



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Annual Report 2019-20





Alternative formats

Alternative versions of this report are available. Please contact the Commissioner's office on 6213 2297, country freecall 1800 072 444 or info@ccyp.wa.gov.au

Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Commissioner for Children and Young People acknowledges the unique contribution of Aboriginal people's culture and heritage to Western Australian society. For the purposes of this report, the term 'Aboriginal' encompasses Western Australia's diverse language groups and also recognises those of Torres Strait Islander descent. The use of the term 'Aboriginal' in this way is not intended to imply equivalence between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, though similarities do exist.

Photographs of children and young people

All photographs featured in this annual report are of Western Australian children and young people and have been taken by or for the Commissioner for Children and Young People's office.

Letter to Parliament



Hon. Kate Doust MLC
President of the Legislative Council

Hon Peter Watson MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People 2019–20

In accordance with section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit to Parliament for information the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ending 30 June 2020.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.



Colin Pettit
Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia
24 September 2020





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and give our respect to all Traditional Owners and custodians across this vast state, their Elders past and present, and commit to supporting the wellbeing of the youth of today, who will be the Elders of tomorrow.

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From the Commissioner



This past year has been challenging for us all in many different ways, however I have been impressed with the high level of insight, resilience and gratitude that children and young people have shared with me.

Now more than ever in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to prioritise the wellbeing of our children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable.

In February, I published the findings of my inaugural Speaking Out Survey, the most comprehensive survey of children and young people on their health and wellbeing ever undertaken in WA.

Almost 5,000 children and young people from across the State shared their views on topics such as safety, mental health, education, connections to community and how they access support. Most children and young people reported they feel healthy, have the material things they need and that they like school. However, mental health, perceptions of safety and feeling connected are areas of concern.

The survey will be conducted again in 2021, and given the timing, will provide an important comparison of children and young people's wellbeing before and after the COVID-19 pandemic period. This data will be valuable

in monitoring wellbeing for the longer term and ensuring that governments, communities and families can address the impacts.

My Indicators of Wellbeing online data resource provides a single place for information from a variety of sources on WA children and young people's wellbeing and can be used by government and non-government services to consider and plan for the needs of children and young people. This year, the data has been expanded to include young people's physical and mental health, engagement in healthy behaviours, connection to culture and community, supportive relationships, safety and access to basic material needs.

Supporting the implementation of child safe principles in organisations to help ensure children are safe from all types of harm while in their care continues to be a strong focus of my office. In November, I released updated National Principles for Child Safe Organisations WA resources, including best practice guidelines for organisations and information for parents and carers.

Overview

While most WA children and young people are faring well, too many continue to experience significant poverty and disadvantage. There are clear links between child poverty and youth suicide rates, disengagement from school, and longer-term physical and mental health issues, indicating that many children and young people are falling through the cracks. In my 2019 *Improving the odds for WA's vulnerable children and young people* report, I outlined clear recommendations for government and actions my office will undertake to improve outcomes.

I am pleased progress is being made on these recommendations. I am currently working with government to develop a statewide Child Wellbeing Strategy with clear long-term targets and timelines to improve children and young people's wellbeing. My office also developed guidelines that can be used by organisations to assess the impact of any proposed legislation, policy or strategy on the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and young people. I will work with government to ensure agencies use the guidelines in their decision making.

As the COVID-19 pandemic events unfolded globally earlier this year and started impacting our community, I issued an open invitation for WA children and young people to write in anonymously to share their views on how they were feeling and what supports were helping them. I received more than 800 responses

which helped my office to understand their experiences and to shape several resources for parents and carers on how best to support them, and inform governments and community in planning WA's recovery.

As always, the highlight of my role is talking to and hearing from children and young people. I was privileged to be able to meet with young people from Northam, Merredin, Southern Cross, Jigalong and across Perth this year. Thank you to each and every young person who took the time to share their thoughts and contribute to the work of my office.

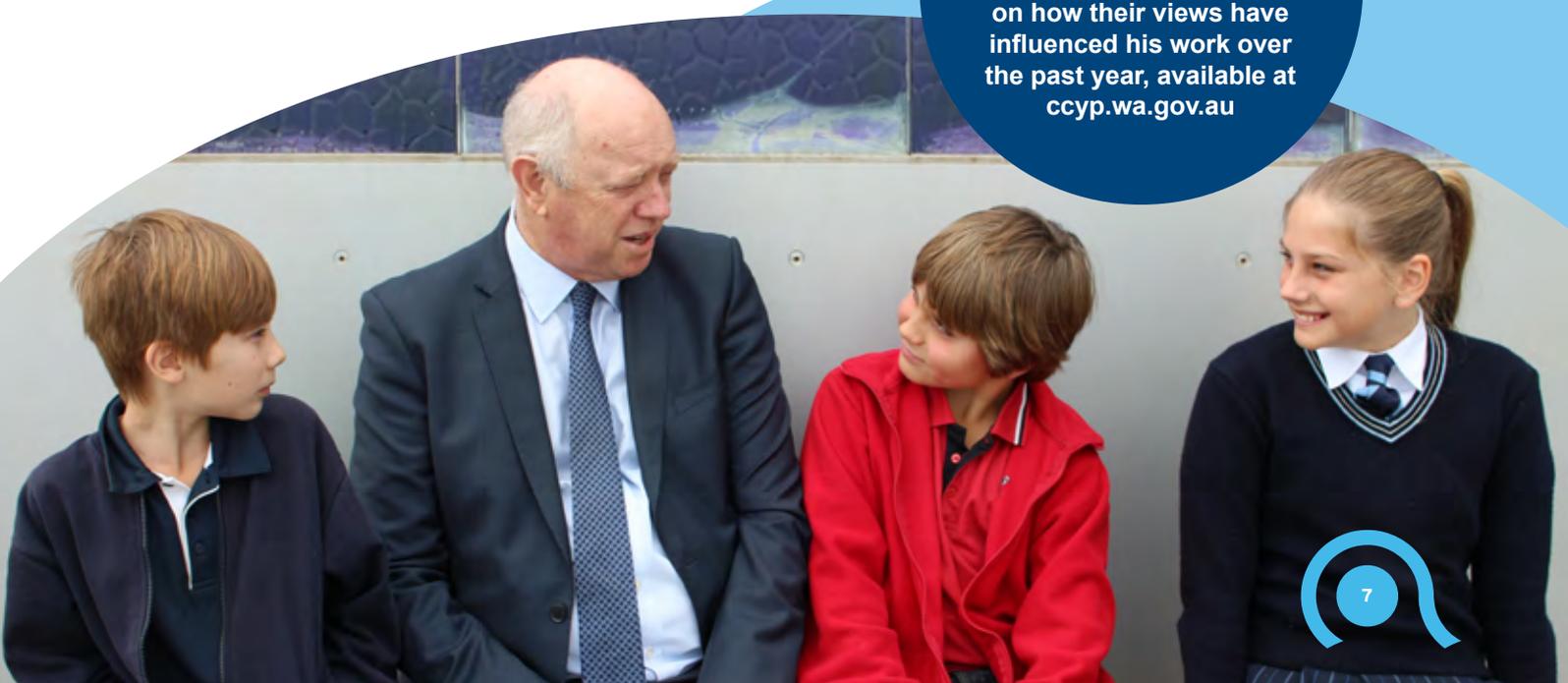
Finally, thank you to the Ambassadors for Children and Young People, the many community and service providers and my office's dedicated team for their strong commitment to improving the lives of all WA children and young people.



Colin Pettit

Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

The Commissioner has created an annual report video specifically for children and young people on how their views have influenced his work over the past year, available at ccyp.wa.gov.au



The Commissioner..

consulted with 2,056 children and young people throughout metropolitan and regional WA



including 117 advocacy meetings and 39 submissions on issues such as the:

- Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia’s Family Law System
- Climate Health WA Inquiry
- Online Safety Legislative Reform
- Indigenous Evaluation Strategy
- Council of Attorney’s General Age of Criminal Responsibility Review
- Inquiry into the Magistrates Court of Western Australia’s management of matters involving family and domestic violence
- Inquiry into homelessness in Australia.

released
30 publications



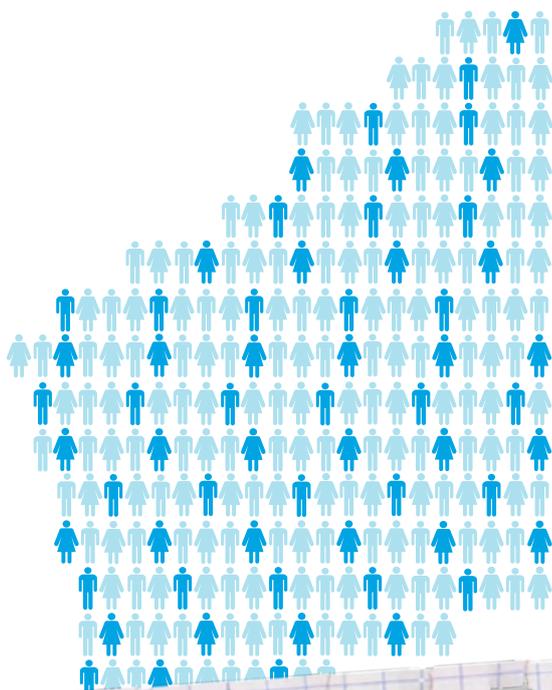
including:

- Speaking Out Survey 2019 – Summary report
- Profile of WA Children and Young People in WA 2020
- Monitoring of complaints systems
- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations Guidelines
- COVID-19 pandemic recovery – Assessing the impact on children and young people
- Supporting children and young people through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total cost of services was
\$2.92
million

Employed
15.4
staff
(full time equivalent)

WA children and young people



There has been a **20% increase** in children aged 6-11 years living in WA in the last 10 years

Western Australia has around **598,000 children and young people** who make up 23 per cent of the State's population

There are about **40,000** Aboriginal children and young people under 18 in Western Australia

Children and young people make up 39.6 per cent of the total Aboriginal population in Western Australia, compared to 22.4 per cent for the non-Aboriginal population.

Age Group	Percentage
0-17 yrs	39.6%
Over 18 yrs	60.4%

Around **152,000 (25 per cent)** of children and young people in WA live in regional and remote areas.



33,754 births were registered in WA during 2019



Up to **17%** of children and young people are living below the poverty line in WA.



About us

Our vision

That all children and young people are heard, are healthy and safe, reach their potential and are welcomed as valued members of the community and in doing so we build a brighter future for the whole community.

Our values

Respect, honesty, inclusivity, creativity, positivity, determination, independence and integrity.

About us

“I will never take my privilege of living in such a beautiful healthy city for granted again, just stepping outside and feeling that fresh air and sun rays is amazing. I am certainly in the headspace I want to be and have big goals and plans for the future.”

Young person during COVID-19 pandemic

What we do

The Commissioner’s work is underpinned by the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act).

The Act outlines the guiding principles, powers and functions of the office. In accordance with statutory obligations, the Commissioner:

- advocates for children and young people
- promotes the participation of children and young people in decision making that affects their lives
- promotes and monitors the wellbeing of children and young people in the community
- monitors the way in which government agencies investigate or otherwise deal with complaints from children and young people
- monitors trends in complaints made by children and young people to government agencies
- initiates and conducts inquiries into any matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people
- monitors, reviews and makes recommendations on laws, policies,

programs and services affecting the wellbeing of children and young people

- promotes public awareness and understanding of matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people
- conducts, coordinates and sponsors research into matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people
- consults with children and young people from a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds and age groups throughout Western Australia each year.

The Act requires the Commissioner to give priority to, and have a special regard for, the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and children and young people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged for any reason.

