raising awareness of children's rights across communities.

As part of Children's Week activities, the Commissioner also visited Buttercups Childcare Northbridge, where she read stories to children, supporting early literacy and engaging directly with young children in an early learning environment.

Children's Week reel 





Snapshot WA

During Youth Week WA 2026, the Commissioner launched Snapshot WA, a statewide photography competition open to children and young people aged 8 to 17.

The competition invited entrants to share their world through photography, capturing everyday moments, the places they belong and the experiences that shape who they are.

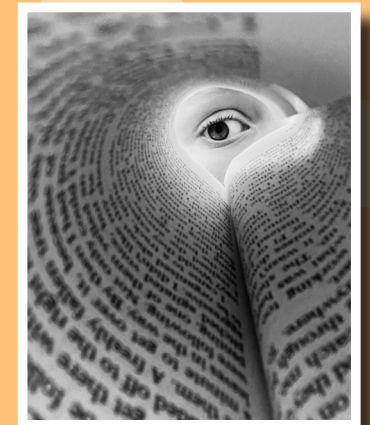
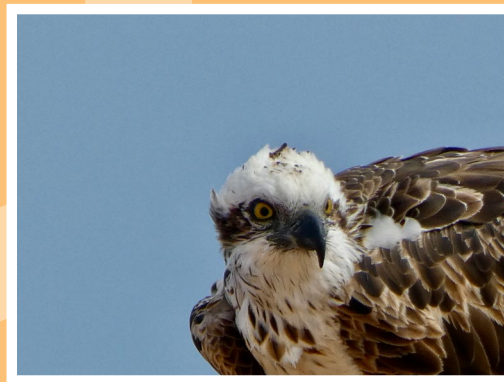
Snapshot WA was free to enter, with digital submissions accepted via the Commissioner's website. The competition closed on 28 May 2026 and almost 300 entries were received, presenting a range of perspectives that highlighted the experiences of life in Western Australia for children and young people.

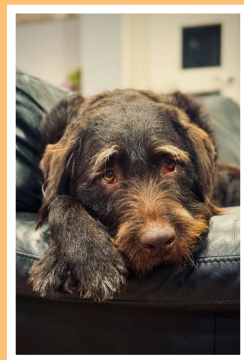
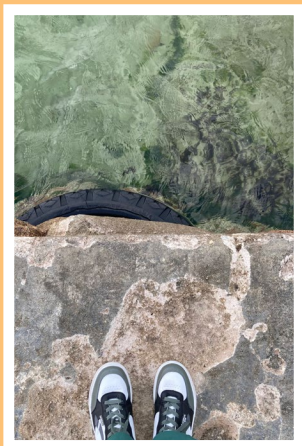
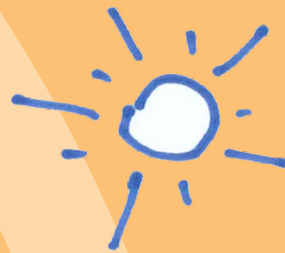
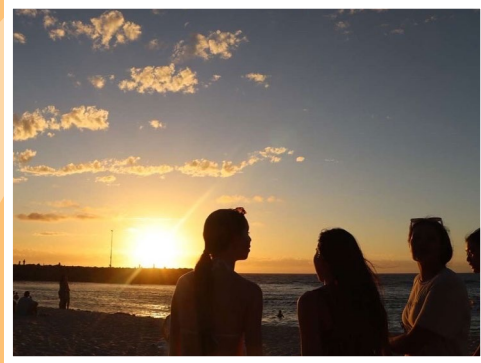
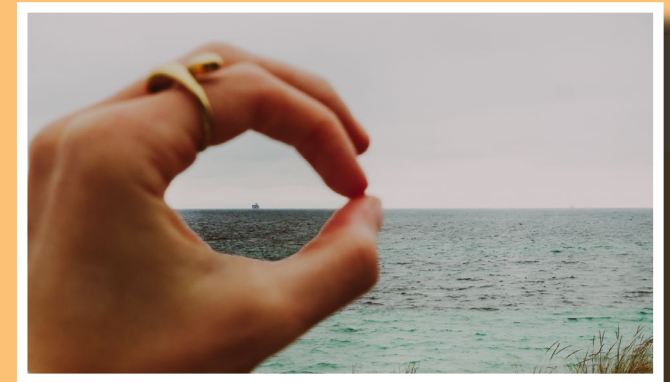
The winners were announced on the Commissioner's website in early July.

Snapshot WA reel



Find out more







Enhance the Commissioner for Children and Young People's profile and reputation to improve our reach and impact



Profile of children and young people in Western Australia 2026

The annual **Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia** report was published in early 2026.

The Profile report provides a demographic overview of **Western Australia's 657,000 children and young people, who represent 21.7% of the state's total population**. It also highlights recent data on how children and young people are faring in key areas such as learning, health and safety. Where possible, the latest results were compared with data from around 10 years ago to identify any emerging trends.

Following previous iterations of the report, the focus was placed on individuals experiencing vulnerability and hardship, such as those in the juvenile justice system, in out-of-home care, living with a disability or living in poverty.



The Profile report also included preliminary findings from the Speaking Out Survey 2025, including data relating to the participants' life satisfaction, mental health, material wellbeing and family functioning.

Key areas of concern were highlighted in the Points of Focus section of the report. These concerns include the mental health of Western Australia's children and young people and their feelings of connectedness within their community. The Profile report also highlights rising developmental risks and concerns, the increasing numbers of children falling through gaps in early-identification systems, poor diets and unhealthy weight among children, and youth detention rates.

To ensure that young people can understand the information presented, the report was written in a way that is accessible to people as young as 12 years old.

The Profile 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 Western Australia.

The Profile received considerable interest, including from the media. The Commissioner will continue to publish the Profile annually to monitor emerging trends and explore how information can be used to provide better outcomes for Western Australian children and young people in the future.

Key statistics from the Profile report can be found in the infographic on [pages 16-17 of this Annual Report](#).

In the media

The Commissioner advocates for Western Australia's children and young people in a range of ways, raising awareness of issues affecting their wellbeing and promoting positive social change.

This advocacy includes tabling reports in the WA Parliament arising from inquiries, surveys and Listening Tours. The Commissioner also meets regularly with Members of Parliament, government officials and agencies to discuss policies, practices and services and to ensure that the voices of children and young people are actively heard and considered.

Where it is in the best interests of children and young people, the Commissioner also

provides public commentary through the media. In 2025–26, she engaged extensively across print, digital, broadcast and radio platforms, reaching metropolitan, regional and national audiences. Her commentary maintained a strong focus on early childhood development, mental health, youth justice, child poverty, family and domestic violence, and the right of young people to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

The release of the Profile in March 2026 attracted significant coverage across major metropolitan outlets, with the Commissioner prominently quoted in both the print and digital editions of *The West Australian*. The release of What Young People Said: Youth Consultation on the Social Media Ban in March 2026 generated further coverage across metropolitan and regional radio as well as multiple stories in the *National Indigenous Times*.

An incident at Banksia Hill Detention Centre in November 2025 drew sustained media attention, with the Commissioner commenting on multiple metropolitan radio stations including ABC Radio, 6PR, 94.5, NOVA and 96FM, and featuring in television news coverage across Nine News, Channel Ten, Seven News and the ABC.

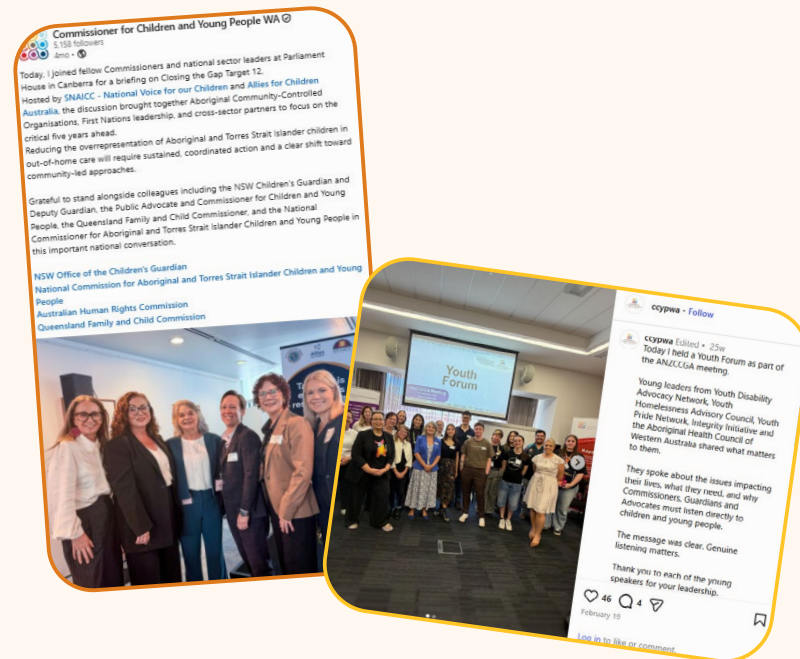


Child poverty received prominent media attention in December 2025, when the *Sunday Times* reported that one in six Western Australian children now lives in poverty, with the Commissioner cited in the coverage. The Commissioner's hosting of the ANZCCGA meeting in Perth in early 2026 and the subsequent Youth Forum generated further coverage across community and regional platforms, including 6DBY Larrkardi Radio.

The Commissioner's messages on health, mental health, early childhood development, youth justice, child poverty, family and domestic violence and the participation rights of young people reached a wide

audience through this engagement, as well as through policy position statements and three opinion pieces in *The West Australian*. The October 2025 opinion piece addressed shared responsibility for children's wellbeing during Children's Week; the December 2025 piece discussed the implications of the social media ban for LGBTIQ+ young people; and the March 2026 piece called for policy frameworks to recognise children as victims of family and domestic violence in their own right. These pieces were complemented by interviews and coverage across ABC Radio (metropolitan and regional), Noongar Radio, 6DBY Larrkardi Radio, GWN7, Youth Jam Radio, the *National Indigenous Times* and other state and national press.

The Commissioner also maintains an active presence on social media platforms including LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. During the 2025–26 financial year, the Commissioner continued to strengthen her use of social media as a key channel to better engage with children and young people as well as broader stakeholders, with a clear focus on amplifying young voices and increasing accessibility to the Commissioner's work. Social platforms were used to promote consultations, campaigns and resources, such as the DigiMe online engagement platform and initiatives like



Snapshot WA, encouraging young people to actively share their views and experiences in ways that are familiar and accessible to them. This approach reflects a broader strategic intent to enhance the Commissioner's profile, reach and impact by meeting audiences where they are and supporting more direct, two-way engagement.

The Commissioner also leveraged social media to communicate timely information on emerging issues affecting children and young people, including national reforms such as social media age restrictions, while providing practical guidance for parents and carers. In parallel, the Commissioner expanded her use of multimedia content – such as video and regional storytelling – to

showcase consultation activities across Western Australia, helping to ensure that diverse voices, including those in regional and remote communities, were visible and heard. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate a more deliberate, audience-focused use of social media to build awareness, encourage participation and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders.



Case study

Megan Sadler, Manager Media Communications and Engagement: Social Media for Gov conference panel discussion

Last year I was asked to participate in a panel discussion at the 20th annual **Social Media for Gov conference** in Melbourne, a prestigious national event and an invitation that reflects the growing impact and leadership of the Commissioner for Children and Young People in digital engagement across Australia.

Alongside communications professionals from the ABC and Queensland Health, I spoke about the responsibilities that government agencies hold when communicating with vulnerable communities, including children and young people.

