



Hearing the views of children and young people who have autism spectrum disorder

Information Sheet

The **Commissioner for Children and Young People WA** is keen to hear from children and young people between the ages of 8 and 25 years who have autism in Western Australia.

We are inviting children and young people to have their say about what life is like for them living with autism spectrum disorder. We'd like to hear their views about the services they receive, what support they get, what works and what doesn't.

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 uses 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 children and young people a chance to have a say about their experience. He will ask you how you feel about the help you get, how involved you are in making your own decisions and your ideas about making life easier for children and young people with autism. If you want to be involved, you can:

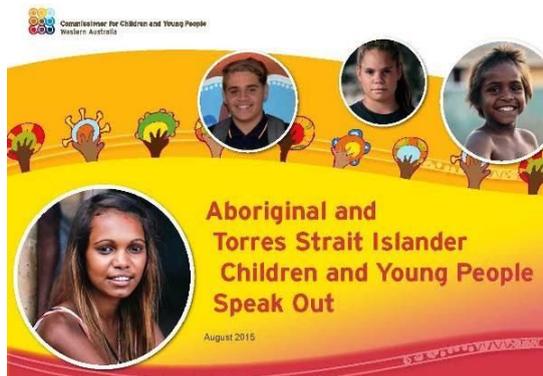
1. **Talk on the phone or by video link** to one of the Commissioner's team.
2. **Write** your ideas down for the Commissioner to read.
3. **Answer questions online** in a short survey.

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

How will my views and ideas be used?

Having your say about autism could help other Australians with autism to have better lives. Your views and ideas may be used in a report by the Commissioner to the Australian Parliament in a report by the Senate Select Committee on Autism about the services, support and life outcomes for people with autism in Australia and the associated need for a National Autism Strategy.

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 with autism.



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 Commissioner will use your words in his work but he will not use your name or personally link you to the things you said in the consultation. Your contact details and consent information will be stored in locked files at the Commissioner's office and after a number of years it will be destroyed. The information we collect about your experience and views will only be used for the things you agreed to.

What do I need to do now?

You do not have to take part in the consultation 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 consultation that is okay. Just let us know.

You will need to complete the consent form before you can have a say. If you are under 18 years old your parent or guardian will need to also sign a consent form.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions, contact Senior Policy Officer Laura Jackman at the Commissioner's office by sending an SMS: 0434 327 803, phone: 6213 2212 or email: laura.jackman1@ccyp.wa.gov.au

Find out more about the work of the Commissioner

www.ccyp.wa.gov.au