Under the Act, the Commissioner is not able to deal with complaints made by, or on behalf of, individuals; however, he may respond to issues that identify possible systemic matters that affect the wellbeing of children and young people more broadly.

About us

Our guiding principles

As outlined in the Act:

- children and young people are entitled to live in a caring and nurturing environment, protected from harm and exploitation
- the contributions made by children and young people to the community should be recognised for their value and merit
- the views of children and young people on all matters affecting them should be given serious consideration and taken into account
- parents, guardians, families and communities have the primary role in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of their children and young people and should be supported in carrying out this role.

Our approach

Our work has regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and is informed by the views and opinions of children and young people and the best available knowledge and evidence of what works well.

Colin Pettit, Commissioner for Children and Young People

Colin Pettit was appointed the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA in November 2015.

Colin has spent his career working to improve the wellbeing of children and young people, particularly in delivering education services and programs to children and young people living in regional and remote areas of Western Australia.

Colin has worked with children, young people, families and communities all over the State as a teacher and then principal in a number of regional schools, before holding the role of Executive Director Regional and Remote Education at the Western Australian Department of Education for three years.

Between 2010 and 2015, Colin was the Secretary of Education for the Tasmanian Department of Education. He is a former President of the Western Australian Primary Principals' Association and Deputy President of the Australian Primary Principals' Association.

In 2019, Colin was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education from Edith Cowan University. He is an Ambassador for Barking Gecko Theatre, Valuing Children Initiative and a member of the Great to Eight governance committee.

Independence

The Commissioner is an independent statutory officer and reports directly to the Parliament of Western Australia. The Commissioner is able to table reports in the Parliament, conduct inquiries and require agencies to provide information on matters relating to children and young people's wellbeing.

The Parliament has a Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People to regularly consult with the Commissioner and monitor, review and report to Parliament on the Commissioner's exercise of his functions under the Act.

The Commissioner formally met with the Committee twice in 2019–20. The Committee is chaired by the Hon. Dr Sally Elizabeth Talbot MLC.

More information about the Committee is available on the Parliament of Western Australia website.

About us

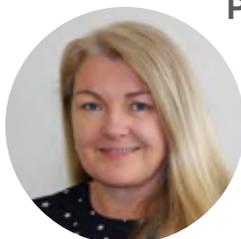
Commissioner's leadership team



Natalie Hall
Director Policy, Monitoring and Research

Natalie Hall was appointed to the role of Director in 2020 after five years as Principal Policy Officer.

Natalie's career in advocating for children and young people has spanned 30 years, with leadership roles at the (then) Department of Child Protection, Parkerville Children and Youth Care and the George Jones Child Advocacy Centre. Natalie has a Bachelor of Social Work and a Graduate Diploma of Criminal Justice.



Paula Campbell
Manager Engagement and Communication

Paula Campbell began her career as a newspaper journalist in NSW. She held a range of corporate communication roles across government in the tourism, health and environment sectors before joining the Commissioner's office in 2014. Paula holds a Bachelor of Communication Studies.



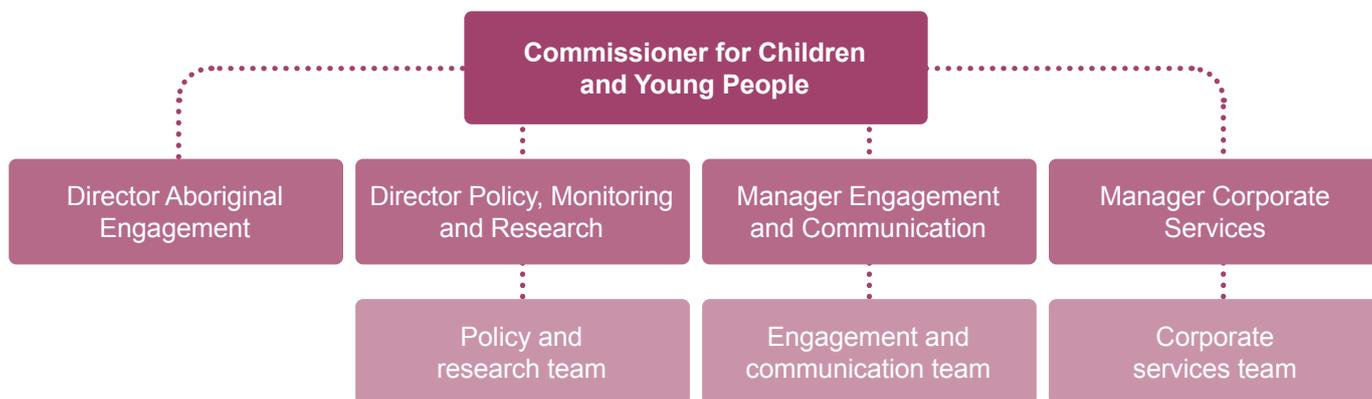
Caroline Brasnett
Manager Corporate Services

Caroline Brasnett joined the Commissioner in 2016, after 43 years with the Department of Education in a range of education and managerial roles both in schools, including deputy principal of Western Australia's second largest school, and in central administration with roles involving human resources, risk management, and copyright and intellectual property. This was followed by a year at the Schools' Curriculum and Standards Authority.



Vicki Jack
Director Aboriginal Engagement
(on secondment from Department of Communities)

Vicki Jack joined the Commissioner's team in 2019. Vicki has a strong background in education and community development and has worked for the past 35 years with Aboriginal communities, families and people across rural, regional and remote WA. Previous roles include school principal, director roles within the Departments of Education and Communities and in the private sector with Rio Tinto.



About us

Ambassadors for Children and Young People

The Commissioner’s Ambassador initiative recognises eminent people living in Western Australia who have a significant role in the community and commitment to supporting children and young people and their families.

The Ambassadors work with the Commissioner to increase community awareness and understanding of factors that impact children and young people’s wellbeing and where appropriate, provide support and guidance in the projects undertaken by the Commissioner and his staff.

During the year, Professor Stephen Zubrick and the Commissioner were interviewed by Jessica Strutt from ABC Radio Perth to help raise awareness about WA’s vulnerable children and young people and what can be done to improve outcomes.

Western Australia’s Ambassadors for Children and Young People are:

- Winthrop Professor Donna Cross
- Mrs Annie Fogarty AM
- Mr Ricky Grace AM
- Dr Robert Isaacs AM OAM JP PhD (Hon)
- Mrs Tonya McCusker AM
- Ms June Oscar AO
- Dr Donald Payne
- His Honour Judge Denis Reynolds
- Ms Linda Savage
- Hon. Barbara Scott OAM
- Dr Casta Tungaraza
- Ms Dawn Wallam
- Mr David Wirrpanda
- Mr Russell Woolf
- Winthrop Professor Stephen Zubrick.



“I am worried about the future of society mostly, I worry that we will go back to normal even though this [COVID-19] pandemic has shown us that the normal we had wasn’t working.”

Young person during COVID-19 pandemic

About us

Performance Management Framework

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's Performance Management Framework is consistent with the State Government goal of *Strong Communities: Safe communities and supported families*.

Desired outcome for the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon.

Key Effectiveness Indicators

- Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted
- Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched, advocated and promoted.

Service undertaken by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Consultation, research and promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people.

Key Efficiency Indicators

- Unit cost per child
- Unit cost per representation.

Planning

The Commissioner's strategic plan, *Our approach and priorities: 2016–2020*, outlines the broad focus areas of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and aims to both inform and engage the community in the work of the Commissioner. The Commissioner's annual work plan supports the strategic plan.

The work of the office for this reporting period is outlined under the strategic plan's three key platforms:

1. Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people
2. Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people
3. Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people.

The Commissioner's 2020–2025 strategic plan will be released in the 2020–21 financial year.





Agency performance

Agency performance

Platform

1

Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people

Being aware of, understanding and acting to uphold the human rights of children and young people is fundamental to recognising and supporting children and young people as valued citizens of the community.

Major achievements in 2019–20

Autism consultation

To ensure WA children and young people are part of the national discussion around the current system of autism diagnosis, intervention and support and the associated need for a National Autism Strategy, the Commissioner invited children and young people with autism to share their views.

Twelve children and young people participated in face-to-face and video interviews on a range of issues relating to autism, including diagnosis, education, health and mental health, employment and their participation in the community.

Based on the insights of participants, the Commissioner submitted recommendations along with his *Speaking Out About Autism* report to the Senate Select Committee on Autism in July 2020 to strengthen the rights of autistic children and young people within a National Autism Strategy.

The main issues important to the children and young people were being listened to and valued within their school and services, and improved understanding of autism in the wider community. Their views will be published on the Commissioner's website in early 2020–21.

“Kids have to be given the opportunity to say something. It helps if more people have a say about what it's like with autism and then with more people talking about it, then that creates a larger voice.”

15 year-old, Autism consultation

Regional visits

The Commissioner regularly visits regional and remote areas of WA to hear from children and young people, as well as their families and those who work to support their wellbeing.

In 2019, the Commissioner visited Northam, Merredin, Southern Cross and Jigalong and met with local children and young people. They spoke about their close-knit communities and the issues affecting their towns, particularly the presence of drugs and alcohol, the amount of plastic in the environment and limited youth activities. The Commissioner also had the opportunity to meet with a range of local service providers and local government representatives who support young people.

The Commissioner will use the insights gathered during his visits to advocate on behalf of children and young people and encourage local decision makers and service providers to ensure that programs meet their needs.



Agency performance

Key project

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

Australia recorded its first cases of COVID-19 in January 2020, and in late February the first case was confirmed in WA. The months to follow were ones of enormous change and unprecedented times with physical distancing, lockdowns and closures of schools, businesses and travel restrictions.



Recognising the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts being felt across the community, the Commissioner issued an open invitation for WA children and young people to write in anonymously to share their views about their experiences and how they were feeling as events unfolded.

Children and young people were encouraged to submit their views by email, the Commissioner's website and on worksheets sent to remote communities.

The questions asked through DigiMe and the Commissioner's online email form changed during the pandemic as the situation evolved and included:

- When you are worried about things, what do you do to stay positive?
- How has your day-to-day life been impacted by the coronavirus and what supports have helped you?
- What impact do you think the coronavirus pandemic will have for you (or your family) in the future?

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic (continued)

The Commissioner received over 800 responses from March–June 2020 from children and young people across metropolitan, regional and remote areas of WA, ranging in age from 5 to 18 years. This included young people in contact with the youth justice system, those living in crisis accommodation and remote Aboriginal communities.

The young people's responses helped the Commissioner shape several resources for parents and carers on how best to support young people. The resources were provided to government and community decision-makers to promote consideration of young people in the planning of WA's recovery phase.

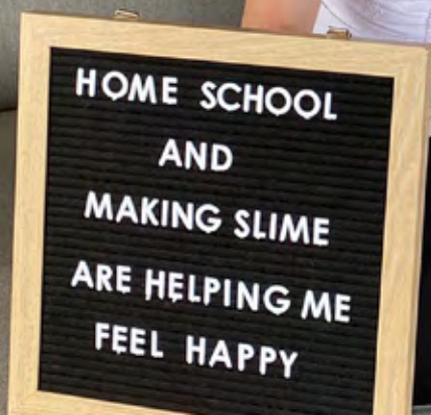
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues both in Australia and overseas, the long-term impacts on WA children and young people are yet to be known.

The Commissioner's next Speaking Out Survey is planned for early 2021 and will provide comparative data to the inaugural survey to indicate how thousands of WA children and young people saw their wellbeing both before and after the events of 2020.

Although Corona
Virus Separated
us, we are
stronger together.

