

# Face to Face 2017



There are around **589,000 children and young people in WA** – you make up 23 per cent of the State's population (that's nearly a quarter!)



Listening to children and young people and acting on what they say is a very important part of making WA an even better place to live and grow up. In the last year more than 2,200 children and young people have told me what they think about important issues, such as:

- the things that help students enjoy learning and keep attending school
- what is needed to keep young people from being involved in crime
- how to speak up if you are scared, worried or not happy about something if you live in out-of-home care.

This Face to Face describes what WA children and young people said about these things and how I have used this information. I'd like to thank all children and young people who participated in the work of my office through consultations, meetings and advisory committees in 2016–17.

Colin Pettit



Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Western Australia

[www.ccyp.wa.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au)

## School and Learning

Education is important to your wellbeing and to help you get where you want to go in life. My staff and I have visited 98 schools across WA to hear student views on school and learning. More than 1,800 students had a say – 950 were in **Years 3 to 6** and 850 were in **Years 7 to 12**.

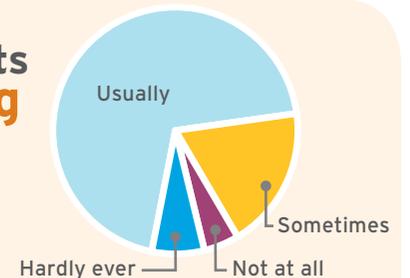
### The TOP three things students liked were...

(Years 3 to 6)



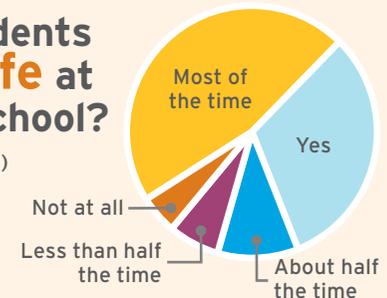
### Do students get along with their teachers?

(Years 7 to 12)



### Do students feel safe at their school?

(Years 7 to 12)



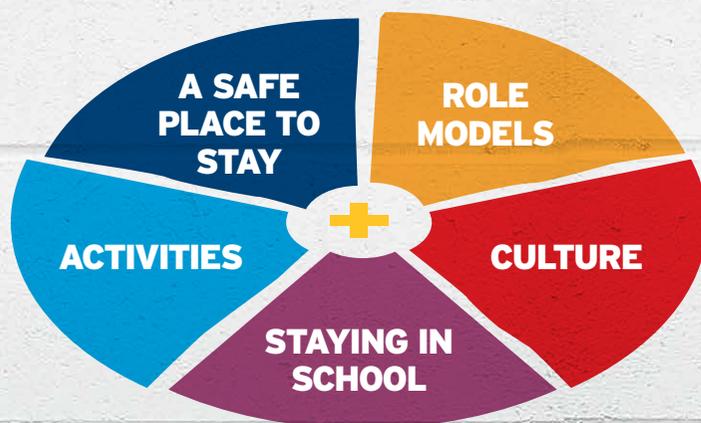
I will be publishing a full report later this year with all the findings from this consultation and sharing this with government, schools and the community.

# YOUTH JUSTICE

Most of you have no contact with the youth justice system, but those who do need our help to turn their lives around.

We spoke with 92 young people who had been in the youth justice system about the things that had got them in trouble, how they avoid getting in trouble and what help they need to stay out of trouble.

These young people said they need:



You can read more about this in my infographic, [Voices of young people in youth justice](#).

## Raising concerns while in out-of-home care

Some children and young people need time away from their usual home when they are not safe. When this happens, it is important that children and young people have all the help they need to be safe, healthy and happy.

I asked 96 children and young people who have lived in different types of out-of-home-care about what helps them to speak up and ask for help when they are worried or concerned.

They said having people they trust who listen and respond to what they say was very important. They also said they want a variety of ways to ask for help, including having access to trustworthy adults, using technology and having strong relationships with case workers.

We used these views to write a report for organisations working with children in out-of-home care to help them better understand what the children in their care think so they can make positive changes. We also created a report back to children on [Speaking Up in Care](#).

### Making a complaint

Making complaints can be hard for children and young people but it is important so people can learn and so mistakes can be corrected. It is especially important to complain if you do not feel safe.

We have created information to help children and young people understand how to speak up - a [Top tips for making a complaint video](#) and a [brochure](#) that will talk you through the process of making a complaint.

"...having access to trustworthy adults."



"...having strong relationships with case workers."





**North Albany Senior High School**

Be Responsible  
Be Respectful  
Be Safe  
Be Kind  
Be your Best

## Advisory Committees

Students from around the state were part of four advisory committees who worked with me in the last year.

In 2016, two groups worked with me on the school and learning project. They helped shape the survey that students from all over WA completed, and they told me what supports their learning.

Each group also created an arts activity to give their fellow students a say about school and learning.

- **Swan View Senior High School** created a wall mural which explores the theme of 'unity', a theme they identified as important to their learning and education.
- **North Albany Senior High School** created posters about what helps and prevents children and young people from enjoying their education. I now have these hanging in my office!

My two 2017 committees - from Geraldton and the Perth north metro area - are exploring ways that social media and technology can help local young people get support for their mental health when and where they need it.

You can read more about the advisory committee activities on my [website](#).

## Website

Did you know my website has a section especially for **WA children and young people**? On this page you can see what's been said by other WA young people, read stories about or ask me a question. [comment](#)

There's also a section where you can find out ways to get involved in surveys, consultations and community projects.



**Around 155,000 WA children and young people live in regional and remote areas.**



I visited schools all over the state as part of my School and Learning Consultation and met with local communities in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields and Wheatbelt. You shared what you liked about your communities and what changes you would like to see. I let community leaders know what children and young people say in each town by including their views in a [report](#) that I send back to each community I visited.