The session explored how we can create safe, respectful and effective digital communication, and how social media can be used to build trust and support access to services.

When asked about the challenges of communicating with children and young people, I emphasised that their voices matter – especially those of LGBTIQ+ young people, children with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Culturally

and Linguistically Diverse young people and those living in rural and remote areas.

I explained that rather than expecting young people to come to us, we need to meet them in the spaces they trust, as many young people are understandably sceptical of government agencies.

I discussed the importance of authentic, youth-led content and the need for strong storytelling to achieve cut through in a crowded digital environment. I shared the Commissioner's work supporting young people ahead of the social media ban, reflected on why communication with vulnerable communities is essential, offered practical moderation advice and noted that social media in government is far more than communications – it is crisis management, customer service, policy translation and community engagement, and it must be properly resourced to be effective.

I learnt so much from the varied two-day program and brought back insights to strengthen how the Commissioner and our team can continue to advocate for children and young people across Western Australia and on a national level.



Sponsorships

The Commissioner sponsors a range of awards that recognise the valuable contributions of organisations and individuals working to improve the lives of children and young people and celebrate the achievements and contributions of children and young people within the community. From time to time, the Commissioner also sponsors events and scholarships that support and benefit children and young people.



WA Youth Awards

The Commissioner continued her support of the WA Youth Awards, delivered by the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, through sponsorship of the Participate Award. This category recognises young people aged 12 to 17 who demonstrate a strong commitment to making a positive difference in their communities and inspiring others.

The 2025 Participate Award was presented to Sofia Ballerini, whose resilience and dedication to supporting at-risk young people in the Pilbara has made a profound impact in her community. Through her advocacy, peer support work and commitment to creating safer, more inclusive spaces for young people facing hardship, Sofia has demonstrated exceptional leadership and compassion. The Commissioner also acknowledged the outstanding achievements of the finalists – Amindi Elvadura, Amy Duong and Lily Gaulton – each of whom has shown remarkable initiative and passion in their efforts to uplift others, champion important causes and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

In May 2026, the award was renamed the Rising Voice Award to better reflect the purpose of the award – to recognise young people who are using their voice, leadership and influence to make a positive difference in their communities.

IPAA Awards

The Commissioner for Children and Young People proudly sponsors two award categories at the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) WA Awards each year. The awards highlight and celebrate public sector organisations that demonstrate excellence in engaging with children and young people, ensuring that their voices meaningfully shape the policies, services and systems that affect them. This sponsorship reinforces the importance of child-centred practice and recognises agencies leading the way in embedding participation, consultation and accountability.

Award for Best Practice in Children's Consultation

In 2025, the Award for Best Practice in Children's Consultation was presented to Broome Residential College for its My Place, My Future project. The initiative demonstrated excellence in culturally responsive engagement, using strength-based approaches to elevate student voice and inform decision making. The project has also contributed to increased awareness of the College among regional and remote communities, showcasing the value of genuine, respectful consultation with young people.

Complaints Handling Award

The Complaints Handling Award recognises organisations that demonstrate a strong commitment to involving children and young people in the design and continuous improvement of complaints processes. In 2025, the award was presented to the Child and Adolescent Health Service for its Complaints Management Improvement Project, which adopted a co-designed approach to strengthen feedback mechanisms, improve accessibility and enhance organisational capability. This work reflects a sector leading commitment to ensuring that young people can safely and confidently raise concerns and influence service improvement.

YAL Connect scholarship

The Commissioner sponsored the YAL (Young Australia League) Connect scholarships, which support young people facing barriers to engaging in education. The two-year scholarship provides financial assistance for a young person who entered Year 10 or 11 in 2025.

YAL social media post (YAL video)



Zero2Hero Camp Hero scholarships

The Commissioner proudly supported the Zero2Hero's Camp Hero scholarships, helping to remove financial barriers for young people pursuing education and personal development opportunities. This investment empowers participants to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and take meaningful steps toward their future goals.





Collaboration

Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates

The Commissioner is a member of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (ANZCCGA), a collaborative body that promotes and protects the rights, safety and wellbeing of children and young people across Australia and New Zealand. Through ANZCCGA, members advocate for children and young people's participation in decision making and for systemic improvements across areas including child protection, mental health, housing, youth justice and child poverty.

ANZCCGA supports Australia's commitments under key international frameworks, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

During the year, ANZCCGA published joint statements on matters of national significance, including a response to In Plain Sight, the Queensland Child Death Review Board's final report into system responses to child sexual abuse. ANZCCGA called for coordinated national action to strengthen child safeguarding systems, improve accountability and information sharing, and ensure trauma-informed support for victim survivors and their families.

Western Australia hosted the ANZCCGA meeting in Boorloo (Perth) from 17 to 19 February 2026. The meeting included opportunities for members to engage directly with children and young people through school visits and a youth forum.

Young people from a range of advocacy organisations shared lived experiences and practical solutions on issues including mental health and wellbeing, housing insecurity, discrimination, disability inclusion, education and employment pathways, and cost of living pressures.

ANZCCGA meets twice a year face to face and quarterly online, strengthening cross jurisdictional collaboration to advance the rights and wellbeing of children and young people.

First Nations Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates

The First Nations Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (FNCCGA) forms part of ANZCCGA.

Through ANZCCGA, FNCCGA advocates for the rights and best interests of Aboriginal children and young people, elevates their voices, shares insights across jurisdictions and promotes systemic improvements in the design and delivery of policies and programs.

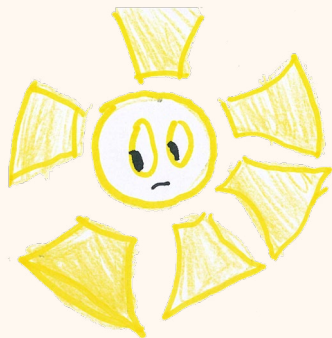
FNCCGA advocated for the establishment of the National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, with Ms Sue Anne Hunter appointed to the role in late 2025. They also advocate for the creation of state and territory based Aboriginal Commissioners for Children and Young People.

Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–2030

The Commissioner is a member of the National Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group.

The Commissioner is a member of three Safe and Supported governance groups including the Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC) with the Community Services Ministers from all jurisdictions.

Safe and Supported continues to advance the agenda on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the commitments in the Action Plans.



Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas

The Commissioner is an ongoing contributor to the development of the Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas. This project has developed a publicly available resource that links data about children and young people's wellbeing with a map-based format. It integrates health and wellbeing metrics, mapping data and data visualisation tools. Gathering data in this way makes it possible to view and compare how children and young people are tracking in the regions where they live. The Atlas is constantly evolving as more data and features are added. The focus during 2025–26 was on the inclusion of data from other jurisdictions to support national analysis and reporting.

Play Matters Collective

The Commissioner is the Patron of Play Matters Collective, a cross-sector group advocating for the promotion of children's right to play as fundamental to their wellbeing and development. The Collective works collaboratively with stakeholders to advance initiatives such as International Day of Play, which aims to elevate the importance of play and incorporate children and young people's voices in shaping future play strategies.

In May 2026, the Commissioner, together with the Play Matters Collective, launched a statewide survey to capture how children and young people experience play in their daily lives. More than 1,000 submissions were received as of 30 June 2026. The responses will be provided for consideration in the development of the WA Play Strategy.

During 2025–26, the Commissioner also supported opportunities to engage children and young people on the importance of play, including exploring options to gather their views through upcoming forums and school-based consultation activities.





End to child poverty

The Commissioner has called for urgent, coordinated action to address the rising rates of child poverty in Western Australia. Ongoing cost-of-living pressures and a tightening housing market have contributed to an estimated 103,900 children and young people in Western Australia living below the poverty line in 2025.

These trends continue to shape and inform the Commissioner's priorities and advocacy, reinforcing the position that no child should experience disadvantage due to socio-economic or structural barriers.

The Commissioner urges all levels of government, alongside community and private sectors, to deliver sustained, evidence-based reform grounded in a child-centred approach, to ensure that children not only survive, but thrive.

The Commissioner continues to support the work of the Valuing Children Initiative and the End to Child Poverty campaign, which aim to raise community awareness and drive action to eliminate child poverty. This includes advocating for the Australian Government to adopt a child-centred definition of poverty and to implement comprehensive policy and funding reforms that address income adequacy, housing access, education, health and social inclusion.



Early Years Partnership

The Commissioner serves on the board of the Early Years Partnership, a collaboration between the WA Government and the Minderoo Foundation. The initiative works with four communities to improve early childhood outcomes through a co-design approach identifying local priorities, developing community-led plans and implementing evidence-based solutions. The model supports more integrated, coordinated and responsive early years services for children and families.

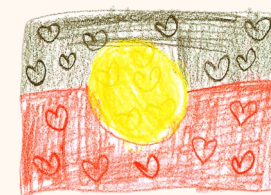
Justice Reform Initiative Ambassador

In 2025 the Commissioner attended the 19th Annual Reintegration Puzzle Conference in Alice Springs, where she presented on a keynote panel about youth justice and participated in a community roundtable with fellow ANZCCGA members to hear directly from community representatives about solutions to the ongoing and unacceptable overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system.

As a result of this impactful presentation, the Justice Reform Initiative invited the Commissioner to be an Ambassador in 2025–26.



ANZCCGA joint statement



Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee

As a member of the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee, the Commissioner emphasised that Aboriginal-led solutions, shared authority and collaborative decision making are essential to improving Aboriginal youth wellbeing.

In early 2026, the state government formalised a partnership agreement with the Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group at a ceremonial event in Broome. The Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee Partnership Agreement was established to transform the way the government and Aboriginal leaders work together.

Through collaboration and shared decision making, the agreement aims to strengthen outcomes for Aboriginal young people in Kimberley and achieve a sustained reduction in self-harm and suicidal behaviours, towards zero.



Edith Cowan University School of Education Advisory Board

The Commissioner is a member of the Edith Cowan University School of Education Advisory Board, along with leaders from across the education sector. The Board provides strategic guidance to inform the development of the next generation of teachers and researchers who will support our children and young people.

Trans and gender diverse children and young people

The Commissioner continued to advocate for greater inclusion and recognition of trans and gender diverse young people, emphasising that strengthening LGBTIQ+ education and services in Western Australia requires sustained, long-term policy commitment.

In addition to participating in the 2025 Perth Pride Parade with the Youth Pride Network, the Commissioner collaborated on a joint op-ed addressing Australia's unsettling rise in online hate speech and discrimination targeting queer communities. In this piece, the Commissioner called for stronger moderation of hate speech; investment in community-led online spaces; education teaching young people how to navigate digital environments safely; and policies acknowledging young people's agency rather than denying it.



At-Risk Youth Strategy working groups

The WA Government's At-Risk Youth Strategy 2022–2027 focuses on improving outcomes for young people aged 10 to 24 years with multiple and complex needs who are at risk of harm and increased vulnerability of experiencing poor life outcomes. The Commissioner contributes to the Implementation Working Group and Reference Groups for the strategy, advocating for vulnerable children and young people to receive the wrap-around support they need.



National Stakeholder Advisory Board, Young Minds: Our Future

The Young Minds: Our Future national survey on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Australia will update the data on the national prevalence of mental disorders and use of mental health services for Australian children and adolescents.

The Commissioner contributes to the work of the National Stakeholder Advisory Board to support this important initiative, which will inform the next generation of service delivery, health promotion and prevention.