I am staying clean
by washing everyday,
before and after
eating. Keeping
my hygiene up.
It's very important
during this time.

I am feeling



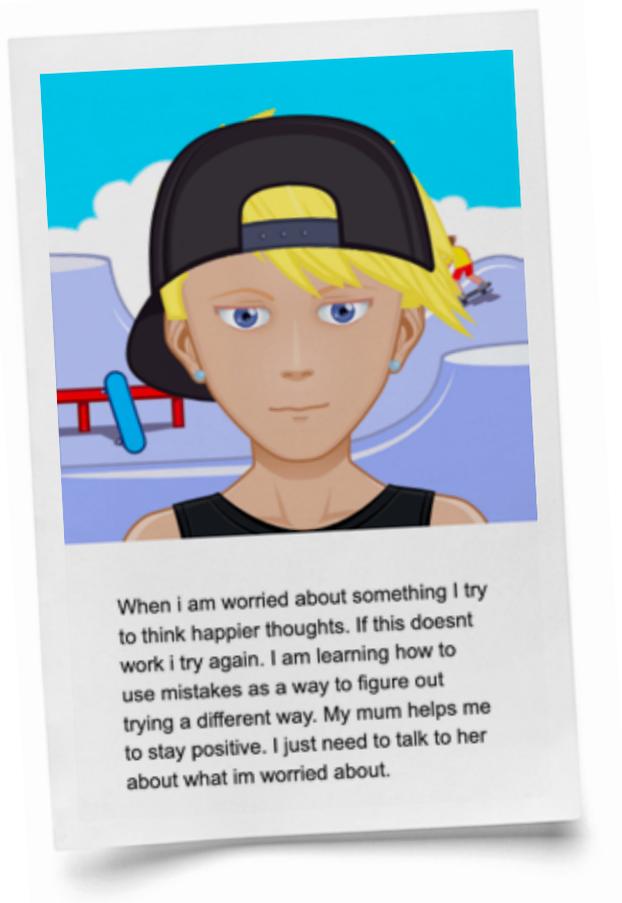
1. Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people (continued)

DigiMe

DigiMe, an online avatar creator, was developed by the Commissioner to provide children and young people with a way to share their views and have them published on his website and social media.

The Commissioner received 467 DigiMe contributions from children and young people on topics such as the best things about reading, the important things in their life and local community issues.

From March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic started affecting the WA community, the Commissioner invited young people to share about what they do to stay positive when they are worried, what support has helped them during the pandemic, and what impact they think the pandemic will have for them or their family in the future. Over 400 children and young people shared their views in response to these questions.



Australian Children's Laureate event

To celebrate the voices of children and young people, the Commissioner held a literature event in September, which was attended by 115 students from 14 schools.

Students spent the day with Australian Children's Laureate Morris Gleitzman and children's book authors Dianne Wolfer, Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac, looking at the right of children to explore, express and create. Inspired by the authors' guidance and encouragement, students explored ideas to improve their communities and expressed themselves through stories and drawings.

The Commissioner shared the students' contributions on his social media and in stakeholder presentations.

Children's Week 2019

Children's Week is a national celebration of children's rights, talents and citizenship, which is observed in Australia around Universal Children's Day in late October.

During Children's Week, the Commissioner took part in community events to honour the contributions of children and young people, including running a workshop with the Edmund Rice Youth Leaders who come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Commissioner also attended the WA Youth Awards to celebrate the outstanding contributions of children and young people and present his Participate Award.



1. Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people (continued)

Commissioner for Children and Young People Participate Award

The Commissioner has sponsored the Participate Award, part of the WA Youth Awards, since 2010.

The award recognises a young person aged 12 to 17 years who has shown outstanding dedication to making positive change in their community and has inspired other young people to get involved.

Brenda Amito won the Commissioner's 2019 Participate Award and was also named the overall Young Person of the Year.

Brenda founded the Edmund Rice Centre WA Multicultural AFL Umpiring Academy – the first of its kind – to bring cultural diversity into AFL umpiring.

Brenda was born in Uganda and migrated to Australia with her family in 2007. Shortly after her arrival, she joined the Butler Falcons, a multicultural all-girls AFL team. She found her passion for the game through the team and was inspired to give back by starting her own umpiring academy and empowering other young people.

Now in its third year of operation, the Umpiring Academy has developed more than 60 umpires from diverse backgrounds, many of whom now earn an income from umpiring and are on umpiring talent pathways. She undertook all of this work as a volunteer and recently secured funds to have a paid employee to help manage the Academy.

Brenda Amito with the Commissioner at the WA Youth Awards

Local Government Policy Awards

The annual Children's Environment and Health Local Government Policy Awards are coordinated by the Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA, Healthway and the WA Local Government Association. The awards promote and celebrate local governments that demonstrate outstanding commitment to supporting the health of children and young people.

The Commissioner sponsors the Children's Consultation award, which recognises and promotes high-quality consultation activities involving children and young people, and the benefits these create for children, young people and communities.

The City of Stirling won the 2019 Children's Consultation award for their consultation with over 350 children and young people to develop a youth framework to respond to gaps in youth services and support.

The Commissioner also sponsors the Young People Making a Difference in Communities award, which looks at how local governments support their young people, giving them a voice to address current and potential issues that affect them.

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River won this award for their work to support the leadership and development of young people in the area.



Agency performance

Platform

2

Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people

Supporting children and young people’s healthy development recognises their place as equal citizens in our society and builds a brighter future for WA. The challenges children and young people face continually evolve and need to be recognised and addressed by evidence-informed programs, policy and legislation. Monitoring children and young people’s wellbeing and considering the latest research is essential to inform decision making and develop effective and innovative approaches.

.....

Major achievements in 2019–20

Child Safe Organisations

The Commissioner updated the Child Safe Organisations WA resources in November 2019 to align with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

The Commissioner’s resources continue to promote and support the implementation of child safe principles and practices in organisations in WA and include the guidelines, self-assessment and review tool, and information for parents, carers and families. The updated resources were downloaded 1,424 times from the Commissioner’s website.

The Commissioner held two free information workshops for stakeholders on the National Principles, which were attended by 47 people. Further planned workshops were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic social gathering restrictions from March to June.

The Commissioner’s team continued to consult and provide advice throughout the year to a range of WA agencies who enquired about how they can implement the National Principles in their child-related work.

The National Principles reflect the ten child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. However, importantly the Principles are clear that children should be safe from all types of harm in organisations, including physical, emotional and neglect, as well as sexual abuse. In February 2019, the National Principles were agreed to by the Council of Australian Governments to drive national consistency in the application of Child Safe Standards across Australia.

Indicators of Wellbeing

The Commissioner’s Indicators of Wellbeing online resource provides data on a range of measures for WA children and young people from birth to 18 years.

It is designed for government and non-government organisations involved in policy and service delivery to identify what is working and where changes are required to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.

“Make sure everyone is friendly. Hire people you trust and know they won’t do any harm to children.”

14 year-old young person

2. Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people (continued)

The Indicators of Wellbeing data is structured into three age groups and across three domains: Learning and participating, Healthy and connected, and Safe and supported.

In 2019–20, the Healthy and connected and Safe and supported data sets were published. Learning and participating data was first published in 2018–19.

The Healthy and connected domain includes data on young people's physical and mental health, engagement in healthy behaviours and connection to culture and community.

The Safe and supported data set provides information on WA children and young people's supportive relationships, safety and their access to basic material needs – all of which are critical to a child or young person's wellbeing.

Data for the Indicators of Wellbeing has been collated from a variety of sources, including the Commissioner's Speaking Out Survey and school and learning consultation, Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, NAPLAN data and other state and federal government departments.

The Indicators of Wellbeing is a component of the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework and continues to be updated regularly as new data is published.

Profile of Children and Young People in WA

An updated *Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia* was released in January 2020.

The report is updated annually and contains new socio-demographic data for WA's 598,000 children and young people across areas such as population, projected growth, education, housing, disability and poverty.

Data has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and government departments.

The report is a component of the Commissioner's Wellbeing Monitoring Framework and can be used by agencies to help them allocate resources for children and young people across WA.

Student wellbeing in schools

This project follows on from the recommendations of the Commissioner's school and learning consultation in 2018, and the 2015 *Our Children Can't Wait Report: Review of the implementation of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia*.

Approximately 180 schools from the Department of Education, Catholic Education WA and Association of Independent Schools WA were consulted on aspects of supporting student wellbeing. They provided information on the issues, approaches, resources and the opportunities to strengthen responses to ensure that students receive the support they need.

The Commissioner will publish the findings in early 2020–21.



2. Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people (continued)

Monitoring complaints made by children and young people

The Commissioner published the findings of his biennial survey of state government agencies about their complaints systems and the complaints they have received from children and young people.

The survey found that only 26 per cent described the agencies' complaints process as child friendly, less than half include specific mention of children in their complaints policy, and a complaints policy could be located on only 10 of the 32 websites managed by the 27 participating organisations.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended that all organisations that work with children and young people ensure their processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.

The Commissioner's office continues to support WA organisations to improve their child safe practices and child friendly complaints mechanisms, and work with the WA Government to plan for future monitoring of the child safe standards embedded within the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations WA.

Living environment

Places and spaces have a significant impact on a child's development, health and wellbeing.

The Commissioner initiated a living environment project to examine the impact of physical and social environments on WA children's health and wellbeing. A review of the latest national and international research was undertaken and a discussion paper published to summarise the issues and findings.

The Commissioner will be inviting WA children and young people to share what constitutes healthy, accessible, friendly and safe places and spaces in their local community. Their views will be captured through a statewide art project and two advisory committees of young people. Initially planned for early 2020, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic this consultation was postponed.



2. Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people (continued)

Australian and New Zealand Children’s Commissioners and Guardians Group (ANZCCG)

The ANZCCG aims to promote and protect the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people in Australia and New Zealand.

Every Australian state and territory has a Child Guardian and/or Commissioner’s office, each guided by specific legislation, and in New Zealand there is a national Commissioner. Despite the differences in statutory function between these jurisdictions, the Commissioners and Guardians collaborate where possible and usually meet twice a year to share information and plan joint advocacy projects.

In the past year the ANZCCG met in November 2019, and from February 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, met by video conference three times.

The ANZCCG continues to recommend governments in Australia and New Zealand raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years, consistent with international standards. The age of criminal responsibility in all Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand is currently 10 years. ANZCCG members are concerned about the number of children aged between 10 and 13 held in youth detention across Australia.

Public commentary

The Commissioner works in a variety of ways to inform broad sectors of the community about issues affecting the wellbeing of the WA’s children and young people and encourage positive change.

During the year the Commissioner gave 31 speeches and presentations on a range of issues such as his Speaking Out Survey results, child protection, early years, vulnerable children and young people, wellbeing and the importance of listening to the views of children and young people. The COVID-19 pandemic social gathering restrictions from March to June 2020 impacted the number of presentations the Commissioner was able to give compared to previous years.

The Commissioner makes public comment in the media where appropriate and in the best interests of the WA’s children and young people. In 2019–20, the Commissioner had four opinion pieces published in major media outlets and gave over 30 interviews and comments on issues, including his Speaking Out Survey findings, youth suicide, youth justice and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people.

Social media is recognised as an increasingly important way for the Commissioner to engage with stakeholders and the community. In the past year, all of the Commissioner’s social media platforms continued to experience strong growth.

“The coronavirus pandemic was and still is what I believe to be a very hard time for many individuals around the world. It is definitely an event that will go down in history and be taught in schools in the future.”

Young person during COVID-19 pandemic

Agency performance

Key project

Speaking Out Survey

Almost 5,000 children and young people from all regions shared their views on their health, safety, family and school life and how they see their place in our society in the Commissioner’s inaugural Speaking Out Survey – creating a picture of what it is like to grow up in WA.

