

Face to Face 2018



Children and young people make up nearly a quarter of WA's population, so it's important that you are able to have a say about issues that affect you and that our community listens.

In 2017 I heard from more than 4,500 children and young people about issues such as:

- what helps you to be interested in school
- what you think about life at 10 years old
- the support that made a difference to young people when they were having trouble.

This is a snapshot of your views and how I use this valuable information to make WA a better place for children and young people. Thank you to all the young people who helped throughout the year.

Colin Pettit



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

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There are around **593,000** children and young people in WA - you make up 23 per cent of the State's population (that's nearly a quarter)!

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of my office this year,

over 4,200
Year 4 students from **160** schools

created insightful artworks and statements about what is important to them, what concerns them and their views on life growing up in WA.



See the videos of the We Are 10 artworks on my website

DigiMe

DigiMe is a new online app I've developed where you can create a fun character and have a say on important topics.

Create your digital me and have a say!



School is an important part of your life and wellbeing, and all WA children and young people should be able to benefit from learning.

1,800
students from **98** schools across WA

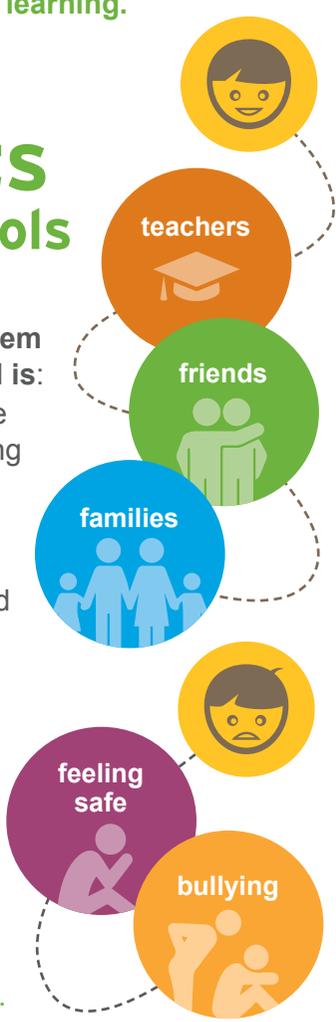
told me that **what helps them to be interested in school is:**

- having teachers who were interested in their wellbeing
- friends and positive relationships with other students
- families that were involved and interested in their education

They also told me **they are concerned with:**

- feeling safe
- bullying

Read more about what children and young people had to say in my School and Learning report.



VULNERABILITY

While most children and young people in WA are doing well, some face significant disadvantage and do not have the support they need to live good lives.

This year I have been working with government and other organisations to get better outcomes for our vulnerable young people.

7% of WA children and young people are living in poverty

Over 600 WA young people



(15 to 24 years) presented to homelessness agencies in 2015-16

View the videos of young people talking about their challenging life experiences and the strengths they have developed.



This year I visited schools all over Western Australia and met with children and young people and their families in Newman, Meekatharra, Cue, Mount Magnet, Moora, Mullewa and Mandurah.

Advisory Committees

Students from around WA made up four advisory committees that worked with me on key projects.



2017

Geraldton and Perth north metro committees

explored ways social media and technology can help young people get support for their mental health. Their ideas were developed into an app wireframe with the help of Telethon Kids Institute.

2018

Perth metro and Bunbury Senior High School committees

are focusing on the wellbeing needs and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual trans or intersex (LGBTI) children and young people.



Learn more about the advisory committees, including their videos, on my website.

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 respected or safe.



I 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.

Around 153,000 WA children and young people live in regional and remote areas



You shared what you liked about your communities and what changes you would like to see. I let community leaders in each town know what children and young people said by including their views in a [report](#) that I sent back to each community I visited.