



POLICY STATEMENT: EDUCATION

Principles

The *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006 (WA)* establishes that the Commissioner's paramount concern must be the best interests of children and young people in WA. The Commissioner undertakes research with children and young people to ensure their voices inform the activities and priorities of the Commissioner.

Critically, children and young people must be informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously. Significant international evidence demonstrates the value of lived experience in the development of policy, programs and services.

The Commissioner advocates to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the children and young people affected by the education system.

Position

A holistic view of the child and young person must be at the core of all policy, programs and services. The interconnectedness of matters such as health, education, housing, safety and the challenges of exclusion and vulnerability demand a connected service system.

Children and young people deserve holistic support to improve their emotional, social, cultural, and physical wellbeing.

The Commissioner strongly supports the right of every child to an education that supports them to thrive. Children and young people have the right to a good quality education where they are encouraged to go to school to the highest level they can. In line with national and international evidence, the Commissioner advocates for the following approaches to education:

- a culture of high expectations
- child and youth-centred
- inclusive and equitable
- safe, fair and respectful learning environments
- engagement in learning from early years, and supported, successful transitions
- empowering children and young people to participate and contribute throughout life
- collaboration with families, community and support services.

The Commissioner's advocacy priorities are informed by consultation with children and young people across WA, research, and stakeholder engagement. The Commissioner for Children and Young People will prioritise additional issues of concern to provide evidence-informed recommendations to Government as needs arise.