Most children and young people reported they feel healthy, have the material things they need and they like school. However, mental health, perceptions of safety and feeling connected are areas of concern.

Key findings included:

- Almost 12% of students rated their health as ‘fair’ or ‘poor’
- Nearly 1 in 2 female high school students do not always feel safe at home
- 70% of female high school students worry about their weight, compared to 37% of male students
- School and study problems are the most common source of stress for students in Years 9–12
- More than half of female Year 9–12 students and one quarter of male students have been sent unwanted sexual material



- 1 in 10 students say there is only sometimes enough food for them to eat at home
- Aboriginal students reported higher self-esteem and sense of belonging than non-Aboriginal students.

“I really liked this survey. I thought it has a good variety of questions and although some questions were slightly upsetting to answer, I think they were good topics to be asked about.”

“I want you guys... at the end of the survey to tell students and people how valid they are and that they are worth more than they think. People deserve that.”

Speaking Out Survey participants

The Commissioner and staff conducted survey fieldwork in 2019, with the findings tabled in Parliament in February.

To better understand the responses from children and young people, the Commissioner is undertaking further analysis. Data is being published progressively in the Indicators of Wellbeing online data resource.

The Speaking Out Survey will be conducted again in 2021. This comparative data will be important in monitoring the wellbeing of WA’s children and young people for the longer term and help governments, communities and families meet their needs with appropriate support and services.

Agency performance

Platform

3

Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people

A strong society is one that ensures its most vulnerable are provided with opportunities to contribute to that society. Ensuring the State's laws and policies support children and young people's wellbeing and respect their role as citizens sets the broader agenda for the community. Assisting agencies to continually improve the opportunities and services for children and young people who present as vulnerable, disadvantaged or face additional inequities is an essential role of the office.

Major achievements in 2019–20

Child protection

The Commissioner chairs the Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Western Australia Executive Steering Group, a consortium of Director Generals of government agencies, the Australian Centre for Child Protection and non-government agencies. The group focuses on strategic, cross-government opportunities to improve responses to child sexual abuse, combining research, workforce development and therapeutic interventions. In February, Lotterywest provided an establishment grant to fund the development of a centre of excellence in responding to child abuse and neglect.

The National Foster Care and Kinship Care Conference was held in Perth in February. The Commissioner presented at the conference and has since chaired the Foster Care Refresh Project Roundtable for the Department of Communities. The Refresh project aims to improve support for foster carers.

The Commissioner continues to have strategic meetings with the Department of Communities, which is responsible for the provision of family support, child protection and out-of-home care services for children and families in WA. He also continues to

advocate for strong independent oversight of the child protection system, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in 2017.

Breaking the cycle – Taking action

Following an Aboriginal forum held in 2018 as part of the Vulnerability Speaker Series, the Commissioner continues to support Aboriginal communities to develop solutions to the issues, barriers and challenges impacting on the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.

The Commissioner recognises that Aboriginal people are best placed to identify, develop and manage solutions to meet their needs.

During the year, the Commissioner commenced working with the Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation, as well as continuing to work, through local service providers, with an extended Safety Bay family group. The focus was on:

- acknowledging and understanding the impact of colonisation and resultant intergenerational trauma on the lives of Aboriginal peoples

3. Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people (continued)

- facilitating the engagement of children, young people and their families in identifying and addressing the needs of the children and young people in their community
- supporting Aboriginal communities to lead the planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and services that provide better outcomes for their children and young people.



Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation members

Harmful sexual behaviours

The Commissioner continued to support a strategic, cross-government approach to build understanding of preventative and treatment approaches for harmful sexual behaviours of children and young people.

Appearing before the hearing for the *Inquiry into children and young people on the Sex Offenders Register* in August 2019, the Commissioner outlined how placing young people on the register can impact their lives and his position on the automatic registration of juvenile offenders. The Commissioner's points were cited in the Inquiry's report which was tabled in Parliament.

The Commissioner sponsored Aboriginal counsellors and leaders from WA to participate in the 2019 Australian and New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse (ANZATSA) conference. The participants met with the Commissioner throughout the year to provide insight and advice about children and young people and harmful sexual behaviours service issues in WA.

The Commissioner's team assisted the ANZATSA committee in securing support from government agencies for the inaugural ANZATSA symposium on harmful sexual behaviours to be held in Perth in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this symposium has been rescheduled for 2021.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Commissioner continues to strongly advocate that governments and leaders fully support and implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission.

The Commissioner participates in the Department of Communities External Implementation Working Group and the Department of Premier and Cabinet Independent Oversight Working Group, each of which leads the implementation of particular Royal Commission recommendations.

Throughout the year, the Commissioner supported the work of these committees and continued work in areas directly relevant to several of the Royal Commission's recommendations: child friendly complaints mechanisms, oversight of services for children and young people, harmful sexual behaviours in children and young people, advocacy and support for children and young people who have been harmed and child safe organisations.



”

**It is good that us kids get
a say and not just adults.”**

Speaking Out Survey participant

Agency performance

Ongoing advocacy

Vulnerable children and young people

The Commissioner continues to advocate for vulnerable WA children and young people and focus on addressing child poverty.

The Commissioner's 2019 report *Improving the odds for WA's vulnerable children and young people* outlined clear recommendations for government and actions the Commissioner's office will undertake to improve outcomes.

At a state level, the Commissioner is working with government to develop a Child Wellbeing Strategy, incorporating a resourced implementation framework underpinned by a robust process of child impact assessment.

The Commissioner's Child Impact Assessment Guidelines were released in July 2020 and widely distributed to organisations throughout WA. The guidelines can be used by government agencies and other organisations to ensure potential impacts on children and young people are carefully considered early in policy development or other processes.

At a national level, the Commissioner strongly advocates for the need to develop a Child Poverty Reduction Bill. The purpose of the bill is to achieve a sustained reduction in child poverty, hold governments to account against published reduction targets and provide transparent reporting on child poverty. This is being progressed with Commissioners and Guardians across Australia.



Up to 17% of WA's children and young people are living below the poverty line.

MORE THAN 2-IN-5

children in single parent families live in poverty.



Children and young people living in disadvantaged communities are **7 times more likely** to be involved in the child protection system and the youth justice system.

3. Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people (continued)

I'm Locked up
IN Detention.
I'm Worried about
my Family.

Young person, Banksia Hill Detention Centre

Youth justice

Young people's involvement in the youth justice system is an ongoing priority and concern.

The Commissioner continues to make representations and advocate for changes to the WA youth justice system to improve the opportunities and outcomes for young people in the system and their families.

The ANZCCG continues to recommend governments raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years, consistent with international standards. Currently, the age of criminal responsibility across Australia and New Zealand is 10. In November 2019, as part of the ANZCCG, the Commissioner called on the Council of Attorneys-General to consider the views of children when reviewing whether to raise the age of criminal responsibility across Australia.

Mental health

The Commissioner's 2019 Speaking Out Survey findings highlighted that substantial proportions of Year 7 to 12 students reported poor life satisfaction, low self-esteem, high levels of stress and the feeling they cannot cope with life's challenges.

During the year, the Commissioner progressed several initiatives to monitor WA children and young people's mental health and strongly advocate for improved services, supports and policies to support their wellbeing.

The review on the progress towards addressing the 12 recommendations made

in the 2015 *Our Children Can't Wait Report* relating to mental health was finalised. This progress update was sent to involved agencies in April 2020, with the review to be released publically in early 2020–21.

The Commissioner also supported the Youth Mental Health Sub Network to seek the views of young people on their experiences of accessing mental health services and opportunities to reduce youth suicide. The findings were released in the *Informing youth suicide prevention for Western Australia* report in December 2019, which adds to the growing evidence that WA needs to change its approach to reduce youth suicide.

A mental health position paper was published in May 2020, strongly reiterating the need for WA to have a comprehensive and coordinated approach to mental health service delivery.

With the help of some children and young people, the Commissioner produced a video to let young people know where to get mental health support when they need it. The video was distributed to stakeholders and on social media.



Mental health support video artwork

3. Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people (continued)

Formal submissions 2019–20

The following is a list of major submissions in 2019–20. The list does not indicate all submissions or representations made by the Commissioner during the year.

Date	Title	Delivered to
August 2019	Climate Health Inquiry	Department of Health
August 2019	Digital Innovation in Secondary Education	Education and Health Standing Committee
August 2019	Indigenous Evaluation Strategy	Productivity Commission
October 2019	Review of the <i>Victims of Crime Act 1994</i> (WA)	Department of Justice
October 2019	Submission on Religious Discrimination Bill 2019 – Exposure Draft	Federal Attorney General
October 2019	Inquiry into the Magistrates Court of Western Australia’s management of matters involving family and domestic violence	Standing Committee on Community Development and Justice
October 2019	Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill consultation	Department of Justice
October 2019	Proposal to Mandate Pregnancy Warning Labels on Alcoholic Beverages	Food Standards Australia New Zealand
October 2019	Consultation on Strengthening the Criminal Law in Response to Child Sexual Abuse	Department of Justice
October 2019	Free and Equal Conversation – Priorities for Federal Discrimination Law Reform	Australian Human Rights Commission
October 2019	Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing in the WA Public Sector	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
December 2019	Senior Secondary Pathways	Department of Education (Commonwealth)
December 2019	Consultation on the National Obesity Strategy	National Obesity Strategy Working Group
January 2020	Feedback on Productivity Commission – draft report and recommendations – Mental Health Inquiry	Productivity Commission

3. Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people (continued)

Date	Title	Delivered to
February 2020	Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Family Law system	Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System
February 2020	Consultation on Online Safety Legislative Reform	Commonwealth Department of Communications and Infrastructure
February 2020	Council of Attorney's General Age of Criminal Responsibility Review	Council of Attorney's General (WA Department of Justice acting as Chair)
March 2020	Feedback on second draft of the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Bill 2020	Department of Justice
March 2020	Submission in response to the Discussion Paper 'A Therapeutic Approach (Pilot Court) for Protection and Care in the Children's Court of WA'	Department of Justice
March 2020	Submission in response to Draft Policy Position Report – Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
May 2020	Submission to review of the Equal Justice Bench Book	Supreme Court of Western Australia
June 2020	Submission to the Inquiry into homelessness in Australia	The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs

“Our mental health should be looked into more and how much pressure is put on us by everyone (that is my opinion and my feelings).”

Speaking Out Survey participant

Agency performance

Financial targets summary

Performance is monitored against financial targets and through our Key Performance Indicators. Performance results for 2019–20 are shown below.

Financial targets

	2020 Target ¹ (\$000)	2020 Actual (\$000)	Variation (\$000)
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	3,127	2,922	(205)
Net cost of services (sourced from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	3,124	2,922	(202)
Total equity (sourced from Statement of Financial Position)	706	821	115
Net increase in cash held (sourced from Statement of Cash Flows)	0	361	361
Approved salary expense level	1,876	1,836	(40)

Note 1 – As specified in the Budget Statements.

Working cash targets

	2020 Target ¹ (\$000)	2020 Actual (\$000)	Variation (\$000)
Agreed working cash limit	136	124	(12)

Note 1 – As specified in the Budget Statements.

Agency performance

Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Outcome: The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon.

