



## 2018 LGBTI Advisory Committee

### Information Sheet

#### About the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Colin Pettit works closely with children and young people, their families, community and government to make WA a better place for kids.

The Commissioner is independent and reports to the WA Parliament. The role of the Commissioner includes giving children and young people a say on important matters that affect their wellbeing, and Advisory Committees is one of the ways he does this.

#### About the Commissioner's Advisory Committees

Since 2010, the Commissioner has worked with 17 different Advisory Committees across WA (visit [ccyp.wa.gov.au](http://ccyp.wa.gov.au) > About us > Advisory committees).

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has recently commenced work to strengthen the community's understanding about the wellbeing needs of LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex) children and young people in Western Australia<sup>1</sup>.

The Commissioner strongly believes that all children and young people have a right to be recognised and valued regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation or intersex status, and to feel safe, respected and protected from abuse and discrimination.

In 2018, the Commissioner will form two Advisory Committees:

- LGBTI Advisory Committee (made up of young people from the metropolitan area who are 14 to 18 years old in 2018)
- A regional Advisory Committee

There will be around 20 young people on each Advisory Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: There are a range of terms and definitions that people use to define their gender or sexuality. For the purposes of the work of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, the term LGBTI will be used to refer not only to those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex, but will also aim to represent members of the community that use other terms to describe their sexuality and/or gender.

## **What will the 2018 Advisory Committees do?**

The Commissioner's Advisory Committees of young people will provide information and advice about matters that affect the wellbeing of LGBTI children and young people.

Hearing directly from LGBTI young people, and their peers, will help to identify priority issues and inform the Commissioner's advocacy for inclusive and coordinated policies, programs and services.

The activities of Advisory Committees will be further developed through consultation with Committee members, but may involve:

- Meeting with the Commissioner to discuss the needs and experiences of LGBTI children and young people
- Taking part in workshops that will explore ideas for what is needed to support LGBTI children and young people
- Provide advice to the Commissioner about what could help to improve outcomes for LGBTI children and young people
- Contributing to other areas of the work of the Commissioner's office.

The Advisory Committees may also be asked to seek the views of their peers.

Meetings will be scheduled in the late afternoon or early evenings during the school terms and on weekdays during school holidays, and held at the Commissioner's office in Subiaco (located three minutes' walk from Subiaco train station).

The following dates are proposed, but these can be discussed at the first meeting:

- Wednesday 24 January, 2018 (day)
- Wednesday 28 March, 2018 (evening)
- Wednesday 23 May, 2018 (evening)
- Wednesday 4 July, 2018 (day)
- Wednesday 26 September, 2018 (day)
- Wednesday 28 November, 2018 (evening)

## **How will Advisory Committees be supported?**

Advisory Committee members will be directly supported by a staff member from the Commissioner's office. Additionally, a staff member from the Freedom Centre, a non-government organisation supporting LGBTI young people, will help run meetings and support discussions.

## **What time commitment is involved?**

The Commissioner's 2018 Advisory Committees will run from January to December. The activities of the group and time commitment involved will be decided with each group, however around 20 hours of activity for the year can be used as a guide.

The views of the members of the Advisory Committees are valued by the Commissioner. To recognise young people for their contributions, Advisory Committee members will receive Coles Myer vouchers at different intervals during the year, and a Certificate of Participation at the end of the year.

## Who can apply

Young people who are LGBTI, aged between 14 to 18 years as of the first meeting date (24 January 2018), and living in the Perth metropolitan area are invited to apply to the metropolitan LGBTI Advisory Committee.

Young people need to be motivated to making things better for other children and young people in their community, be able to work with other young people from different backgrounds, and able to travel to Subiaco to attend meetings and other activities. We understand that some young people may not be able to attend all sessions, and this will not prevent them from being a part of the Committee.

## How to apply

Each young person interested must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form and Permission form by **5pm on Monday 13 November 2017**.

The Permission form needs to be supported and signed by the young person's parent/guardian. If it is not possible to provide parent/guardian consent or if there are any other issues completing the application, please contact the Commissioner's office before the deadline to discuss (contact details are below).

We understand that not all young people will be comfortable completing all of the information in the Expression of Interest form, however providing this will help to ensure the Advisory Committee represents a broad range of diverse LGBTI young people. Young people who are not comfortable providing this information in writing can contact staff members Katherine Browne or Diana Barry to discuss.

As the number of places in the Advisory Committees is limited, all applications will be reviewed to determine the successful applicants. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via letter in November 2017.

## More information

For more information about submitting your application, contact either of the Commissioner's staff below:

- Diana Barry on 6213 2203 or 1800 072 444 (freecall) or email [diana.barry@ccyp.wa.gov.au](mailto:diana.barry@ccyp.wa.gov.au)
- Katherine Browne on 6213 2210 or 1800 072 444 (freecall) or email [katherine.browne@ccyp.wa.gov.au](mailto:katherine.browne@ccyp.wa.gov.au)