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Family Court of WA Reference Group

The Commissioner is a member of the Family Court of WA Reference Group, advocating for the wellbeing of children and young people engaged with the Court and related service providers. The Reference Group includes government agencies and key non-government organisations such as community legal centres and social support services. During 2025–26, the Reference Group noted improvements in court efficiencies, including reduced delays in hearings and regional circuit matters.

However, ongoing systemic challenges were identified, including workforce shortages in regional and remote areas, increasing demand for services and the continued impact of housing insecurity on family and domestic violence. There was also a strong emphasis across the sector on the growing need for child-inclusive practices and ensuring that children's voices are meaningfully considered in decisions that affect them.

Senate Inquiry into Australia's youth justice and incarceration system

In March 2026, the Commissioner appeared at the [Senate Inquiry into Australia's youth justice and incarceration system](#) Perth hearing alongside Eamon Ryan, WA Inspector of Custodial Services. The focus was on the overrepresentation of First Nations children in detention and as the Commissioner told the committee: 'In what other first world country, do we see children dying in custody? It is critically important for us to stand up collectively and say, "Please hear the voices of our children and young people".'

This appearance followed on from the hearing in 2024–25 alongside fellow Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates from around Australia.



In the media



Powerfully share the voices of children and young people to influence change



Speaking Out Survey

Every few years, the Commissioner delivers the Speaking Out Survey to build a consistent and reliable picture of the wellbeing of children and young people across Western Australia. To date, the survey has been conducted in 2019, 2021 and 2025, creating a strong and growing evidence base over time.

The Speaking Out Survey 2025 (SOS 2025) marks a significant milestone in the series, through which the Commissioner was able to reach more than 17,000 children and young people in Years 4 to 12 from schools across metropolitan, regional and remote Western Australia. SOS 2025 also captured data that allows findings to be explored across key demographic characteristics, including



Aboriginality, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) background, age, school year, gender, region and remoteness. This makes SOS 2025 the largest and most detailed survey in the series to date.

The scale and scope of SOS 2025 provides a comprehensive understanding of children and young people's wellbeing. This continues to support the Commissioner's statutory function to advocate on behalf of children and young people and ensure that decisions affecting them are informed by their voices and lived experiences.

Hearing from children and young people

The Speaking Out Survey is one of the largest representative wellbeing surveys in Australia that relies on self-reported data from children and young people. It provides them with an opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives rather than having their views interpreted or reported by adults or institutions.

SOS 2025 explores wellbeing across three domains: Healthy and Connected, Safe and Supported, and Learning and Participating. These domains capture the core aspects of children and young people's lives that influence their wellbeing and opportunities to thrive. Analysis across the domains helps identify where children and young people are faring well and where additional attention may be required.

Translating evidence into change

The SOS 2025 Report will be released in early 2026–27. It will be tabled in Parliament and published on the Commissioner's website, alongside data snapshots for key areas.

SOS 2025 builds on the data collected in the 2019 and 2021 surveys, creating a unique opportunity to explore trends in children and young people's wellbeing over time. Trend analysis will be conducted across all three survey iterations to identify shifts, emerging patterns and persistent issues affecting children and young people across Western Australia.

Findings from the SOS 2025 Report will inform and drive the Commissioner's advocacy work into 2027 and beyond. This includes subsequent publications exploring the key findings and priority areas raised by the children and young people.

“ Their outside voices says that they're ok, when really their inside voice says that they're not ok. ”

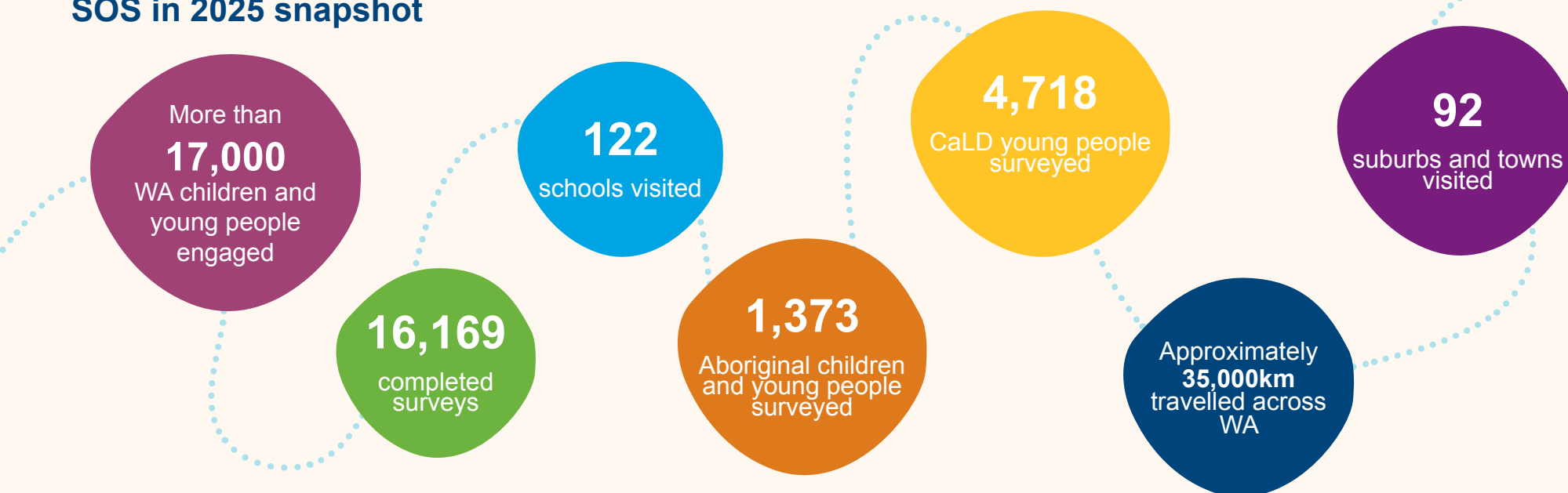
– Boy, 11

A snapshot of what children and young people told us:

- Most children and young people generally report positive wellbeing outcomes across the domains.
- Younger students report a more positive outlook than older students.
- Engagement with school and learning declines during high school years.
- Girls report less favourably than boys across several measures of wellbeing.
- Mental health continues to emerge as a critical issue for many students.



SOS in 2025 snapshot



Case study

Charles Owers: Speaking Out Survey fieldwork – Wheatbelt trip, July 2025

In July 2025, myself and two colleagues, Claire and Janean, travelled to the Wheatbelt to deliver the Speaking Out Survey at several schools. The trip took us from Perth to Northam, Southern Cross, Mukinbudin and various small communities along the way. Although the purpose of the trip was to engage students in our important statewide survey, the experience also became a meaningful opportunity to better get to know my colleagues and to take in many of the Wheatbelt's beautiful sights.

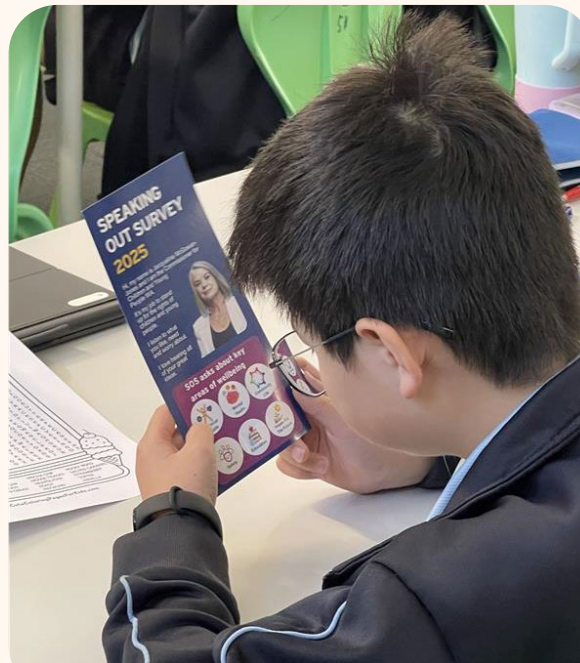


Team bonding

Much of our time was spent travelling between towns, and the long car journeys afforded us a good opportunity to converse and get to know each other. We rotated driving duties while sharing music, podcasts and conversations that made the kilometres pass easily. Evenings were another source of camaraderie as we explored the town of Southern Cross on foot and dined together after full days at the schools. We also made time for small side trips – including Baladjie Rock and Frog Rock – that combined memorable conversations with alluring and awe-inspiring sights.

Professional experiences in schools

Delivering the Speaking Out Survey required early starts and a high level of coordination. Each morning began with breakfast together before heading out to meet school staff and set up for the day. At every school we were warmly welcomed by teachers and administrators, who were invariably glad to support the survey. Engaging with students was a definite highlight – greeting them as they arrived, helping them navigate the iPad survey and chatting with them before, during and after the survey. Their openness, curiosity and willingness to share their perspectives reinforced the importance of the survey and the value of being physically present in their communities.



Experiencing the Wheatbelt

For all three of us, the Wheatbelt is not a region we typically spend much time in, which made the journey feel both new and eye opening. Travelling in the middle of winter meant the landscape was far greener and wetter than expected. Rolling paddocks, granite outcrops and wide-open skies created scenery that surprised and impressed us throughout the trip.

Summary

This trip combined professional engagement with memorable team experiences and a renewed appreciation for our state's Wheatbelt region. Through long drives, shared meals, school visits and outdoor adventures, our team became more cohesive while undertaking our work surveying students in the Wheatbelt. The trip highlighted not only the value of the Speaking Out Survey but also the importance of connection – within our team, with the schools we visited and with the communities that make up this unique part of the state.



SOS Perth Metro



SOS East Kimberley



SOS Albany

“ I’m ... proud of our progressive culture of defending, standing up for and supporting each other no matter what, even though it’s difficult in our society. I know that the disabled community will always fight for me when I can’t fight for myself. ”

– WA young person



Youth engagement

This year marked a significant shift in how we engage with children and young people. Our conversations were deeper, broader and more diverse than ever, especially as we consulted widely on the proposed social media ban, which opened new avenues for young people to share their views on an issue that directly affects their daily lives. Their insights were thoughtful, candid and often challenging, reminding us just how essential their perspectives are.

When children and young people are given genuine opportunities to speak, they reveal blind spots, question long-held assumptions and offer practical solutions grounded in lived experience. Their voices help decision-makers understand what policies look like in real life – not just on paper.

By amplifying these perspectives across all our engagement activities, the Commissioner continues to advocate for change that is informed, inclusive and truly reflective of the needs and rights of children and young people in Western Australia.

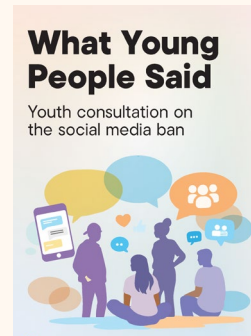
DigiMe consultation

DigiMe is the Commissioner's digital consultation tool, which invites children and young people to respond to a prompt question, create a personalised avatar and share their views via the Commissioner's website and social media channels.

During 2025–26, 151 young people participated in DigiMe consultations across four questions:

- What would you do to change the world?
- What do you think of the social media ban?
- What is one thing you are looking forward to about starting back at school this year and what is one thing you're worried about?
- What are you most proud of in your community or culture?

Their responses were inspiring, encouraging and often thought provoking. The Commissioner will continue to promote children and young people's voices through DigiMe in 2026–27.



Social media ban consultation

In response to the Australian Government's introduction of social media restrictions for children under 16, the Commissioner invited young people to share their views through DigiMe between 1 October 2025 and 28 January 2026. The question posed was: 'What do you think about the social media ban for under-16s?' A total of 145 responses were received, of which 120 were from young people under 18, drawn from across Western Australia.