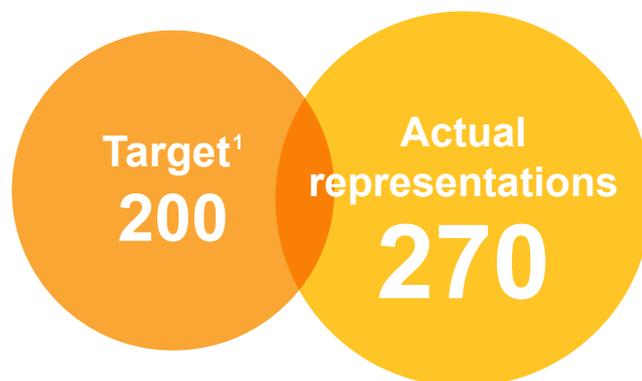
Key Effectiveness Indicator:
Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted



Key Efficiency Indicator:
Unit cost per child



Key Effectiveness Indicator:
Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched, advocated and promoted



Key Efficiency Indicator:
Unit cost per representation



Note 1 – As specified in the Budget Statements.



Significant issues impacting the agency

Significant issues impacting the agency



Young person during COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 pandemic

The Commissioner and his team will continue to evaluate any risks in line with current WA Government and health authority recommendations concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. The office has adjusted the 2020–21 Work Plan as the team contributes to the WA Government's response to the pandemic and has adapted to working with WA children and young people and stakeholders using online platforms if and when required. All staff were provided with suitable equipment to work from home to ensure there was no decline in productivity during the 'working from home' period. The Commissioner has implemented all the controls suggested by the Department of Health.

Speaking Out Survey

Planning is underway for the 2021 Speaking Out Survey, which will provide comparative data to the first Speaking Out Survey in 2019. The Commissioner aims to establish the Speaking Out Survey as an ongoing project to track children and young people's wellbeing over time.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Monitoring and supporting the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse remains a focus of the office. The Commissioner will continue to promote the use of child safe policies and practices to WA organisations through the Child Safe Organisations WA project and support agencies to implement appropriate responses to harmful sexual behaviours in children and young people.

Wellbeing Monitoring Framework

The Commissioner will continue to investigate and report on key aspects of WA children and young people's wellbeing based on outcomes described in the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework.



Disclosures and legal compliance

Disclosures and legal compliance



Certification of financial statements

For the reporting period ended 30 June 2020

The accompanying financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the reporting period ended 30 June 2020 and the financial position as at 30 June 2020.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included within the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.

C. Uren
Chief Finance Officer
3 September 2020

C. Pettit
Accountable Authority
3 September 2020

Financial statements



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Report on the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations for the year then ended, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2020 and the financial position at the end of that period. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Commissioner in accordance with the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibility of the Commissioner for the financial statements

The Commissioner is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions, and for such internal control as the Commissioner determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Commissioner is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Commissioner.

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7th Floor Albert Facey House 469 Wellington Street Perth MAIL TO: Perth BC PO Box 8489 Perth WA 6849 TEL: 08 6557 7500 FAX: 08 6557 7800

Financial statements

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Report on controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People. The controls exercised by the Commissioner are those policies and procedures established by the Commissioner to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions (the overall control objectives).

My opinion has been formed on the basis of the matters outlined in this report.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions during the year ended 30 June 2020.

The Commissioner's responsibilities

The Commissioner is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

Financial statements

An assurance engagement to report on the design and implementation of controls involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the design of controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once the controls are in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2020. The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commissioner's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2020.

The Commissioner's responsibility for the key performance indicators

The Commissioner is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal control as the Commissioner determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Commissioner is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 904 *Key Performance Indicators*.

Auditor General's responsibility

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the entity's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

Financial statements

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 904 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality control relating to the reports on controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2020 included on the Commissioner's website. The Commissioner's management is responsible for the integrity of the Commissioner's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Commissioner's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements or key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



SANDRA LABUSCHAGNE
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
10 September 2020

Financial statements

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	2.1(a)	2,040,483	1,905,701
Supplies and services	2.2	579,125	836,900
Depreciation expenses	4.1(b),(d)	19,319	10,224
Finance costs	6.2	645	
Accommodation expenses	2.2	251,582	299,817
Other expenses	2.2	31,001	30,777
Loss on disposal of non-current asset	4.1	-	988
Total cost of services		2,922,155	3,084,407
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Other revenue	3.2	-	282,463
Total revenue			282,463
Total income other than income from State Government		-	282,463
NET COST OF SERVICES		2,922,155	2,801,944
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	3.1	2,952,000	2,863,000
Services received free of charge	3.1	103,607	113,629
Total income from State Government		3,055,607	2,976,629
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		133,452	174,685
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		133,452	174,685

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.3	860,141	505,489
Receivables	5.1	19,422	30,119
Total Current Assets		879,563	535,608
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.3	24,679	18,227
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	507,000	482,000
Plant and equipment	4.1(a)	38,857	48,925
Right-of-use assets	4.1(c)	23,290	-
Total Non-Current Assets		593,826	549,152
TOTAL ASSETS		1,473,389	1,084,760
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.3	128,968	143,771
Lease liability	6.1	8,480	-
Employee benefits provisions	2.1(b)	285,724	181,135
Contract liability	5.4	130,909	-
Total Current Liabilities		554,081	324,906
Non-Current Liabilities			
Lease liability	6.1	15,072	
Employee benefit provisions	2.1(b)	83,329	83,141
Total Non-Current Liabilities		98,401	83,141
TOTAL LIABILITIES		652,482	408,047
NET ASSETS		820,907	676,713
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	8.8	10,000	-
Accumulated surplus		810,907	676,713
TOTAL EQUITY		820,907	676,713

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	Contributed equity \$	Accumulated surplus/ (deficit) \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2018	8.8	-	502,028	502,028
Surplus/(deficit)		-	174,685	174,685
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	174,685	174,685
Balance at 30 June 2019		-	676,713	676,713
Balance at 1 July 2019			676,713	676,713
Initial application of AASB 16			742	742
Restated balance at 1 July 2019			677,455	677,455
Surplus/(deficit)		-	133,452	133,452
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	133,452	133,452
Capital appropriations	8.8	10,000	-	10,000
Balance at 30 June 2020		10,000	810,907	820,907

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		2,927,000	2,847,000
Capital appropriation		10,000	-
Net cash provided by State Government		2,937,000	2,847,000
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(1,934,609)	(1,830,853)
Supplies and services		(505,832)	(719,854)
Accommodation		(251,582)	(299,817)
GST payments on purchases		(75,648)	(101,858)
Other payments		(30,553)	(30,777)
Receipts			
GST receipts on sales		14,419	29,361
GST receipts from taxation authority		85,893	69,942
Other receipts		130,909	283,463
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(2,567,003)	(2,600,393)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		-	(7,543)
Net cash used in investing activities		-	(7,543)
CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Principal elements of lease		(8,893)	-
Net cash used in financing activities		(8,893)	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		361,104	239,064
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		523,716	284,652
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	6.3	884,820	523,716

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 Budget Estimate \$	2020 Actual \$	2020 Variance
Delivery of Services			
Item 11 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	2,710,000	2,697,000	(13,000)
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes – <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	255,000	255,000	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	2,965,000	2,952,000	(13,000)
Capital			
Item 98 Capital appropriations	206,000	10,000	(196,000)
GRAND TOTAL	3,171,000	2,962,000	(209,000)

No supplementary income was received by CCYP.

Notes to the financial statements

1. Basis of preparation

Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) is a WA Government entity and is controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. CCYP is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities have been included in the '**Overview**' which does not form part of these financial statements.

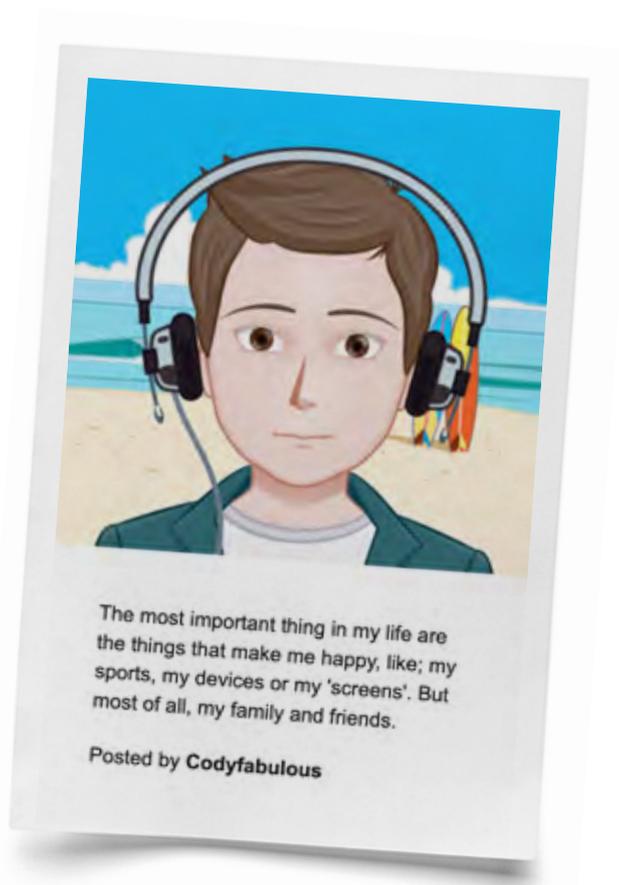
These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of CCYP on 3 September 2020.

Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

1. The *Financial Management Act 2006 (FMA)*
2. The Treasurer's Instructions (**Tis**)
3. Australian Accounting Standards (**AAS**) Reduced Disclosure Requirements
4. Where appropriate, those **AAS** paragraphs applicable for not-for-profit entities have been applied.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions take precedence over AAS. Several AAS are modified by the Instructions to vary application, disclosure format and wording. Where modification is required and has had a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.



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Notes to the financial statements

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. All values in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Judgements and estimates have been made to meet the requirements of the new standards AASB 16 and AASB 1058.

AASB 16:

Key judgements to be made for AASB 16 include identifying leases within contracts, determination whether there is reasonable certainty around exercising extension and termination options, identifying whether payments are variable or fixed in substance and determining the stand-alone selling prices for lease and non-lease components.

Estimation uncertainty that may arise is the estimation of the lease term, determination of the appropriate discount rate to discount the lease payments and assessing whether the right-of-use asset needs to be impaired.

Interagency Memorandums of Understanding arrangements are out of scope of AASB 16.

AASB 1058:

Key judgements include determining the timing in the satisfaction of obligations and judgements used in determining whether funds are restricted.

Contributed equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior, to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 *Contributions by Owners made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how CCYP's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by CCYP in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Employee benefits expenses	2.1(a)	2,040,483	1,905,701
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	369,053	264,276
Other expenditure	2.2	861,708	1,167,494

2.1(a) Employee benefits expenses

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Wages and salaries	1,858,509	1,710,278
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(a)	169,930	159,141
Other related expenses	12,044	36,282
Total employee benefits expenses	2,040,483	1,905,701

(a) Defined contribution plans include West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS), Government Employees Superannuation Board Schemes (GESBs) and other eligible funds.

Employee Benefits: Include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax and leave entitlements.

Superannuation: The amount recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises employer contributions paid to WSS, GESBs or other superannuation funds.

Other related expenses: Other expenditure include staff training.

Notes to the financial statements

2.1(b) Employee related provisions

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are *delivered*.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave ^(a)	173,710	110,945
Long service leave ^(b)	110,790	69,412
	284,500	180,357
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	1,224	778
Total current employee benefits provisions	285,724	181,135
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave ^(b)	82,951	82,764
	82,951	82,764
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	378	377
Total non-current employee benefits provisions	83,329	83,141
Total employee related provisions	369,053	264,276

(a) Annual leave liabilities: Classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

(b) Long service leave liabilities: Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as **current** liabilities as CCYP does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as **non-current** liabilities because CCYP has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as CCYP does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Notes to the financial statements

These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement, discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

(c) Employment on-costs: The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenditure' and are not included as part of CCYP's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

Employment on-costs provision

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Carrying amount at start of period	1,155	821
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	447	334
Carrying amount at end of period	1,602	1,155

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – long service leave

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating CCYP's long service leave provision. These include:

- Expected future salary rates
- Discount rates
- Employee retention rates
- Expected future payments.

Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

Notes to the financial statements

2.2 Other expenditure

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Supplies and services		
Communications	(917)	31,525
Consultants and contractors	268,258	508,053
Consumables	132,363	75,187
Travel	52,579	92,852
Lease, rent and hire costs	11,505	35,187
Licence, fee and registration	6,830	16,067
Publications	43,303	33,724
Sponsorship	39,136	38,414
Other	26,068	5,557
Total supplies and services expenses	579,125	836,566
Accommodation expenses		
Lease rentals	238,388	285,167
Repairs and maintenance	2,198	3,370
Cleaning	10,996	11,280
Total accommodation expenses	251,582	299,817
Other		
Internal and external audit fee	29,532	30,227
Security	1,022	550
Employment on-costs	447	334
Total other expenses	31,001	31,111
Total other expenditure	861,708	1,167,494

Supplies and services:

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

Accommodation expenses:

Variable outgoings of CCYP's accommodation lease are recognised as expenses as incurred. Repairs, maintenance and cleaning costs are recognised as expenses as incurred.

Other

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Employment on-cost includes workers' compensation and the associated liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liabilities is included at note 2.1(b). Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Notes to the financial statements

3. Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how CCYP obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by CCYP is and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income from State Government	3.1	3,055,607	2,976,629
Other revenue	3.2	-	282,463

3.1 Income from State Government

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriation ^(a)	2,952,000	2,863,000
	2,952,000	2,863,000
Services received free of charge from other State Government agencies:		
Department of Justice – IT services support	89,397	99,135
Department of Finance – Government Offices Accommodation	12,754	12,125
Department of Education – HR systems support	1,456	2,369
Total services received	103,607	113,629
Total income from State Government	3,055,607	2,976,629

(a) **Service Appropriations** are recognised as revenues at fair value in the period in which CCYP gains control of the appropriated funds. CCYP gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at Treasury.

Service appropriations fund the net cost of services delivered. Appropriation revenue comprises the following:

- Cash component
- A receivable (asset).

The application of AASB 15 and AASB 1058 from 1 July 2019 has had no impact on the treatment of income from State Government.

Notes to the financial statements

3.2 Other revenue

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Contributions	-	280,000
Employee contributions	-	2,463
	-	282,463

Until 30 June 2019, other revenue was recognised and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

From 1 July 2019, revenue will be recognised as income when CCYP achieves milestones as specified in the Contract.



Young person, Australian Children's Laureate event

Notes to the financial statements

4. Key assets

Assets CCYP utilises for economic benefit or service potential

This section includes information regarding the key assets CCYP utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about the performance of these assets:

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Plant and equipment	4.1(a),(b)	38,857	48,925
Right-of-use assets	4.1(c),(d)	23,290	-
Total key assets		62,147	48,925

4.1 (a) Plant and equipment

Year ended 30 June 2020	Computer Hardware \$	Office Equipment \$	Furniture, fixtures & fittings \$	Total \$
1 July 2019				
Gross carrying amount	18,031	15,524	69,630	103,185
Accumulated depreciation	(18,031)	(6,636)	(29,593)	(54,260)
Carrying amount at start of period	-	8,888	40,037	48,925
Depreciation	-	(3,105)	(6,963)	(10,068)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2020	-	5,783	33,074	38,857
Gross carrying amount	18,031	15,524	69,630	103,185
Accumulated depreciation	(18,031)	(9,741)	(36,556)	(64,328)

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total). There were no additions to plant and equipment during 2019–20.

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition of an asset, historical cost is used for the measurement of plant and equipment. Items of plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. CCYP does not hold any land, buildings or infrastructure assets.

Notes to the financial statements

4.1 (b) Depreciation and impairment

Charge for the period

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Depreciation		
Computer hardware	-	178
Furniture fixtures and fittings	6,963	6,963
Office equipment	3,105	3,083
Total depreciation for the period	10,068	10,224

As at 30 June 2020 there were no indications of impairment to plant and equipment.

Finite useful lives

All plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life: Years
Office equipment	5 years
Computer hardware	3 years
Furniture fixtures and fittings	10 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments should be made where appropriate.

Impairment

There were no indications of impairment to CCYP's plant and equipment assets at 30 June 2020.

CCYP held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period.

CCYP held no surplus assets at 30 June 2020.

Notes to the financial statements

4.1 (c) Right-of-use assets

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Right-of-use assets		-
Vehicles	23,290	-
	23,290	-

There were no additions to right-of-use assets during 2019–20.

Initial recognition

CCYP's right-of-use assets are measured at cost including the following:

- The amount of the initial measurement of lease liability and
- Any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received.

CCYP has no short-term leases (with a lease term of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less).

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

4.1 (d) Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Right-of-use assets		-
Vehicles	9,251	-
Total right-of-use asset depreciation	9,251	-
Lease interest expense (included in Finance cost, note 6.2)	645	-

Notes to the financial statements

Depreciation

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

The total cash outflow (including GST) for right of use asset State Fleet leases in 2020 was \$9,782.

CCYP has a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement (MOU) with the Department of Finance for the leasing of office accommodation. This is not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Finance and are accounted for as an expense as incurred.

Up to 30 June 2019, CCYP classified both its vehicle and accommodation lease as operating. As at 1 July 2019, CCYP recognises the vehicle lease as a right-of-use asset and an associated lease liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

The corresponding lease liability in relation to CCYP’s vehicle lease has been disclosed in note 6.1.

Impairment

There were no indications of impairment to CCYP’s right of-use assets.



Notes to the financial statements

5. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from CCYP's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Receivables	5.1	19,422	30,119
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	507,000	482,000
Payables	5.3	(128,968)	(143,771)
Contract liability	5.4	(130,909)	-

5.1 Receivables

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current		
GST receivable	5,542	30,119
Other receivable	13,880	-
Total current	19,422	30,119
Total receivables	19,422	30,119

CCYP does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements as security for receivables.

5.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Non-current	507,000	482,000
Balance at end of period	507,000	482,000

Amounts receivable for services represent the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement. Amounts receivable for services are considered not impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the Holding account).

Notes to the financial statements

5.3 Payables

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current		
Trade payables	42,112	67,289
GST payables to the ATO	38,396	38,474
Accrued expenses	26,036	30,561
Accrued salaries	20,478	6,815
Accrued superannuation	1,946	632
Total current	128,968	143,771

Trade payables are recognised at the amounts payable when CCYP becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 30 days.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the reporting period end. CCYP considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

The accrued salaries suspense account (See note 6.3 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually, from CCYP's appropriations for salaries expense, into a Treasury suspense account to meet the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

5.4 Contract liability

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current		
Opening balance at 01/07/2019	-	-
Additions	130,909	-
Revenue recognised	-	-
Closing balance at 30/06/2020	130,909	-
Current	130,909	-

CCYP's contract liability relates to a contract with the Commonwealth Government to develop child friendly complaint resources. The contract payment was received upfront for work to be performed in the 2020–21 financial year.

Notes to the financial statements

6. Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cash flows of CCYP.

	Notes
Lease liabilities	6.1
Finance costs	6.2
Cash and cash equivalents	6.3

6.1 Lease liabilities

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Lease liabilities		
Current	8,480	-
Non-current	15,072	-
	23,552	-

CCYP has a lease for two vehicles provided by State Fleet.

CCYP measures a lease liability, at the commencement date, at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at that date. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease which is provided by State Fleet in their calculation model.

The interest of the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest of the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Periods covered by extension or termination options are only included in the lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

This section should be read in conjunction with note 4.1(c)

Subsequent measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications.

Notes to the financial statements

6.2 Finance costs

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Finance costs		
Lease interest expense	645	-
Finance costs expensed	645	-

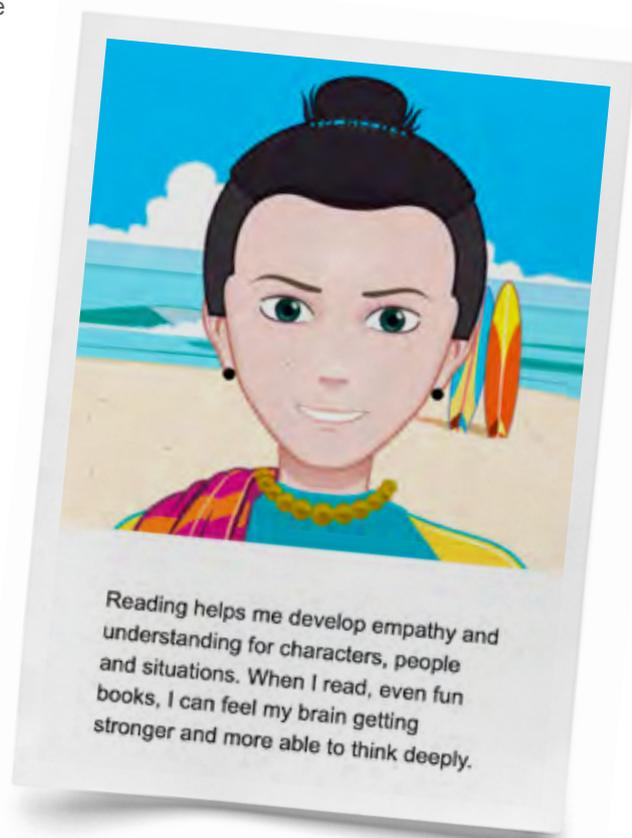
Finance costs includes the interest component of the lease liability repayments to State Fleet.

6.3 Cash and cash equivalents

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	860,141	505,489
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
- Accrued salaries suspense account ^(a)	24,679	18,227
Balance at end of period	848,820	523,716

(a) Funds held in the suspense account for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that occurs every 11th year. This account is classified as noncurrent for 10 out of 11 years.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash at bank.



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Notes to the financial statements

7. Financial instruments and contingencies

	Notes
Financial instruments	7.1
Contingent assets and contingent liabilities	7.2

7.1 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	860,141	505,489
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	24,679	18,227
Receivables ^(a)	520,880	482,000
Total financial assets	1,405,700	1,005,716
Financial liabilities		
Payables	128,968	143,771
Lease liabilities	23,552	-
Total financial liability	152,520	143,771

(a) The amount of receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

7.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

CCYP has no contingent assets or liabilities to disclose for the 2019–20 financial year.

Notes to the financial statements

8. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Events occurring after the end of the reporting period	8.1
Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards	8.2
Key management personnel	8.3
Related party transactions	8.4
Related bodies	8.5
Affiliated bodies	8.6
Remuneration of auditors	8.7
Equity	8.8
Explanatory statement	8.9

8.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

CCYP had no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that impacted on the financial statements.

8.2 Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards

(a) AASB 15 Revenue from Contract with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers replaces AASB 118 Revenue and AASB 111 Construction Contracts for annual reporting periods on or after 1 January 2019. Under the new model, an entity shall recognise revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer and is based upon the transfer of control rather than transfer of risks and rewards.

AASB 15 focuses on providing sufficient information to the users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from the contracts with customers. Revenue is recognised by applying the following five steps:

- Identifying contracts with customers
- Identifying separate performance obligations
- Determining the transaction price of the contract
- Allocating the transaction price to each of the performance obligations
- Recognising revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied.

