

Face to Face 2016



In 2016 I talked to more than **1,200 Western Australian children and young people** on the issues that are important to you. This is a snapshot of what you had to say and my activities.

Thanks to everyone who had a say in the last year. I always want to hear from young people about the issues that are important to you and how we can make Western Australia a better place for children and young people.

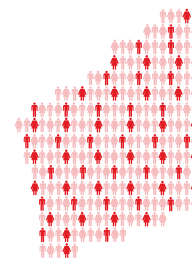
Colin Pettit



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

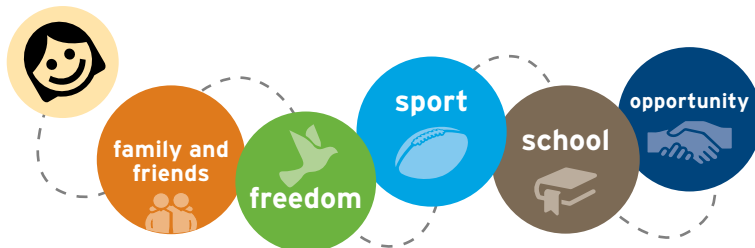
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There are now **590,000 children and young people in WA** – you make up 23% of the state's population!



296 children and young people

who were born overseas or live in families where both parents were born overseas told me that **the best things about living in Australia** were:



And that the things that are difficult were:

making friends
learning English
being separated from family
racism

I have published a booklet of stories from some of these young people, [This Is Me](#).



Feeling Safe and Respected Wherever You Are



You have the right to **be safe**, to **feel safe** and **be respected** wherever you are and whatever you do – at sport, clubs, churches, in out-of-home care, residential care, schools – everywhere!

I have produced guidelines and I'm also holding seminars to help WA organisations make sure they have the right systems in place to protect children at all times. Read my advice for young people, [Feeling safe and respected wherever you are](#).

Around 37,000 of you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

After a major consultation with Aboriginal children and young people, we tabled a report in Parliament called Listen To Us, containing your views on what you need to achieve your goals. We also published a booklet of stories, [This Is Me](#).



Students from around the state made up four advisory committees who worked with me on specific issues:



Wyndham District High School - reported on growing up in a remote area



The School of Special Needs: Sensory - reported on social media use for young people with sensory loss

You can see their activities, including videos, on my website.



Swan View Senior High School - ways to keep students interested in education

North Albany Senior High School - ways to keep students interested in education



Good mental health is important for all children and young people. I tabled a major report in Parliament about how to improve mental health services for young people as I want to make sure you can access the support you need, wherever you live in WA. The report is called **Our Children Can't Wait**.

I have a new website - www.ccyp.wa.gov.au - and there is now a section where you can see what's been said by young people around WA, read profiles and contact me. There's also a section where you can find out ways to get involved in surveys, consultations and community projects.



Around 150,000 of you live in regional and remote areas.



I visited a range of schools, from Esperance and Norseman and north to Fitzroy Crossing where you shared what you liked about your local communities and what changes you would like to make. Making sure all of you have access to the services that you need is important. More recreational facilities and things to do was also a common response!