Young people expressed thoughtful and, at times, complex views. While many acknowledged the intent to protect children from online harm, most opposed the ban in its current form. Key themes included concern about losing connection with friends and family; the appropriateness of a 16-

plus age threshold, with many respondents suggesting 13 or 14 as more appropriate; the particular impact on young people in regional and remote areas who rely on social media for connection; and the potential effect on LGBTIQ+ young people, who described online communities as vital spaces for identity, support and belonging. Young people also raised concerns about privacy in age-verification processes, the effectiveness of a blanket approach and the importance of being consulted on decisions that affect their lives.

The Commissioner published the findings in the report *What Young People Said: Youth Consultation on the Social Media Ban*. On 10 December 2025, the day the legislation took effect, the Commissioner participated in a live panel discussion on Youth Jam Radio alongside Lucas Lane, the 16-year-old founder of Glossy Boys, and Professor Marie Yap, a psychologist specialising in youth mental health. The Commissioner also co-authored an opinion editorial in *The West Australian* with Chloe Clements, Manager of the Youth Pride Network, examining the impact of the ban on LGBTIQ+ young people.



Strengthen the organisation and achieve corporate best practice



As an organisation dedicated to advocating for children and young people, it is essential that our internal systems and structures are as strong and effective as the work we do externally. This section highlights our ongoing efforts to strengthen the organisation and achieve corporate best practice, ensuring that we remain accountable, sustainable and equipped to deliver meaningful outcomes for children and young people.

To achieve corporate best practice, we have strengthened our governance frameworks, enhanced our risk management strategies and compliance processes, and improved our financial accountability. We are also investing in workforce capability through targeted professional development for staff. This includes the enrolment of all staff in The Skills Academy programs as well as the rollout of a comprehensive health and wellbeing assessment to support a resilient and high-performing workforce.

We continue to offer training that develops our team both professionally and personally, including a whole-of-organisation focus on psychosocial safety in the workplace, which all staff undertook this year.

We are also reviewing our Service Level Agreements to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of corporate service delivery, including the finance, information technology and human resources functions. Complementing this work, an external policy review is underway to ensure that our frameworks remain contemporary, compliant and fit for purpose.

Our team has also begun embedding a more consistent approach to performance and accountability as well as continuous improvement across the organisation, ensuring that our systems support both strategic priorities and day-to-day operations.

We are proud to be an inclusive and culturally diverse workplace and are committed to strengthening this representation in the coming year.

Internships

Our internships offer a unique and enriching experience, providing students with valuable insights into advocacy, policy development, research and community engagement. In 2025–26, the Commissioner hosted 16 interns in the policy, research and evaluation teams from the **McCusker Centre for Citizenship, Edith Cowan University, Curtin University** and the **University of Western Australia**. The interns were involved in various projects to complement their studies, including the Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia.

We were pleased to support a Solid Futures Trainee and a School-Based Trainee over the past year, both of whom have shown strong commitment to their development and future careers. Bart, our Solid Futures Trainee, successfully completed his program, graduated and has secured a permanent position within the WA Government. Layla, our School-Based Trainee, is nearing the completion of her one-year placement. During her time with us, Layla has gained valuable skills and knowledge, and has made a meaningful contribution to the team. We are committed to supporting young people by providing real and meaningful work experience opportunities. Having young people in the office truly enhances the work we do and how we approach it.

Our interns for 2025–26 included:

- Bart – Solid Futures Trainee
- Layla – School-Based Trainee
- Sahithya Prabhakaran
- Shreya Patel
- Shijin (Alex) Wang
- Arzoo Arzoo
- Mayuri Sanjay Dakhane
- Shashwath Shiva Prakash
- Meg Howard
- Jigar Dhirajkumar Salunke
- Tsz Ki Skylar (Mayki) Lin
- Jessica-Monique Bojanjac
- Dhana Violeta Wurttele Pariona
- Lara Arndt
- Brodie Berson
- Ivy Qi
- Fatima Inam
- Kate Fisher

Case study

Jessica-Monique Bojanjac

I have had the absolute pleasure of undertaking a semester-long McCusker Foundation internship at the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, as part of my Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) studies at the University of Western Australia. My time with the Commissioner has been incredibly rewarding, allowing me the opportunity to apply my existing knowledge of research, legislation and policy to a practical setting while making truly meaningful change in the process. In developing a pilot phase for the 2025–26 Complaints Management Project, I have tackled and overcome complex real-world problems, providing me with skills I will carry into my future studies and career in law.

I am grateful to have learnt, through hands-on experience, about the meaningful work that the Commissioner undertakes in advocating for children and young people and amplifying their voices. Working alongside such a joyous,



committed group of people has been such a delight, and I am remarkably appreciative of the support I have received from the Policy Team and beyond, throughout my time here.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone at the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, the McCusker Foundation and the University of Western Australia for this valuable, enriching experience!



Focus on the Complaints Monitoring Project

The Commissioner initiated the 2026 Complaints Monitoring Project, which aims to strengthen the Office's ability to identify systemic issues affecting children and young people through analysis of complaints data across government and community services. The project represents a strategic shift from reviewing complaints systems to monitoring trends and themes in complaints made by children and young people.

During 2025–26, work focused on scoping the project, including developing a monitoring framework, identifying potential data sources and engaging with agencies to support consistent, de-identified data collection to inform future analysis and advocacy.

Leading by example

An easy-to-read complaints flowchart is also available on the Commissioner's website explaining the process in clear language and visuals. It is also sent to complainants under 18 years of age.

For those seeking more detailed information, links to the Commissioner's complaint policies are clearly listed on the relevant [webpage](#).

Given the nature of the complaints, particularly those involving children and young people, it is extremely important that conversations and the auto-response are 'humanised' by using personable language and acknowledging the Commissioner's commitment to improving the wellbeing and safety of children and young people.

All communication is grounded in inclusivity and respect for the diversity of culture, gender, background and age.

Every opportunity is taken to encourage children and young people to understand that their voice matters and their complaints should be heard. The Commissioner distributes information wherever possible and relevant – particularly through her events and activities in schools, colleges and forums.



Complaints handling

Under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, the Commissioner is restricted from advocating on behalf of individuals. The Commissioner’s team therefore work hard to help by connecting people to services that can provide support or address their complaints.

However, the Commissioner monitors incoming complaints and enquiries, and advocates on systemic issues identified through this process. Among the complaints received in 2025–26, key themes included child safety and protection concerns, breaches of privacy, bullying in schools, racism and poor experiences with service providers.

The Commissioner received 46 complaints over the past year, two of which were from children or young people. Two of the complaints related to the Commissioner, whereas the remainder concerned government and non-government agencies.

Find out more



Complaint received

By email

- 1 Humanised auto-response email sent within three days, which includes the contact details of relevant support services and a commitment to follow up within 15 days.
- 2 Complaint recorded in Records Management.
- 3 Complaint forwarded to Commissioner’s delegate.
- 4 Commissioner’s delegate sends a personalised email addressing specific issue and providing further information.

By phone

- 1 Commissioner’s delegate discusses issues with complainant to resolve.
- 2 If unresolved during the phone call, the delegate sends a personalised email to the complainant to follow up the conversation with acknowledgement and further information.





Build relationships and strategically influence key stakeholders to drive change for children and young people



The Commissioner engages regularly with key stakeholders to advocate for the rights, wellbeing and interests of children and young people. Through these relationships, the Commissioner shares insights from research, evidence and engagement activities to inform policy development, influence service delivery, and promote positive outcomes for children and young people.

Stakeholders include leaders and representatives from government and non-government sectors, peak bodies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, community and philanthropic organisations, and national and interstate agencies and networks focused on children and young people.

Strong partnerships and collaborative relationships are central to the Commissioner's ability to drive strategic change. By working with organisations and advocates across sectors, the Commissioner helps ensure that the voices, rights and needs of children and young people are recognised and reflected in the policies, programs and services supporting their growth, development and wellbeing.

2025–26 presentations

The Commissioner places a high priority on public advocacy for the rights, needs and wellbeing of children and young people. She is a sought-after speaker at conferences and meetings both nationally and within Western Australia on issues affecting children and young people.

At the 2025 Catholic Women's League of WA Conference, the Commissioner spoke about youth justice, raising her concerns about key issues in Western Australia for young people, including the misleading public perception of a 'youth crime wave' and the impact the youth justice system has on vulnerable young people.

The Commissioner's presentation at the Department of Communities Children's Week Seminar focused on the National Principles for Child-Safe organisations and the important steps that organisations can take to ensure that children and young people are safe and supported in raising any concerns.

At the Informa Australia Children and Young People at Risk Summit, the Commissioner spoke about WA-specific risks and trends in child safety, mental health, education and justice, and highlighted the importance of participatory approaches that amplify children's voices in shaping policy.

At the Edith Cowan University Justice Research Network inaugural conference, the Commissioner presented the current state of progress in Western Australia on youth justice and reiterated the importance of prevention and early intervention initiatives that prioritise holistic, child-centred case management, reducing the age of criminal liability and ending solitary confinement. The Commissioner also presented a session on her experience of women in leadership at the WA Women in Leadership Summit.

The Commissioner also participated in panels at conferences and summits, including presenting the key reflections in system change for the enhanced safety and

wellbeing of children panel at the National Improving Outcomes and Experiences for At Risk Children Conference and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner's Panel at the SNAICC National Conference.

Other panel presentations included the 54 Reasons Child Rights Symposium in Melbourne and the Association of Independent Schools Aboriginal Communities conference in Broome.





Improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people

Supporting Aboriginal children and young people is central to the Commissioner's work, and it requires more than consultation – it requires genuine partnership. Their cultures, histories and identities shape their experiences, and any decisions that affect their lives must reflect this reality.

Working alongside Aboriginal children, families and communities means recognising their strengths, acknowledging the ongoing impacts of colonisation and committing to approaches that are culturally secure, respectful and community led. When we listen deeply and act with care, we help create the conditions for stronger outcomes, healing and self determination.

Much of the Commissioner's work spans multiple strategic pillars, and this is especially true of initiatives involving Aboriginal children and young people. Their perspectives guide our priorities, influence our advocacy and strengthen our understanding of what meaningful change looks like.

Under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, the Commissioner must prioritise the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people as well as those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. This responsibility shapes our approach and ensures that their voices remain at the forefront of our work.

The following projects highlight the key areas of focus aimed at improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people across Western Australia.

“[I'm proud of] the absolute resilience after everything us Aboriginal people have been through”

– WA young person

Yule River

The Commissioner attended the 10th Annual On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River, on Kariyarra Country, in July 2025. The event is led by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation Pilbara Regional Committee to listen to community priorities and support ongoing advocacy efforts across the Pilbara. Reflecting on the 2024 Call to Action and the subsequent Pilbara Listening Tour, the Commissioner highlighted the key issues affecting children and young people, including housing, justice, mental health, personal safety and poverty, and reinforced the need for shared decision making and a coordinated child and family wellbeing strategy.

The Commissioner reaffirmed her commitment to advocating for increased programs, services and support for children and young people across the Pilbara and Mid-West regions. She also endorsed the community's priorities for systemic reform in education, health, wellbeing and community safety, aligning with the 2024 Call to Action Statement and broader efforts to ensure that all children feel safe, valued and empowered to thrive.

The Commissioner will attend the next On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River in July 2026.