Revenue is recognised either over time or at a point in time. Any distinct goods or services are separately identified and any discounts or rebates in the contract price are allocated to the separate elements.

Notes to the financial statements

In addition, income other than from contracts with customers are subject to AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities. Income recognition under AASB 1058 depends on whether such a transaction gives rise to a liability or a contribution by owners related to an asset (such as cash) recognised by an agency.

CCYP adopts the modified retrospective approach on transition to AASB 15 and AASB 1058. No comparative information is restated under this approach and there has been no impact to CCYP in applying the standards at the date of initial application.

Under this transition method, CCYP applies the standards retrospectively only to contracts and transactions that are not completed contracts at the date of initial application.

Refer to Note 3.1 and 3.2 for the revenue and income accounting policies adopted from 1 July 2019.

The effect of adopting AASB 15 and AASB 1058 are as follows:

	30 June 2020	Adjustments	30 June 2020 under AASB 118 and 1004
Other revenue	-	-	-
Commonwealth grants and contributions			130,909
Net result	-	-	130,909

(b) AASB 16 Leases

AASB 16 Leases supersedes AASB 117 Leases and related Interpretations. AASB 16 primarily affects lessee accounting and provides a comprehensive model for the identification of lease arrangements and their treatment in the financial statements of both lessees and lessors.

CCYP applied AASB 16 Leases from 1 July 2019 using the modified retrospective approach. As permitted under the specific transition provisions, comparatives are not restated. The cumulative effect of initially applying this Standard is recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus.

The main changes introduced by this Standard include identification of lease within a contract and a new lease accounting model for lessees that require lessees to recognise all leases (operating and finance leases) on the Statement of Financial Position as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, except for short term leases (lease terms of 12 months or less at commencement date) and low-value assets (where the underlying asset is valued less than \$5,000). The operating lease and finance lease distinction for lessees no longer exists.

Under AASB 16, CCYP takes into consideration all operating leases that were off balance sheet under AASB 117 and recognises:

- Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position, initially measured at the present value of future lease payments, discounted using the incremental borrowing rate (2.5%) on 1 July 2019
- Depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities in the Statement of Comprehensive Income

Notes to the financial statements

- The total amount of cash paid as principal amount, which is presented in the cash flows from financing activities, and interest paid, which is presented in the cash flows from operating activities, in the Statement of Cash Flows.

The right-of-use assets are assessed for impairment at the date of transition and CCYP has not identified any impairments to its right-of-use assets.

On transition, CCYP has elected to apply the following practical expedients in the assessment of the State Fleet vehicle lease that were previously classified as an operating lease under AASB 117:

- A single discount rate has been applied and
- Initial direct costs have been excluded from the measurement of the right-of-use asset.

CCYP has not reassessed whether existing contracts are, or contained, a lease at 1 July 2019. The requirements of paragraphs 9–11 of AASB 16 are applied to contracts that came into existence post 1 July 2019.

Measurement of lease liabilities

Operating Lease Commitments disclosed as at 30 June 2019	33,887
Discounted using incremental borrowing rate at date of initial application ^(a)	32,541
Lease liability recognised at 1 July 2019	32,541
Current lease liabilities	8,290
Non-current lease liabilities	24,251

(a) The WA Treasury Corporation incremental borrowing rate was used for the purposes of calculating the lease transition opening balance.



Young person during COVID-19 pandemic

Notes to the financial statements

8.3 Key management personnel

CCYP has determined key management personnel to include cabinet ministers and senior officers. CCYP does not incur expenditures to compensate ministers and therefore no disclosure is required. The disclosure in relation to ministers' compensation may be found in the *Annual Report on State Finances*.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of CCYP for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band (\$)	2020	2019
300,001 – 310,000	1	-
280,001 – 290,000	-	1
150,001 – 160,000	-	1
140,001 – 150,000	1	-
120,001 – 130,000	1	1
110,001 – 120,000	1	-
100,001 – 110,000	-	1
30,001 – 40,000	1	-
Total compensation of senior officers	721,267	672,801

Total compensation includes the superannuation expense incurred by CCYP in respect of senior officers.

8.4 Related party transactions

CCYP is a wholly-owned public sector entity that is controlled by the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of CCYP include:

- all cabinet ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities
- other departments and public sector entities, including related bodies included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly-owned public sector entities)
- associates and joint ventures of a wholly-owned public sector entity
- Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

There were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

Notes to the financial statements

8.5 Related bodies

CCYP has no related bodies.

8.6 Affiliated bodies

CCYP has no affiliated bodies.

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements controls and Key Performance Indicators	23,477	23,477

8.8 Equity

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Contributed equity		
Balance at start of period	-	-
Contributions by owners		
Capital appropriation	10,000	-
Total Contributions by owners	10,000	-
Balance at the end of the reporting period	10,000	-

8.9 Explanatory statement (Controlled operations)

CCYP is exempted from TI945 Explanatory Statements, which requires the reporting of significant variances for 2020 and 2019 and annual estimates and actual results for 2020, as CCYP's Total Cost of Services is below \$10 million for the two most recent consecutive comparative periods.

TI945 Paragraph (1)(ii)

This instruction applies to accountable authorities of:

Each general government sector agency preparing Annual Estimates as defined in paragraphs (2)(i)(b)-(c) of this instruction (where applicable) and where their Total Cost of Services exceeds \$10 million for the two most recent consecutive comparative periods.

Disclosures and legal compliance



Audited Key Performance Indicators

Certification of Key Performance Indicators

for the year ended 30 June 2020

I hereby certify that the Key Performance Indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Commissioner for Children and Young People’s performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.



C. Pettit
Accountable Authority
3 September 2020

Key Performance Indicators information

Commissioner For Children And Young People Approved Outcome Based Management Structure
Government Goal Strong Communities: Safe communities and supported families
Agency Level Desired Outcome(s) The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon
Service Consultation, research and promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people
Key Effectiveness Indicators 1.1 Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted 1.2 Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched advocated and promoted
Key Efficiency Indicators 2.1 Unit cost per child 2.2 Unit cost per representation

Key Performance Indicators information

Key Effectiveness Indicator 1.1

Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted.

Description

It is a responsibility of the Commissioner to consult with a broad range of children and young people throughout WA each year. The scope and goals for this are set out in the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* and the Strategic Plan.

Consultation will comprise a number of discrete projects, involving the Commissioner (or the staff of the office, or a consultant/contractor employed to act on the Commissioner's behalf) seeking the considered views of children and young people on a range of issues in both metropolitan and regional locations across WA.

Target 2019–20

1,500 children and young people consulted

Number of children and young people consulted in regional and metropolitan areas¹

Reporting period	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Regional	1,414	1,631	470
Metropolitan	3,159	2,791	765
Online ^{3,4}			821
Total number of children consulted	4,573	4,422²	2,056

Notes

Note 1 This is the third year of reporting on this KPI.

Note 2 The number of children and young people consulted in the 2018–19 financial year exceeded 2019–20 due to the Speaking Out Survey, which was a large scale research project undertaken on a triennial basis. This survey was not repeated in 2019–20.

Note 3 In 2019–20, COVID-19 social isolation restrictions (March–June 2020) impacted the traditional modes of consulting with young people face-to-face. The Commissioner's online platforms were enhanced as a means of engaging with children and young people and hearing about their experiences during COVID-19. The online number represents children and young people from metropolitan and regional areas. The identification of regional participants was not possible across all the online platforms, therefore the volume of responses have been collated together.

Note 4 Corporate Executive members met in early August 2020 to discuss the revision of KPI targets and agreed to keep the targets for 2020–21 at current levels. Over the next 12 months a planned approach to the revision of the targets will take place. This approach will include consideration of services that have been impacted by COVID-19, the potential expansion of online operations, the development of a new five year strategic plan scheduled for December 2020, involvement of the Internal Audit Committee and consultation with Treasury and the Attorney General.

Key Performance Indicators information

Key Effectiveness Indicator 1.2

Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are researched, advocated and promoted.

Description

The Commissioner’s role includes analysis and interpretation of information collected through consultation and research processes to identify issues and trends affecting children and young people. The Commissioner is responsible for making representations that explore the impact of these issues and advocate for, and promote the views of children and young people and what is in the best interests of their wellbeing.

Target 2019–20

200 representations

Number of representations¹

Type of representation	Number of representations		
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Submissions	23	31	39
Publications	23	19	30
Evidence before Parliamentary Committee	5	3	5
Speeches and presentations	51	51	31
Media articles	28	27	35
Forums and seminars ²	24	13	4
Strategic advocacy meetings ^{2,3}	33	75	117
CCYP support for research proposals	1	6	6
Community consultations ^{2,3}	15	0	3
TOTAL	203	225	270

Notes

Note 1 This KPI was reported for the first time in 2017–18 to better reflect the work of the Commissioner’s office as the role has developed since its inauguration in 2007. Corporate Executive members met in early August 2020 to discuss the revision of KPI targets and agreed to keep the targets for the 2020–21 at current levels. Over the next 12 months a planned approach to the revision of the targets will take place. This approach will include consideration of services that have been impacted by COVID-19, the potential expansion of online operations, the development of a new five year strategic plan scheduled for December 2020, involvement of the Internal Audit Committee and consultation with Treasury and the Attorney General.

Key Performance Indicators information

Note 2 In 2019–20 COVID-19 social distancing restrictions (March–June 2020) impacted some traditional modes of representations. The number of forums, seminars, speeches and presentations were significantly lower than previous years, whilst there was a notable increase in strategic advocacy meetings, which could continue to occur in online meeting formats during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Note 3 Improved data capturing processes over the last three years has increased the number of meetings recorded.

Key Efficiency Indicators

Consultation, research and the promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people are a responsibility of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the scope and goals for this are prescribed in the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*. The key efficiency indicators measure the level of resources used to deliver the services.

Key Efficiency Indicators in this reporting period

Key Efficiency Indicators	Target 2017–18	Actual 2017–18	Target 2018–19	Actual 2018–19	Target 2019–20	Actual 2019–20
2.1 Unit cost per child	\$507	\$180	\$610	\$212	\$756	\$481
2.2 Unit cost per representation	\$12,395	\$11,545	\$12,987	\$9,547	\$10,298	\$7,164

Notes

The unit cost per child in 2019–20 was less than the target. This is due to the total number of children participating being greater than the target number. The number of children and young people consulted in 2018–19 was greater than in 2019–20, thus the unit cost per child was lower in 2018–19. The number of children and young people participating in consultations varies according to the projects undertaken.

The unit cost per representation in 2019–20 was less than the target. This is due to the actual number of representations being greater than the target number. The number and types of representations made varies according to the projects undertaken.

The existing KPI targets have been reported for three years, and Corporate Executive members met in early August 2020 to discuss the revision of KPI targets and agreed to keep the targets for the 2020–21 at current levels. Over the next 12 months, a planned approach to the revision of the targets will take place. This approach will include consideration of services that have been impacted by COVID-19, the potential expansion of online operations, the development of a new five year strategic plan scheduled for December 2020, involvement of the Internal Audit Committee and consultation with Treasury and the Attorney General.

