



Snapshot

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

What is the Commissioner's role?

Under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, 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.



A Joint Standing Committee monitors the work of the Commissioner's office and tables 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 in WA.

The Commissioner does this by:

- **consulting children and young people and promoting their views** to government agencies to help 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** on children and young people's wellbeing
- **conducting research or inquiries** where more information is needed.

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.

The Commissioner does this by:

- making submissions to State and Commonwealth bodies
- meeting regularly with ministers and department directors general
- tabling reports in the WA Parliament on key issues affecting children and young people's wellbeing
- publishing a range of resources, to help organisations improve policy, programs and legislation
- holding seminars and training events for staff of government and non-government organisations
- coordinating events and activities to promote public awareness and understanding of children and young people's wellbeing matters
- 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.

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