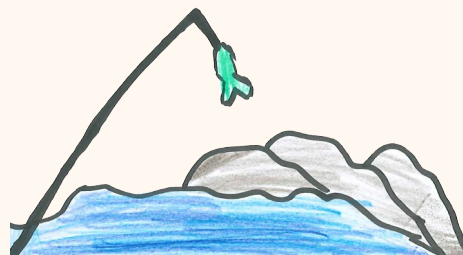
[Find out more](#)

Yamatji On-Country Bush Meeting

Hosted by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and the Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Corporation, the **Yamatji On-Country** Bush Meeting provides an important opportunity for the Commissioner to engage with a significant community-led initiative fostering meaningful dialogue between First Nations communities across the Mid-West, Gascoyne and Murchison with government representatives.

In September 2025, the Commissioner attended the 5th Annual Yamatji On-Country Bush Meeting, where she supported initiatives that amplify the voices of young people and strengthen cultural connection, particularly the Elders Film Project. This culturally grounded initiative brings Elders and young people together to share stories, knowledge and cultural perspectives through film. The project aims to strengthen cultural identity, connection, wellbeing and belonging for regional young people while building practical skills in storytelling, filming and creative expression.

The Commissioner will attend the 6th Annual Yamatji On-Country Bush Meeting in September 2026.





Fitzroy Valley visit

In September 2025, the Commissioner travelled through the Looma Community en route to Fitzroy Crossing for a two-day regional engagement visit.

At Fitzroy Valley District High School, the Commissioner met with students whose artwork is featured in the 2024–25 Annual Report as part of the Commissioner's Acknowledgement of Country project. She personally thanked each contributor and presented the school with a copy of the publication, recognising the students' significant contribution to a report shared across Western Australia and tabled in Parliament.

The Commissioner met with staff from Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation Youth Services to discuss youth engagement and service delivery across the Fitzroy Valley. She then visited the Marra Worra Worra Night Space, a community-run facility that operates seven nights a week for disengaged and street-present young people. Since opening in September 2024, the Night Space has recorded more than 12,500 individual engagements and prepared more than 21,650 meals.

The Commissioner also attended the Baya Gawiy Buga yani Jandu yani U Centre's celebration marking 13 years of the Baya Gawiy Early Childhood Learning Unit, operated by Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre. The celebration included the launch of the Buga Yanu Junba songbook and album, written and recorded in Bunuba, Gooniyandi, Walmajarri and Kimberley Kriol languages. The Commissioner acknowledged the unit's recent 'Exceeding' rating under the National Quality Framework, a milestone reflecting the centre's exceptional commitment to early childhood education and care.



Connecting with community in Mparntwe

A trip to Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in May 2026 gave the Commissioner an opportunity to spend time with community leaders and organisations working to support Aboriginal children, young people and their families.

Attending the opening of the Ngura Tjuta Hub, alongside the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress health hub and childcare centre, highlighted the importance of collaboration across jurisdictions. This work reflects strong tri-state advocacy between Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, in partnership with the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, which played a key role in supporting the establishment of the Ngura Tjuta Hub.

Through these engagements, including connecting with Kulintja Kutju and Tri-state Empowered Communities, the Commissioner had the opportunity to listen and learn directly from the community. These discussions reinforced the importance of creating safe, culturally respectful spaces that enable people to share their stories openly and underscored the value of community-led solutions in supporting the wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Youth Conference

In May 2026, the Commissioner gave a speech at the 2026 Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Youth Conference about the issues affecting Aboriginal children and young people across Western Australia.

She also sat on a panel with young Aboriginal people and her message was simple but powerful: 'We must listen'.

Young people have told the Commissioner that they are concerned about mental health, belonging and access to support. They want adults to take them seriously, and systems that respond before things reach a crisis point.

The Commissioner spoke about the deep connection between mental health, educational engagement, service access and justice, emphasising that holistic support for the whole family from pre-birth onwards is needed for Aboriginal children and young people to grow up happy, strong and healthy.

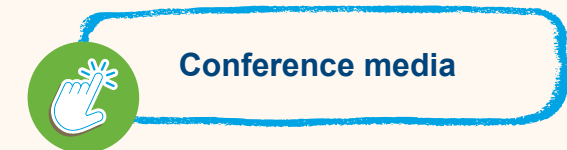


Reconciliation WA's Education Reconciliation Industry Networking Group

In May 2026, the Commissioner took part in a panel with Reconciliation WA's Education Reconciliation Industry Networking Group, bringing together leaders from across early childhood, school and adult education to discuss reconciliation, shared responsibility and best practice across the education system.

The Commissioner spoke about the importance of listening deeply to children and young people, particularly Aboriginal children and young people, and recognising the strength, knowledge and leadership held by Aboriginal families, parents and communities.

A highlight was the panel discussion featuring young Aboriginal representatives and an Aboriginal parent and family representative, who shared their perspectives on how education can better hear, value and respond to Aboriginal voices.



In addition to the above priority projects, events and visits, the Commissioner and her team continue to celebrate and acknowledge important occasions such as **Reconciliation Week**, **NAIDOC Week** and **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day** by attending community events and schools, encouraging staff participation in education workshops and sharing knowledge and information about these significant days and weeks of recognition with our stakeholders via social media and other digital channels.



Formal submissions 2025–26

In 2025–26, the Commissioner made 20 submissions to state and federal inquiries and projects. The submissions advocated for Western Australian children and young people across themes such as child safety, out-of-home care, justice, early years, education, trauma and legislative reform. Key submissions included:

Legislative Council Standing Committee on Legislation Inquiry regarding the *Firearms Act 2024*

3 July 2025

Submission providing feedback on the implications of the *Firearms Act 2024* for child safety and wellbeing.

Department of Communities on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy 2025–2035

28 July 2025

Submission highlighting the needs of children and young people and recommending inclusion of child safeguarding measures and evidence-based responses.

eSafety Commissioner on the Social Media Age Restriction

13 August 2025

Submission regarding proposed social media access restrictions highlighting key issues for children and young people for the consideration of the eSafety Commissioner.

Legislative Council Standing Committee on Legislation on the Criminal Code Amendment (Post and Boast Offence) Bill 2025

4 September 2025

Submission urging a child-centred, trauma-informed approach that upholds the best interests of children and young people.

Department of Communities on Phase 2 Working with Children Check Reforms Consultation Paper

22 September 2025

Submission supporting reforms that enhance compliance, reduce risk of harm to children and improve information sharing across jurisdictions.

Mental Health Commission on proposed strategic directions of the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025–2030

23 September 2025

Submission highlighting the high priority children, young people and the people who care for them place on mental health and wellbeing, accessible services and having a voice in decision making.

Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety on Tranche 2 Liquor Licensing Reforms

14 October 2025

Submission focusing on strengthening protections for children while ensuring that reforms remain proportionate, prioritise community safety and minimise alcohol-related harm.

Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee Inquiry into Community Use of Public School Facilities

17 October 2025

Submission regarding the benefits, risks and opportunities for children and young people of community use of public school facilities.

Department of Communities All Paths Lead to Home Second Action Plan 2026–2030

29 October 2025

Submission providing in-principle endorsement of the All Paths Lead to Home Second Action Plan 2026–2030, supporting planning to address homelessness for children and young people.

Mental Health Commission on the draft Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2026–2031

5 November 2025

Submission supporting the development of a sustainable, evidence-based framework for suicide prevention that addresses the unique needs of children and young people.

Ombudsman WA on the operation of the Protected Entertainment Precincts Scheme

7 November 2025

Submission focusing on strengthening protections for children and young people while ensuring that legislative responses effectively reduce exposures to harm and violence and improve overall community safety.



Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety on the Review and Reform of WA Gambling Laws Consultation Paper

9 December 2025

Submission regarding the need for strengthened protections for children and young people from gambling-related harm caused through the participation of themselves or others.

Hon. Nick Goiran MLC on the Working with Children (Screening) Amendment Bill 2025

22 January 2026

Feedback provided to the Shadow Attorney General regarding support for reforms that will enhance compliance, improve national information sharing and materially reduce the risk of harm to children in high-risk contexts.

Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport Office of Multicultural Interests on the proposed WA Multicultural Act

10 February 2026

Submission to the Office of Multicultural Interests regarding the potential for improving outcomes for children and young people by developing legislation that is inclusive, respectful and responsive to their lived experiences.

Australian Human Rights Commission public consultation on 7-Eleven application for a temporary exemption under the *Age Discrimination Act 2004*

23 March 2026

Submission supporting a temporary exemption that would allow 7-Eleven to refuse service of non-alcoholic alcohol-like beverages to children and young people under the age of 18.

Law Reform Commission of WA on Project 115 – Review of Access to Western Australia’s Justice System by Persons with a Disability

4 April 2026

Submission focused on the need for developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, culturally safe and child-centered services and reducing the overrepresentation of children with developmental and cognitive disability in the justice system.

Legislative Council Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Public Order Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

13 April 2026

Submission noting the potential impacts of the proposed amendments on children and young people.

Federal Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Inquiry into racism, hate and violence directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

23 April 2026

Submission noting the significant harms racism has directly caused to children and young people's health, wellbeing, education, cultural and community connection as well as the systemic barriers Aboriginal children face.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education Inquiry into the factors driving educational attainment

11 June 2026

Submission noted the impact of developmental vulnerabilities in early years on educational attainment and the need for early intervention as well as the persistent barriers faced by children and young people in regional and remote areas.

Public Sector Commission on the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability regarding public sector employment

25 June 2026

Submission regarding pathways to employment and opportunities for young people with disability in the public sector.

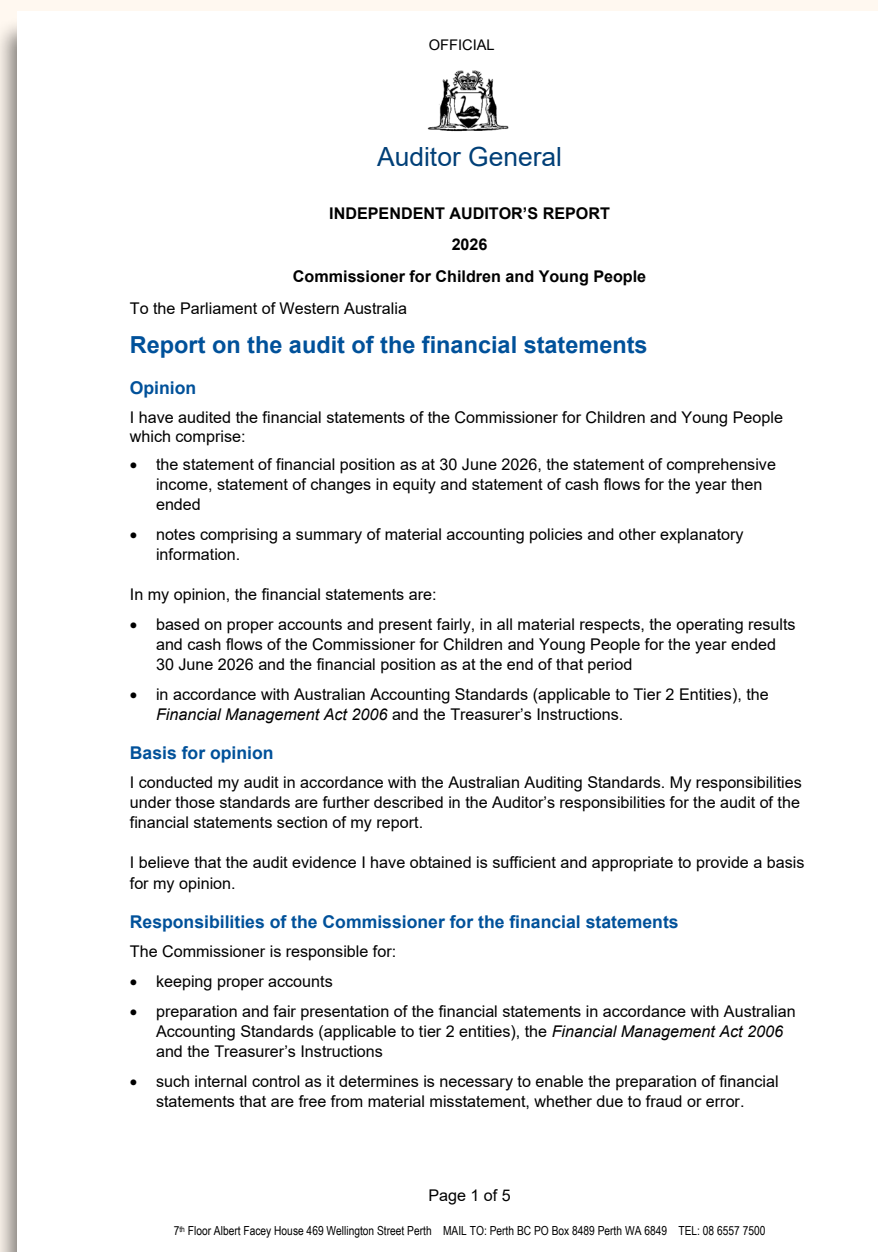




Financial statements and Key Performance Indicators



Independent auditor's report





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 Commissioner for Children and Young People.

