



Information for young people

Listening to young people who have been adopted

The **Commissioner for Children and Young People WA** is keen to hear from young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years who have been adopted in Western Australia.

We are inviting young people to have their say about their experience of being in an adopted family and their views on adoption, the adoption system or services. We are interested in how young people have had a say in decisions made about them, and their opinions on some of the recommendations of the recent review of the adoption law in WA.

Why talk to children and young people?

The Commissioner believes children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect them, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Commissioner often asks children and young people for their thoughts and ideas and use their comments to help shape the information and reports sent to people who work with children and young people.

How can I have my say?

The Commissioner is giving young people a choice about how they their say:

1. **An interview** - one of the Commissioner's team will interview you and ask questions about your experience, how you were involved in decisions made about you, adoption plans and some of the values and words in the adoption law
2. **A survey** - online questions where you can share your experiences and answers in writing.

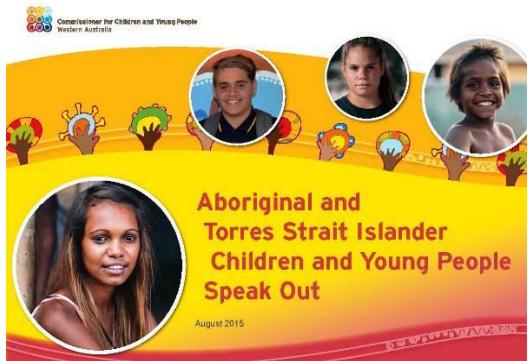
If you choose to participate you will be given a \$30 Coles voucher to thank you for your time and effort.

How will my views and ideas be used?

Your views and ideas may be used in a report by the Commissioner. The Western Australian *Adoption Act 1994* has just been reviewed and changes have been recommended. The Commissioner believes the views of children and young people about the some of the recommendations can be used to inform the proposed changes.

We might also use information from the report in case studies, presentations, other reports and publications (print or electronic media) to help others better understand the views of children and young people.





This is an example of a report the Commissioner published on a different consultation. It contains lots of things children and young people said.

If your views are included in one of our reports, we don't use your name but may say how old you are, or where you live, for example, "*Quote from young person*" 14 year-old, Bunbury.

Will all the information I give be kept private?

Any personal information about you is kept private. However, if we become concerned about your safety or the safety of someone else because of something you say, we will have to talk to people who can help you and we will talk to you about this.

The information we collect about your experience and views will only be used for the things that you have agreed to.

Your contact details and consent information will be stored in locked files at the Commissioner's office for five years in case we need to look back at it.

What do I need to do now?

You do not have to take part in the project if you don't want to. You are completely free to say yes or no.

If you say yes and then change your mind later or during the interview or survey that is okay. Just let us know.

If you **do** want to be involved we need you to send an email to info@ccyp.wa.gov.au saying you want to have a say and provide contact details for the Commissioners team to phone you.

We can answer any questions you have and provide more information in that phone call. We will also talk to you about:

- ✓ Completing a consent form and
- ✓ if you are under 16 contacting a parent to sign a consent form so you can be involved.

Who can I contact for more information?

Talk to your parent/s about this project. If you have any questions you can contact Natalie Hall from the Commissioner's office by sending an SMS to 0434 327 803, phone 6213 2297 or email natalie.hall@ccyp.wa.gov.au

Find out more about the work of the Commissioner

www.ccyp.wa.gov.au