



Strategic Directions 2021-2026

Western Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory officer and reports directly to the Parliament of Western Australia.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006 clearly outlines the functions of the role in advocating for all Western Australian children and young people.

The Commissioner is able to table reports in the Parliament, conduct inquiries and require agencies to provide information on matters relating to the wellbeing of WA's children and young people.

A Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee monitors the work of the Commissioner's office.



The Commissioner will align the work of the office to three key platforms for 2021-2026:

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



1

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

Key actions:

- Promote the rights of children and young people as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child across law, policy and practice.
 - Collaborate with government and non-government agencies to involve children and young people in their work and decision making and embed the Child Impact Assessment Guidelines.
 - Engage children and young people in the design and delivery of projects and activities.
 - Provide opportunities for children and young people across Western Australia to inform and contribute to our work, including the annual appointment of two advisory committees of children and young people.
 - Continuously implement strategies to ensure WA's regional and remote children and young people are engaged and their voices heard.
 - Utilise the Perth cultural precinct as a place of engagement for children and young people.
 - Continue to develop approaches that enhance the voice and value children and young people have towards their lived environment.
 - Ensure that the views expressed by children and young people through WA's Speaking Out Survey on their wellbeing and contributions to our community are heard and broaden the scope of this survey to further engage children and young people with disability and younger children.
 - Investigate alternative approaches to communicating with and for children and young people, including increased online engagement.
 - Engage children and young people in a range of forums and seminars on issues they identify and that impact them.
 - Review our approach to sponsorship to target groups that respond to the rights of children and young people and ensure their voice is a driving force in decision-making.
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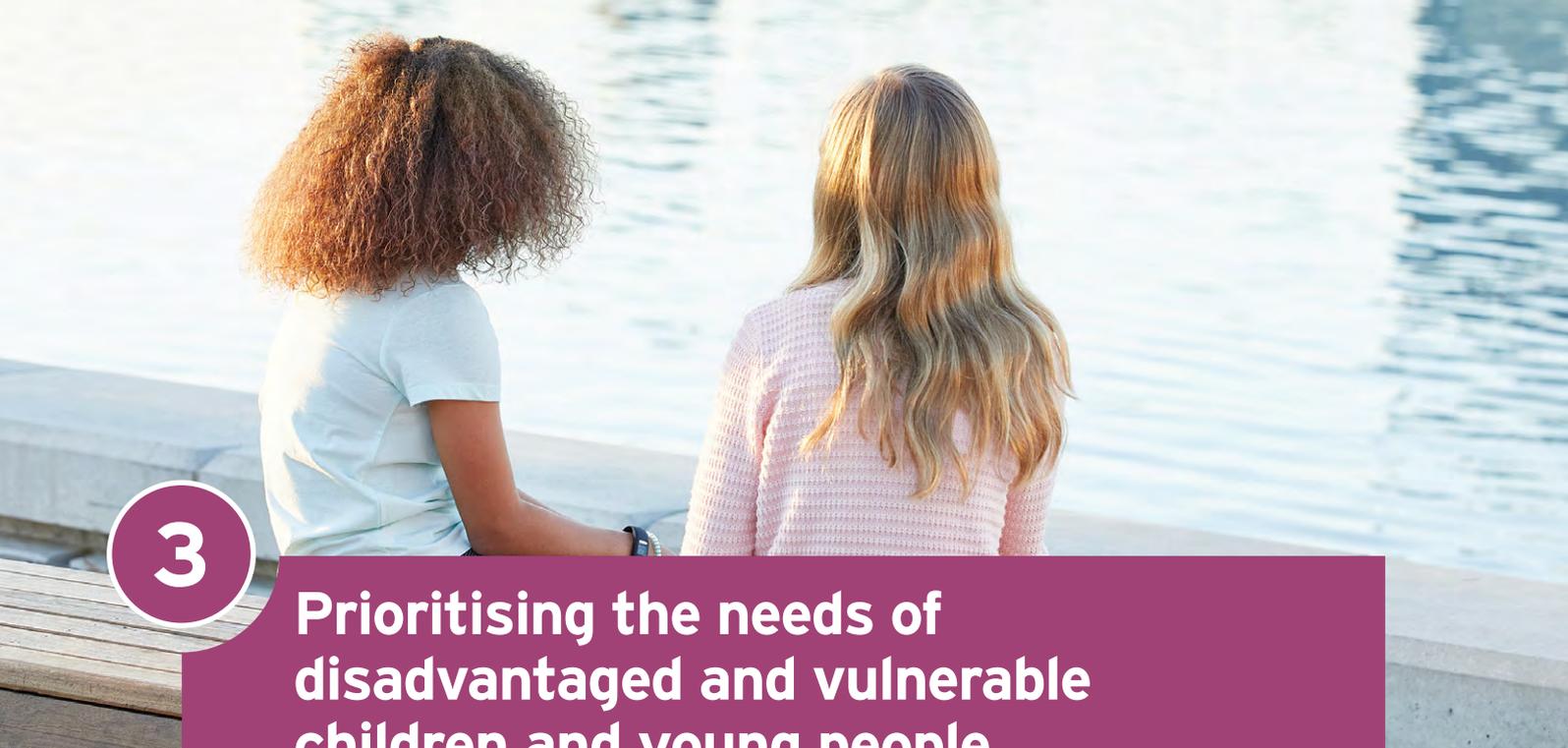


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Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all Western Australian children and young people

Key actions:

- Develop and implement oversight approaches to ensure the rights of children and young people are met. This will include:
 - Measuring, monitoring and supporting improvement for children and young people within agencies that impact directly on children and young people.
 - Regularly report on oversight outcomes to government, agencies and the community to hold actions for children and young people to account.
 - Further develop the WA Wellbeing Monitoring Framework, including an annual Profile of WA children and young people, the Indicators of Wellbeing, and monitor recommendations made in relation to children and young people's wellbeing.
 - Report annually on the implementation and outcomes of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This will include:
 - Providing leadership, information and resources to guide and support organisations to develop and enhance their focus on child safety.
 - Improving the process of monitoring child friendly complaints systems in government agencies.
 - Ensure the office is the primary advocate for improvement in services and responses to Harmful Sexual Behaviours within agencies.
 - Based on responses from the Speaking Out Survey:
 - Develop projects that respond to the voice of children and young people. e.g. how female children and young people feel about themselves and the communities view of them.
 - Investigate the possible use of data by universities to provide further research the Commissioner views as important.
 - Investigate the development and administration of a whole of population approach on a biannual basis.
 - Investigate the impact technology and social media has on children and young people's wellbeing and development.
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3

Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people

- Promote the importance and understanding of culture for children and young people, particularly those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds by co-designing consultations and continuous staff development to reflect the value children place on their culture in our work.
 - Continue to advocate for the appointment of an Aboriginal Commissioner for Children and Young People as an active collaborative partner to explicitly address over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in all services.
 - Ongoing development of work to recognise, celebrate and educate others on issues relating to diverse groups of children and young people including those who identify as LGBTIQ+, living with disability and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
 - Monitor, report and advocate to highlight the impact that poverty, mental health, involvement with the justice and out-of-home care systems, domestic violence and disengagement have on the wellbeing of vulnerable groups of children and young people.
 - Research and focus on the needs for early intervention strategies that are effective in preventing poorer outcomes for vulnerable groups of children and young people.
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Connect with the Commissioner



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