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 misstatement, 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 for Children and Young People 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 controls within the system were suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives identified as at 30 June 2026, and the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2026.

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.

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 Engagements 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 included 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 2026 reported in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (legislative requirements). 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 report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2026 is in accordance with the legislative requirements, and the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commissioner for Children and Young People's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2026.

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.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Commissioner is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 3 Financial Sustainability – Requirement 5 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 Commissioner for Children and Young People'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 3 - Requirement 5 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 2026, 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

This 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 2026 included in the annual report on the Commissioner for Children and Young People's website. The Commissioner for Children and Young People's management is responsible for the integrity of the Commissioner for Children and Young People's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Commissioner for Children and Young People'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 Commissioner for Children and Young People to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Kellie Tonich
Senior Director Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
13 August 2026



Certification of financial statements





Financial statements

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) has the pleasure in presenting its audited general purpose financial statements for the reporting period ended 30 June 2026 which provides users with the information about the CCYP's stewardship of resources entrusted to it. The financial information is presented in the following structure:

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Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	2.1(a)	2,859,644	2,541,205
Supplies and services	2.3	839,380	684,916
Depreciation expenses	4.1	1,475	1,562
Accommodation expenses	2.3	345,300	341,469
Grants and subsidies	2.2	26,879	13,000
Other expenses	2.3	210,606	172,289
Total cost of services		4,283,284	3,754,441
Income			
Other income	3.2	797	1,747
Total income		797	1,747
Net cost of services		4,282,487	3,752,694
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	3.1	3,441,000	3,298,000
Resources received	3.1	343,394	312,695
Total income from State Government		3,784,394	3,610,695
Deficit for the period		(498,093)	(141,999)
Total comprehensive income for the period		(498,093)	(141,999)

The Statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1	667,377	1,230,107
Receivables	5.1	33,848	30,467
Total Current Assets		701,225	1,260,574
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	5.1	87,662	81,737
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	604,000	606,000
Plant and equipment	4.1	-	1,474
Total Non-Current Assets		691,662	689,211
Total Assets		1,392,887	1,949,785
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.3	191,932	279,346
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	212,569	168,433
Total Current Liabilities		404,501	447,779
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	113,490	129,017
Total Non-Current Liabilities		113,490	129,017
Total Liabilities		517,991	576,796
Net Assets		874,896	1,372,989
Equity			
Contributed equity		10,000	10,000
Accumulated surplus		864,896	1,362,989
Total Equity		874,896	1,372,989

The Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Primary financial statements

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Contributed equity \$	Accumulated surplus/ (deficit) \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2024	10,000	1,504,988	1,514,988
Deficit	-	(141,999)	(141,999)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	(141,999)	(141,999)
Balance at 30 June 2025	10,000	1,362,989	1,372,989
Balance at 1 July 2025	10,000	1,362,989	1,372,989
Deficit	-	(498,093)	(498,093)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	(498,093)	(498,093)
Balance at 30 June 2026	10,000	864,896	874,896

The Statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Primary financial statements

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$
Cash flows from the State Government			
Service appropriation		3,441,000	3,282,000
Net cash provided by the State Government		3,441,000	3,282,000
<i>Utilised as follows:</i>			
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(2,840,211)	(2,450,210)
Supplies and services		(499,617)	(344,642)
Accommodation		(345,300)	(341,469)
Grants and subsidies		(26,879)	(13,000)
GST payments on purchases		(106,970)	(88,752)
Other payments		(290,921)	(172,289)
Receipts			
GST receipts from taxation authority		111,297	107,358
Other receipts		797	84,062
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(3,997,804)	(3,218,942)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payments			
Payment to accrued salaries account		(5,926)	(30,146)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(5,926)	(30,146)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(562,730)	32,912
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		1,230,107	1,197,195
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	6.1	667,377	1,230,107

The Statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the financial statements

1. Basis of preparation

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

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities has 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 11 August 2026.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Conceptual Framework and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) as modified by Treasurer's instructions. Some of these pronouncements are modified to vary their application and disclosure.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's instructions, which are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements for agencies, take precedence over AASB pronouncements. Where an AASB pronouncement is modified and has had a significant financial effect on 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 the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values 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:

- (a) amount of GST incurred by the CCYP as a purchaser that 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
- (b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

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

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, as designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to, transfer) be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 8 – Requirement 8.1(i) 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)
Grants and subsidies	2.2
Other expenditure	2.3

2.1(a) Employee benefits expense

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Employee benefits	2,568,858	2,286,865
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	290,786	254,540
Total employee benefits expenses	2,859,644	2,541,205

Employee benefits include wages, salaries and social contributions, accrued and paid leave entitlements and paid sick leave, and non-monetary benefits recognised under accounting standards other than AASB 16 (such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods or services) for employees.

Superannuation is the amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of comprehensive income comprised employer contributions paid to the Gold State Super (concurrent contributions), West State Super, GESB Super or other superannuation funds.

2.1(b) Employee related provisions

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave	181,389	144,882
Long service leave	28,469	21,650
	209,858	166,532
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	2,711	1,901
Total current employee related provisions	212,569	168,433
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave	111,933	127,491
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	1,557	1,526
Total non-current employee related provisions	113,490	129,017
Total employee related provisions	326,059	297,450

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of annual leave and long service 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 right at the end of the reporting period 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 and are classified as current liabilities as the CCYP does not have the right at the end of the reporting period 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 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 and 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, to the estimated future cash outflows.

Employment on-costs involve settlements of annual and long service leave liabilities giving 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 premiums, 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 expenditure [note 2.3](#) (apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost))' and are not included as part of the CCYP's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Employment on-costs provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	3,427	2,328
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	841	1,099
Carrying amount at end of period	4,268	3,427

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 reporting period.

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; and
- 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 Grants and subsidies

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Grants and subsidies	26,879	13,000
Total grants and subsidies	26,879	13,000

During the financial year 2025-26, CCYP provided sponsorship to four not for profit entities that support young people.

2.3 Other expenditure

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Supplies and services		
Communications	700	1,006
Consultants and contractors	423,250	223,568
Consumables	38,150	37,835
Resources received free of charge	343,394	312,695
Lease, licence, fee and registration	33,886	109,812
Total supplies and services expenses	839,380	684,916
Accommodation expenses		
Office rental	345,300	341,469
Total accommodation expenses	345,300	341,469
Other expenses		
Travel	151,139	119,001
Insurance	26,221	25,512
Staff training	18,788	9,303
Rent, repairs and hire costs	5,855	3,541
General other expenses	8,603	14,932
Total other expenses	210,606	172,289
Total other expenditure	1,395,286	1,198,674

Supplies and services expenses are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any materials held for distribution are expensed when the materials are distributed.

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

Rent, repairs and hire costs are recognised as expenses as incurred.

General other expenses comprise of printing costs, corporate credit card accruals, other staff costs and employee on-costs.

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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 and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Income from State Government	3.1
Other income	3.2

3.1 Income from State Government

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Appropriation received during the period:		
- Service appropriation	3,441,000	3,298,000
Total service appropriation	3,441,000	3,298,000

Resources received from other public sector entities during the period:

- Department of Justice – IT and Corporate services support	286,358	235,697
- Government Offices Accommodation – Leasing	13,784	13,314
- Government Offices Accommodation – Fixtures & Fittings depreciation	31,842	63,684
- State Solicitors Office - Legal advice	11,410	-
Total resources received	343,394	312,695
Total income from State Government	3,784,394	3,610,695

Service Appropriations are recognised as income at the 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 the Department of Treasury and Finance.

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

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 ¹ Budget Estimate	2026 Actual	2026 Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Delivery of Services			
Item 11 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	3,053,000	3,037,000	16,000
Amount authorised by other statutes:			
- Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	404,000	404,000	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	3,457,000	3,441,000	16,000

1. There were no section 25 transfers, additional funding or budget revisions for CCYP during the 2025/26 financial year.

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Notes to the financial statements

3.2 Other income

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Other income - Recoups	797	1,747
Total other income	797	1,747

Other income - Recoups comprises of monies received for an insurance claim and interest from the taxation authority.

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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 these assets:

	Notes
Plant and equipment	4.1

4.1 Plant and equipment

	Office Equipment	Total
Year ended 30 June 2026	\$	\$
1 July 2025		
Gross carrying amount	15,351	15,351
Accumulated depreciation	(13,877)	(13,877)
Carrying amount at start of period	1,474	1,474
Depreciation	(1,474)	(1,474)
Carrying amount at end of period	-	-

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.

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
Office equipment	5 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.

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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.

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 (Holding Account)	5.2
Payables	5.3

5.1 Receivables

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Current		
GST receivable	19,040	23,367
Other receivable ^(a)	14,808	7,100
Total current	33,848	30,467
Non-current		
Accrued salaries account ^(b)	87,662	81,737
Total non-current	87,662	81,737
Total receivables at end of the period	121,510	112,204

^(a) Other receivables include salary overpayments as at 30 June 2026.

^(b) Funds transferred to Department of Treasury and Finance for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that occurs every 11 years. This account is classified as non-current except for the year before the 27th pay year.

Accrued salaries account contains amounts paid annually into the Treasurer's special purpose account. It is restricted for meeting 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.

5.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Non-current	604,000	606,000
Total Amounts receivable for services at end of period	604,000	606,000

Amounts receivable for services represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

The amounts receivable for services are financial assets at amortised cost and are not considered impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the holding accounts).



Notes to the financial statements

5.3 Payables

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Current		
Payables to the ATO	-	144,679
Trade payables	4,187	9,119
Accrued expenses	98,391	37,529
Accrued salaries	79,780	78,941
Accrued superannuation	9,574	9,078
Total payables at end of period	191,932	279,346

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 for the CCYP is generally within 20 working days.

Trade payables include accounts payable and credit card accruals.

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

Accrued expenses include audit fees and staff leave transfers.

