



Snapshot

Who is the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA?

Colin Pettit was appointed the Commissioner for Children and Young People on 16 November 2015.

The previous Commissioners were Michelle Scott, who served in the role for six years from December 2007, and Jenni Perkins, who was the acting Commissioner for two years.



What is the Commissioner's role?

The Commissioner's role is described under the [Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006](#).

The Act states that the Commissioner:

- is independent and reports to the Parliament of Western Australia
- is an advocate for all children and young people aged less than 18 years of age in WA
- must always act in the best interests of children and young people
- is required to give priority to the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and to those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged
- must have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The legislation also describes the role of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA that includes monitoring the work of the Commissioner's office and tabling their own reports to Parliament to outline their views and findings.

What does the Commissioner do?

The Commissioner works with the community to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Commissioner does this by:

- **consulting children and young people** and promoting their views as key information in agencies' work to improve policy, services and legislation
- **working closely with families, community groups and government** to ensure the work of the office is well informed and to promote a community-wide focus to children and young people's wellbeing
- **considering the latest evidence** and data concerning children and young people's wellbeing
- **conducting research** or inquiries where additional information is required.

Using this evidence-based information, the Commissioner seeks to inform and encourage agencies and the community to take actions that will strengthen children and young people's wellbeing.

This includes:

- **making submissions** to State and Commonwealth bodies
- **meeting** regularly with ministers and department directors general
- **tabling reports** in the WA Parliament outlining key issues affecting children and young people's wellbeing
- **publishing a range of resources**, such as policy briefs and issues papers, that are of value to organisations to improve policy, programs and legislation and better support children and young people's wellbeing
- holding **seminars and training events** for staff of government and non-government organisations
- coordinating **events and activities** to promote public awareness and understanding of matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people
- **speaking** at relevant forums.

Where recommendations are published as part of a tabled report, the office will monitor and report on the response by government.

Contact the Commissioner

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