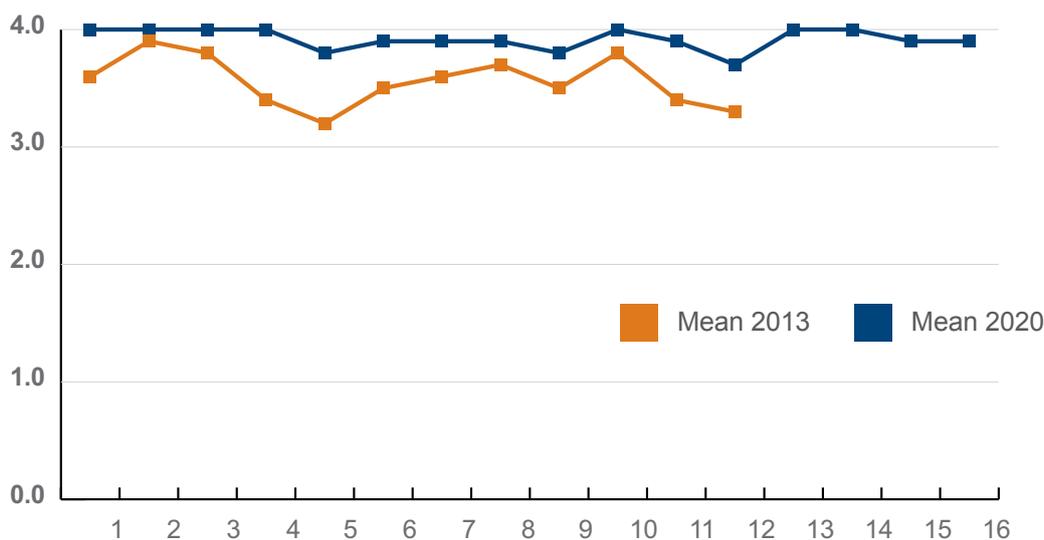
Good governance

Integrity Strategy for WA Public Authorities 2020–2023

To meet the Public Sector Commission’s requirement to implement the Integrity Strategy for WA Public Authorities 2020–2023, Corporate Executive and managers reflected on the office’s policies, procedures and processes. The status of the Commissioner’s approach to integrity was assessed using the Integrity Snapshot Tool provided by the Public Sector Commission. The Commissioner’s response was added to the Corporate Governance Framework as a means of supporting staff’s commitment to improving integrity.

An integrity survey to measure the Commissioner’s modelling and embodying of a culture of integrity was given to all staff to complete in 2020. The first 12 questions were the same as the previous 2013 survey, with four more added from the 2019 Public Sector Commission’s Integrity framework, enabling the Commissioner to compare the results. The results showed that the Commissioner’s staff responses to their perceptions on misconduct resistance improved across all questions.

Response (Mean) to Misconduct Resistance (Integrity) Questionnaire



Internal Audit Committee

The Commissioner has revised the format of his Internal Audit Committee as another means of responding to the Public Sector Commission’s key actions for improving areas to promote integrity and help prevent misconduct and corruption. The Treasurer’s Instruction 1201 has determined that government agencies should have an independent chair for their Internal Audit Committee as an element of their system and control requirements for public authorities. The Chair of the Commissioner’s Internal Audit Committee is Jeremy Hubble, General Manager Corporate Services, Lotterywest. The Commissioner acknowledges Lotterywest for agreeing to release Mr Hubble to act in this role. An Internal Audit Charter and a Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2019–20 to 2022–23 have been developed by the Committee.

Good governance

Internal audit

Under the WA Government Common Use Agreement, the Commissioner engaged William Buck to provide internal audit services on procurement and payments and leave entitlements.

No risks requiring urgent management attention were noted in respect of current procedures and compliance with the current government reporting requirement.

Risk management

The management of risk and associated risk mitigation strategies continued to be a focus in 2019–20. A formal review of any identified corporate risks (e.g. human resources, integrity and conduct, ICT governance including cyber security) is incorporated into the monthly Corporate Executive meeting agenda and in all templates for project management. The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed by Corporate Executive as a standing item on the agenda each quarter.

Financial management

A monthly financial management report is provided for endorsement at all Corporate Executive meetings. The Financial Management Manual is regularly reviewed and updated by the Commissioner’s Chief Finance Officer to ensure currency with legislative and policy changes.

Policies and procedures

The Commissioner’s policies and procedures are reviewed, updated regularly and new policies added to the Corporate Governance Framework once endorsed by Corporate Executive. The Commissioner’s Business Continuity Plan was extensively revised in March 2020 to incorporate a section on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for a pandemic.

Ministerial directives

Except under Section 26 of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, the Commissioner is not subject to direction by a Minister or any other person in the performance of his functions.

There were no directions under Section 26 of the Act in 2019–20.

Other financial disclosures

Board and Committee Remuneration

The Commissioner does not have any State Boards or Committees as defined in the Premier's Circular 2010/02 – State Government Boards and Committees.

Employment and Industrial Relations

At 30 June 2020, the Commissioner for Children and Young People employed 15.4 full-time employees (FTE), which is a small increase in staff from the previous year and includes a school-based trainee working one day a week. The Commissioner has one staff member on placement from another agency.

In December 2019, the average tenure for the Commissioner's staff was 6.9 years, compared to 9.1 years for WA public sector entities. Staff working at the Commissioner's office for less than five years was 62.5 per cent, compared to 45.5 per cent WA public sector wide.

Females comprised 82.4 per cent of the Commissioner's workforce compared to 72.7 per cent within the WA public sector entities.

The Commissioner's office does not have any employees working in regional areas.

Staff development

Staff training and development continues to be a high priority for the Commissioner. All staff participate in Performance Appraisal and Development sessions with their line manager at the beginning of the year. The Performance Appraisal and Development sessions provide a framework for planning, developing, reviewing and appraising the work of individual staff members with reference to the Commissioner's strategic directions and annual business/operational plan. The public sector's Capability Frameworks, Capability profile: levels 1–6 and the Leadership Capability profiles (level 7 to class 4) are also used as part of the appraisal process.

Monies spent for professional development for the Commissioner's staff was approximately \$11,000 for the 2019–20 financial year, which represents an average amount of approximately \$700 per staff member.

All staff attended a Youth Disability Advocacy Network workshop, an Ethics and Accountability workshop and a session on 'Dealing with difficult customers' as professional development.

Worker's compensation

There were no worker's compensation claims in 2019–20, and no work-related injuries. The Commissioner's office complies with the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* and Public Sector Commissioner's Circular 2012/05 and would ensure that, should there be any work-related injuries, they would be managed and reported in accordance with these requirements.

The Hazard Identification Checklist and quarterly inspections have continued during 2019–20, with the latest inspection being held in April 2020. The results of these inspections are tabled at Corporate Executive meetings and any findings or issues addressed immediately.

Governance disclosures

Governance disclosures

The Commissioner has no governance disclosures to make.

Contracts with Senior Officers

At the date of reporting, no senior officers, or firms of which senior officers are members, or entities in which senior officers have substantial interests, had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with the Commissioner for Children and Young People other than normal contracts of employment of service.

Other legal requirements

Advertising

Section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907* requires public agencies to report details of expenditure to organisations providing services in relation to advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising. The agency has not incurred expenditure of this nature.

Disability access and inclusion plan

The Commissioner's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020 was revised this year.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is available to all staff. It forms part of the Commissioner's standard induction information and is available in the records management system of the office and on the website.

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and ethical codes

The Commissioner has a strong commitment to promoting integrity in official conduct and is committed to achieving high standards of monitoring and ensuring compliance with the Public Sector Standards, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and the office's Code of Conduct. The Corporate Executive, which includes the Commissioner, leads and promotes these standards within the office.

The office has policies, procedures and processes that support the application of:

- the WA Public Sector Code of Ethics
- the WA Public Sector Standards in Human Resources Management
- the Commissioner's Code of Conduct and Management of Conflict of Interest Policy
- a family-friendly workplace.

During 2019–20, the Commissioner held regular staff meetings where any matters relevant to Public Sector Standards could be raised and discussed.

Other financial disclosures (continued)

Compliance with Public Sector Standards

The Commissioner has established procedures to ensure compliance with s31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

No Breach of Standard Claims were lodged in the current reporting period.

Compliance with the Western Australia Public Sector Code of Ethics

There has been no evidence of non-compliance with the Public Sector Code of Ethics.

Compliance with the Commissioner for Children and Young People Code of Conduct

There has been no evidence of non-compliance with the Commissioner’s Code of Conduct. There were no public interest disclosures about the activities of the Commissioner’s office.

Recordkeeping Plan

The Recordkeeping Plan for the Commissioner was approved by the State Records Commission in August 2019. Recordkeeping forms part of the induction process for new staff members and staff are regularly updated and reminded about their recordkeeping responsibilities by email.



Young person, Pilbara region

Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

The Commissioner is not required to implement the Government's Policy Framework for Substantive Equity but supports its intent and substance.

Reconciliation Action Plan

All work undertaken by the Commissioner is underpinned by the legislative requirement to have special regard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, which ensures that the principles identified within the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) are integrated into all office procedures and practices. These include:

- A review and evaluation of the implementation of the RAP July 2018–July 2020, resulting in an updated RAP for July 2020–July 2022
- Acknowledgement of traditional ownership in all speeches by the Commissioner
- Production of a video featuring WA Aboriginal children and young people speaking about the importance of Country and culture, which is played at all events hosted by the Commissioner and in all of the Commissioner's presentations
- In planning regional visits, the Commissioner respects cultural authority and requests permission from Elders to visit communities and engage with their young people
- All submissions to the Corporate Executive are reviewed to consider and identify any implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- Any consultations conducted by or on behalf of the Commissioner for Children and Young People must include young Aboriginal people or their representatives where appropriate
- Participation of all staff in Aboriginal cultural workshops determined by mapping staff understanding against an Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework
- Display of art by young Aboriginal people in the Commissioner's office.

Occupational safety, health and injury management

Active and continuous improvement in safety management practices at the Commissioner's office demonstrates the Commissioner and staff's dedication to this aspect of office life. This has been particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic when some staff worked off-site.

Occupational safety and health is a standing item on the monthly Corporate Executive meeting agenda and on the monthly staff meeting agenda. This enables any staff to raise a concern if required. The Commissioner has a dedicated occupational safety and health staff representative who conducts Workplace Safety Hazard Inspections every three months, which are then tabled at Corporate Executive meetings for notation.

All workstations have been provided with a sit-stand desk attachment.

There were no critical incidents to report for the 2019–20 year.

Government policy requirements (continued)

Occupational safety and health data in this reporting period

Measure	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019	2019–2020
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0
Lost time injury/disease (LTI/D) incidence rate	0	0	0	0
Lost time injury severity rate	0	0	0	0
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 13 weeks and (ii) 26 weeks	0	0	0	0
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	100%	100%	100%	100%

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and Child Friendly Complaints Mechanisms

In February 2019, the Council of Australian Governments, including the Premier of WA, endorsed the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations for adoption and application throughout all relevant sectors and organisations in child-related work.

The Commissioner comprehensively reviewed and evaluated the child safe strategies across his office and in the team’s work with children and young people in 2016. Actions were identified to strengthen processes and practices, and these were undertaken and noted as complete by the Corporate Executive. In 2019–20, the Commissioner reviewed the child safe practices again as part of the continuous improvement processes and included feedback from children and young people, parents and stakeholders involved with the team.

The Commissioner has comprehensive child safe strategies in place, including a structured approach to risk management to clearly identify, analyse, evaluate and implement mechanisms to eliminate or mitigate identified risks to the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people in all work, consultations, advisory committees and in the community.

National Principle Six details the implementation of child friendly complaints process. The Commissioner has readily accessible mechanisms for children and young people and their families/advocates to provide feedback and to make complaints that meet the expectations of this principle.

In 2019–20, feedback from children and young people was proactively sought in every consultation activity. No complaints were made by children and young people or adults about the Commissioners projects, activities or office.



”

One quarter of our State’s population do not have a vote and yet these young citizens have valuable perspectives that deserve to be heard and considered.”

Colin Pettit



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

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