Notes to the financial statements

6. Financing

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

	Notes
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1

6.1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	667,377	1,230,107
Balance at end of period	667,377	1,230,107

For the purpose of the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

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:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	667,377	1,230,107
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	725,509	718,204
Total financial assets	1,392,886	1,948,311
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost ^(b)	191,932	279,346
Total financial liability	191,932	279,346

(a) The amount of financial assets at amortised cost 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.

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 parties	8.3
Related bodies	8.4
Affiliated bodies	8.5
Remuneration of auditors	8.6
Supplementary financial information	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 of the CCYP. 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 (\$)	2026	2025
400,001 – 450,000	1	-
350,001 – 400,000	-	1
200,001 – 250,000	1	1
	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Total compensation of senior officers	649,425	590,138

8.3 Related parties

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;
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other agencies and statutory authorities, including related bodies, that are 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; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

**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 reporting period is as follows:

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators	35,300	34,117

8.7 Supplementary financial information**(a) Write-offs**

There were no write offs of public or other public property during the financial year (2025: nil).

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

There was damage to two items of public property in 2026 for an amount of \$1,008 (2025: \$681)

(c) Forgiveness of debts

There were no debts waived during the financial year (2025: nil).

(d) Gift of public property

There were no gifts of public property during the financial year (2025: nil).

9. Explanatory statement

This section explains variations in the financial performance of the CCYP.

	Notes
Explanatory statement for controlled operations	9.1

9.1 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 annual estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2026, and between the actual results for 2026 and 2025 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances which are more than 10% of the comparative and which are more than 1% of the following (as appropriate):

- 1) Estimate and actual results for the current year:
 - Total Cost of Services of the annual estimates for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$3,837,000); and
 - Total Assets of the annual estimates for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$1,914,000).
- 2) Actual results between the current year and the previous year:
 - Total Cost of Services of the previous year for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$3,754,441); and
 - Total Assets of the previous year for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$1,949,785).



Notes to the financial statements

9.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances

	Variance Note	Estimate ¹ 2026	Actual 2026	Actual 2025	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	1,A	2,569,000	2,859,644	2,541,205	290,644	318,439
Supplies and services	2,B	745,000	839,380	684,916	94,380	154,464
Depreciation expenses		16,000	1,475	1,562	(14,525)	(87)
Accommodation expenses		376,000	345,300	341,469	(30,700)	3,831
Grants and subsidies		-	26,879	13,000	26,879	13,879
Other expenses	3,C	131,000	210,606	172,289	79,606	38,317
Total cost of services		3,837,000	4,283,284	3,754,441	446,284	528,843
Income						
Other Income		-	797	1,747	797	(950)
Total income other than income from State Government		-	797	1,747	797	(950)
Net cost of services		3,837,000	4,282,487	3,752,694	445,487	529,793
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation		3,457,000	3,441,000	3,298,000	(16,000)	143,000
Resources received		380,000	343,394	312,695	(36,606)	30,699
Total income from State Government		3,837,000	3,784,394	3,610,695	(52,606)	173,699
Deficit for the period		-	(498,093)	(141,999)	(498,093)	(356,094)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(498,093)	(141,999)	(498,093)	(356,094)

1. These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Notes to the financial statements

9.1.2 Statement of financial position variances

	Variance notes	Estimate ¹ 2026	Actual 2026	Actual 2025	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		1,197,000	667,377	1,230,107	(529,623)	(562,730)
Receivables		40,000	33,848	30,467	(6,152)	3,381
Total current assets		1,237,000	701,225	1,260,574	(535,775)	(559,349)
Non-current assets						
Receivables		52,000	87,662	81,737	35,662	5,925
Amounts receivable for services		622,000	604,000	606,000	(18,000)	(2,000)
Plant and equipment		3,000	-	1,474	(3,000)	(1,474)
Total non-current assets		677,000	691,662	689,211	14,662	2,451
Total assets		1,914,000	1,392,887	1,949,785	(521,113)	(556,898)

¹. These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.



Notes to the financial statements

9.1.2 Statement of financial position variances (continued)

	Variance notes	Estimate ¹ 2026	Actual 2026	Actual 2025	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Payables		82,000	191,932	279,346	109,932	(87,414)
Employee related provisions	4,D	242,000	212,569	168,433	(29,431)	44,136
Other current liabilities		16,000	-	-	(16,000)	-
Total current liabilities		340,000	404,501	447,779	64,501	(43,278)
Non-current liabilities						
Employee related provisions	5	51,000	113,490	129,017	62,490	(15,527)
Total non-current liabilities		51,000	113,490	129,017	62,490	(15,527)
Total liabilities		391,000	517,991	576,796	126,991	(58,805)
Net assets		1,523,000	874,896	1,372,989	(648,104)	(498,093)
Equity						
Contributed equity		19,000	10,000	10,000	(9,000)	-
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		1,504,000	864,896	1,362,989	(639,104)	(498,093)
Total equity		1,523,000	874,896	1,372,989	(648,104)	(498,093)

1 These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Notes to the financial statements

9.1.3 Statement of cash flows variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate ¹ 2026	Actual 2026	Actual 2025	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash flows from State Government						
Service appropriation		3,441,000	3,441,000	3,282,000	-	159,000
Net cash provided by State Government		3,441,000	3,441,000	3,282,000	-	159,000
Cash flows from operating activities						
Payments						
Employee benefits	6,E	(2,569,000)	(2,840,211)	(2,450,210)	(271,211)	(390,001)
Supplies and services	7,F	(366,000)	(499,617)	(344,642)	(133,617)	(154,975)
Accommodation		(376,000)	(345,300)	(341,469)	30,700	(3,831)
Grants and subsidies		-	(26,879)	(13,000)	(26,879)	(13,879)
GST payments on purchases		(91,000)	(106,970)	(88,752)	(15,970)	(18,218)
Other payments	8,G	(127,000)	(290,921)	(172,289)	(163,921)	(118,632)
Receipts						
GST receipts from taxation authority		88,000	111,297	107,358	23,297	3,939
Other receipts	H	-	797	84,062	797	(83,265)
Net cash used in operating activities		(3,441,000)	(3,997,804)	(3,218,942)	(556,804)	(778,862)

1. These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.



Notes to the financial statements

9.1.3 Statement of cash flows variances (continued)

Variance notes	Estimate ¹ 2026	Actual 2026	Actual 2025	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash flows from financing activities					
Payments					
Payment to accrued salaries account	-	(5,926)	(30,146)	(5,926)	24,220
Net cash provided by/ (used in) financing activities	-	(5,926)	(30,146)	(5,926)	24,220
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	-	(562,730)	32,912	(562,730)	(595,642)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	1,197,000	1,230,107	1,197,195	33,107	32,912
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	1,197,000	667,377	1,230,107	(529,623)	(562,730)

^{1.} These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Notes to the financial statements

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives:

1. Employee benefits expenses were \$290,644 (11%) higher than the published estimate, primarily due to additional staff resources required to undertake field work for the 'Speaking Out' survey, the engagement of contract staff for a special inquiry, higher annual leave expenses and pending leave transfers.
2. Supplies and services expenses were \$94,380 (13%) higher than the published estimate, primarily due to labour hire arrangements, the engagement of consultants, a workplace wellbeing assessment, the purchase of computing licences for the complaint monitoring platform and the acquisition of a statistical tool for the 'Speaking Out' survey.
3. Other expenses were \$79,606 (61%) higher than the published estimate primarily due to increased training costs and travel expenses associated with field work undertaken for the 'Speaking Out' survey.
4. Employee related provisions (current) were \$29,431 (12%) lower than the published estimate due to active leave management and staff leave transfers to other agencies.
5. Employee related provisions (non-current) were \$62,490 (123%) higher than the published estimate primarily due to the increase in the long service leave liability.
6. The increase in employee benefits payments \$271,211 (11%) pertains to the explanation provided in point 1.
7. The increase in supplies and services payments \$133,617 (37%) pertains to the explanation provided in point 2.
8. Other payments were \$163,921 (129%) higher than the published estimate primarily due to travel costs associated with field work for the 'Speaking Out' survey and attendance by the Commissioner for interstate conferences and leadership forums.

Major actual (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives:

- A. Employee benefits expense was \$318,439 (13%) higher in 2026 primarily due to appointments and temporary staff to deliver the core services of CCYP.
- B. Supplies and services expenditure was \$154,464 (23%) higher than in 2025, primarily due to labour hire arrangements, the engagement of consultants and a workplace wellbeing assessment.
- C. Other expenses were \$38,317 (22%) higher in 2026 primarily due to increased training costs and travel expenses associated with the Commissioner attending several interstate conferences and leadership forums.
- D. The increase in employee related provisions (current) \$44,136 (21%) is due to higher annual leave provision.
- E. The increase in employee benefits payments \$390,001 (14%) pertain to the explanation in note A.
- F. The increase in supplies and service payments \$154,975 (31%) pertains to the explanation provided in point B and a reduction in payables.
- G. The increase in other payments \$118,632 (41%) is consistent with the factors outlined in point 8.
- H. Other receipts were \$83,265 (10447%) greater in 2025 due to an administrative error made by the ATO which resulted in additional monies refunded to CCYP.



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 2026.


Dr Jacqueline McGowan-Jones
Accountable Authority
10 August 2026



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* (CCYP 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	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Regional	300	632	2,132	2,118
Metropolitan	126	1,370	7,937	5,208
Online ¹	4,086	800	1,598	444
Total number of children and young people consulted ²	4,512	2,802	11,670	7,770 ³

Notes

Note 1 – The online number represents children and young people from metropolitan and regional areas engaging in online surveys.

Note 2 – The number of children and young people consulted was less in 2025-26. This was due to most of the Speaking Out Survey field work being conducted in 2024-25. There was some carryover of field work in 2025-26. The Speaking Out Survey is a large-scale research project conducted every three years.

Note 3 – The number of children and young people consulted in 2025-26 greatly exceeded the target due to the Speaking Out Survey and the Snapshot WA photo competition.



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.

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.

Target: 250 representations

Number of representations

Type of representation	Number of representations			
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Reporting period				
Submissions	16	29	19	20
Publications	13	12	9	3
Evidence before Parliamentary Committee	1	2	1	1
Speeches and presentations	34	32	37	33
Media articles	73	127	176	109 ¹
Forums and seminars	2	0	3	4
Strategic advocacy meetings	148	249	332	241 ²
CCYP support for research proposals	5	0	0	2
Community consultations	14	6	2	4
TOTAL	306	457	579	417 ³

Notes

Note 1 – There were less representations made in 2025-26 due fewer critical incidents in the community involving children and young people, which attracted less national and state media attention than in 2024-25.

Note 2 – The Commissioner was involved in direct consultations with children and young people across Western Australia for the Speaking Out Survey which left less time for strategic advocacy meetings than in 2024-25.

Note 3 – The number of representations made by the Commissioner greatly exceeded the target due to the high number of Strategic Advocacy meetings and media articles.

Key Efficiency Indicators 2.1 and 2.2

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 CCYP Act. The key efficiency indicators measure the level of resources used to deliver the services.

Key Efficiency Indicators	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2024-25	Actual 2025-26	Target 2025-26
2.1 Unit cost per child	\$330	\$660	\$129	\$220 ¹	\$798
2.2 Unit cost per representation	\$5,322	\$3,125	\$3,588	\$5,958 ²	\$8,728

Notes

Note 1 – The 2025-26 actual is less than the target mainly due to the increased number of children consulted as part of the Speaking Out Survey. The Speaking Out Survey is a large-scale project that was undertaken in two reporting periods.

Note 2 – The unit cost per representation is less than the target due to the high number of Strategic Advocacy meetings and media articles, reflecting the dedicated work of CCYP.



Good governance

Internal Audit Committee

In response to the Public Sector Commission's key actions of promoting integrity and helping prevent misconduct and corruption, the Commissioner has established an Internal Audit Committee. In 2024 the Internal Audit Charter was updated, and a new audit plan was developed, including the adoption of the 'Global Internal Audit StandardsTM'.

Risk management

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's Risk Management Framework stands as a cornerstone in safeguarding the organisation's operations. Throughout the 2025–26 financial year, a review of corporate risks was undertaken, culminating in the development of an updated, fit-for-purpose Strategic Risk Register. This process involved a comprehensive assessment of potential threats and vulnerabilities facing the organisation, considering internal and external factors that could impact its ability to fulfil its mandate effectively.

By providing a dedicated platform for discussing risk mitigation strategies and

assessing the effectiveness of existing controls, the Commissioner maintains a proactive stance in identifying and addressing potential risks, thereby safeguarding the wellbeing and rights of children and young people in Western Australia. Risk is a key platform in the strategic plan. It is also discussed and managed through the Internal Audit Committee.

Financial management

Throughout the 2025–26 financial year, the corporate functions, including finance, continued to be provided by the Department of Justice. This has ensured that we are connected to critical financial management processes and oversight by the Chief Financial Officer.

The Commissioner's commitment to financial transparency and accountability is exemplified by the monthly provision of comprehensive financial management reports at Corporate Executive meetings. These reports undergo thorough scrutiny and are subject to endorsement, providing an opportunity for the executive team to assess the organisation's fiscal health. The Financial Management Manual, overseen by the Department of Justice and the Chief Finance Officer, is regularly reviewed and

updated to ensure alignment with legislative mandates and policy changes. This proactive approach to financial governance not only safeguards the organisation against potential risks but also fosters a culture of continuous improvement and adherence to best practices in financial management.

Policies and procedures

The Commissioner's commitment to governance excellence is underscored by the continuous review, updating and addition of policies and procedures to the Corporate Governance Framework. Each policy undergoes a review process and is subject to thorough scrutiny before being endorsed by the Commissioner. This ensures that the framework remains dynamic and responsive to evolving regulatory landscapes and organisational needs.

In 2025–26, we undertook a comprehensive policy review, working with a consultant to ensure that our policies are contemporary, robust and consistent. The review also helped ensure our policies are compliant with legislative requirements, aligned with organisational priorities and reflective of best practice to support effective decision making and service delivery.

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 2025–26.

Other financial disclosures

Board and committee remuneration

The Commissioner does not have any state boards or committees as defined in the Premier's Circular 2025/15 – State Government Boards and Committees.

Workers' compensation

There was one workers' compensation claim in 2025–26, arising from one work-related injury. The Commissioner's office is committed to providing a healthy, safe and accident-free workplace for all employees, contractors and visitors by complying with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* and the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023*.

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 incurred zero 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 2025–26 financial year, there was one instance of personal use totalling \$49.70, a reimbursement was promptly made and the Chief Finance Officer was immediately informed. The nature of the expenditure was immaterial and characteristic of an honest mistake.

Consultants

In 2025–26 the Commissioner did not engage any consultants to provide strategic advice to government. Consultants were engaged to assist with internal matters such as an employee wellbeing assessment, a review of the strategic and business plans, an internal audit, and human resources and recruitment consultancy services.





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 a disability have equitable access to facilities and services provided by this organisation. The Youth Disability Advocacy Network of WA (YDAN) has assisted in reviewing the current plan. A new plan has been drafted and will be endorsed by the Corporate Executive in early 2026–27, following consultation once again with YDAN.

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

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

All forums for children and young people hosted by the Commissioner consider disability access and inclusion requirements, including for those children and young people who are neurodivergent, for example, background noise and bright lights. Hearing loops are used as needed. Throughout the year, the Commissioner has paid particular attention to consultation strategies that consider the needs of children and young people with disability and the requirements to support their participation.

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



Compliance with Public Sector Standards and ethical codes

Part of the Public Sector Commissioner's role is to promote and maintain integrity, conduct and ethics in the Western Australian government sector. The responsibilities of this role are contained in the ***Public Sector Management Act 1994***, ***Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*** and the ***Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003***.

The Commissioner has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to upholding integrity and ethical standards within her operations, aligning closely with the directives outlined in the Western Australian Public Sector Commissioner's Instruction 40: Ethical Foundations. Central to this commitment is the implementation of a comprehensive Integrity Framework, designed to ensure accountability, transparency and ethical conduct across all facets of the organisation. Key components of this framework include regular review and dissemination of the code of conduct, which serves as a guiding principle for staff behaviour and decision making.

To reinforce the importance of integrity and ethical behaviour, the Commissioner has included integrity-related items as standing agenda points at Corporate Executive and leadership meetings. This ensures that discussions about integrity and compliance are prioritised and regularly addressed at all levels of the organisation. Additionally, the Code of Conduct is a cornerstone of the organisation's staff induction process, providing new employees with clear guidelines and expectations regarding professional conduct and ethical responsibilities from the outset of their employment. Through these proactive measures, the Commissioner cultivates a culture of integrity and accountability, ensuring that the wellbeing and rights of children and young people are upheld with the utmost ethical standards.

Throughout 2025–26, 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 section 31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

No breach of standard claims were 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 Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Recordkeeping Plan

Section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000* requires all agencies to have an approved Recordkeeping Plan, which must be complied with by the organisation and its officers.

The reviewed and amended Recordkeeping Plan was approved by the State Records Commission on 10 April 2025 and is due for review in accordance with section 28 of the *State Records Act 2000* in 2030. Recordkeeping forms part of the induction process for new staff members and staff are regularly updated and reminded about their recordkeeping responsibilities by email.



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 in and contribute fully to all aspects of life and can achieve their goals.

The Commissioner has a legislative requirement to give priority to, and have special regard for, the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people as well as 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 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People to ensure that all Western Australian children and young people, including those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) 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 all aim to be culturally responsive and inclusive.

The Multicultural Plan is aligned with the WA Multicultural Policy Framework and its three policy priority areas, along with the Commissioner's corresponding strategies and actions for each, which include the following.

Culturally responsive policies, programs and services:

- Promote the benefits of cultural and linguistic diversity and celebrate the achievements of people from CaLD backgrounds.
- Address racism and discrimination at both the individual and institutional or systemic levels, 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 that 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, 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:

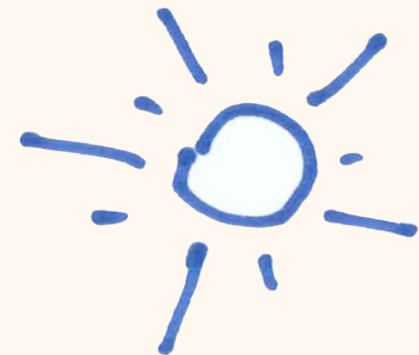
- Implement recruitment and career development processes that support employment and progression of staff from CaLD backgrounds.
- Achieve equitable representation of people from CaLD backgrounds at all levels and in decision making.
- Identify, develop and promote initiatives that support the development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

The Commissioner is committed to having a diverse workforce and has engaged several staff members who speak English as an additional language as well as 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 all children and young people under the age of 18 in Western Australia. The Commissioner is required to have special regard for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people as well as other vulnerable children and young people. The work of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People wholeheartedly supports substantive equality.





Workforce inclusiveness

We are committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace where all employees feel safe, valued and empowered to contribute. During the reporting period, we continued to strengthen workplace inclusion through initiatives that promote psychological safety, belonging and equity for all staff. This included a workplace wellbeing assessment by an independent consultant who surveyed all staff, held confidential interviews with multiple staff, presented findings to the leadership and wider team, and conducted a six-month pulse check to track progress.

We continue to support a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTIQ+ colleagues, neurodivergent employees and employees with disability through inclusive policies, employee engagement activities, awareness initiatives and accessibility-focused workplace practices. These efforts aim to ensure that employees feel confident bringing their authentic selves to work and sharing their experiences and perspectives.

Our ongoing focus on inclusion supports a workforce where diversity is respected, employees feel connected and empowered, and everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to organisational success.

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.

This is achieved through the following:

- An Acknowledgement of Country is included in all speeches and meetings as well as in the banner of all emails related to the Commissioner's office and on the front door of the office.
- In planning regional and remote 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 must include Aboriginal young people or their representatives whenever possible.
- Staff within the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People must complete the Public Sector

Commissioner's cultural awareness training, which is mandatory for public sector employees and board members under **Commissioner's Instruction 29**. The Commission's **training resource** is an engaging and interesting way to meet this requirement and learn about the world's oldest continuous culture.

- The representation of Aboriginal people in the team is currently at 12.5% due to some team members moving on to new roles within the public sector in 2024–25. Recruitment activities seek to increase representation where possible.
- Cultural learning is an ongoing process delivered through various sessions, including staff meetings, 'lunchbox learning' and other formal opportunities. Increased staff sessions were conducted in 2025 in preparation for the extensive travel across regional, rural and remote communities of Western Australia related to the Speaking Out Survey, with follow-up sessions held to share learnings.

Occupational safety, health and injury management

Active and continuous improvement in safety management practices at the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People demonstrates the dedication of the Commissioner and her staff to this aspect of office life.

Occupational safety and health is a standing item on the Corporate Executive meeting agenda. This enables any staff member to raise concerns or requests with management, which will be discussed at each Corporate Executive meeting as required.

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

Workplace assessments for all staff were undertaken in 2025–26 and recommendations were actioned in a timely manner.

There were no critical incidents to report for the 2025–26 reporting period.





Occupational safety and health data for this reporting period

Measures	Results			Targets	Comments about targets
	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26		
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0	Nil
Incidence of work-related injury or illness	0	0	1	Reduce by 2% per year and 15% by 2033 compared with 2023	Closed. Same incident as below
Incidence rate of serious claims with one or more weeks' lost time	0	0	1	Reduce by 2.5% per year and 20% by 2033 compared with 2023	Closed. Same incident as below
Incidence rate of claims resulting in permanent impairment	0	0	0	Reduce by 2% per year and 15% by 2033 compared with 2023	Nil
Incidence rate of work- related respiratory disease	0	0	0	Reduce by 2.5% per year and 20% by 2033 compared with 2023	Nil
Managers and supervisors trained in:					
1. work health and safety as relevant to the PCBU's risk profile; and	0	0	7	Greater than or equal to 80% of cohort trained within last two (2) years	100%
2. injury management	0	0	7	Greater than or equal to 80% of cohort trained within last five (5) years	100%
Percentage of workers returned to work on full duties and hours (i) within 13 weeks	0	0	0	No target	0%

Measures	Results			Targets	Comments about targets
	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26		
Percentage of workers returned to work on full duties and hours (ii) within 26 weeks	0	0	0	Greater than or equal to 70% returned to work within 26 weeks	0%
Agency has a WHS management system that has been independently assessed in last five years	No	No	No	Yes	WHS Management System being considered as part of review of CCYP/DOJ Service Level Agreement to commence in 2026-27 FY
Consultative systems:					
1. Number of health and safety representatives					
1. in total;	0	0	1	No target – intended for agency trend information	
2. who have attended HSR training;	0	0	1		
3. shown as a percentage of workers;	0%	0%	7%		
4. shown as a ratio to the number of workplaces occupied by the Agency; and	0:1	0:1	1:1		
2. Name/s of health and safety committees and sub-committees	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	WHS discussed at Corporate Executive meetings



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