

# Calling on young people to join our discussion on Youth justice in Western Australia



## Commissioner for Children and Young People

My name is Jacqueline McGowan-Jones and I am the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Western Australia.

My office and I work hard to make a better world for all children and young people. We:

- stand up for children and young people's rights
- listen to what children and young people have to say
- tell everyone about the great ideas children and young people have and the great things they do.

You should have the things you need to be safe and well, to learn and grow. You should also have a say in the things that matter to you. I share what I learn with people in charge so that they make things better for children and young people.

## Youth justice

All children and young people should feel safe and happy at home and at school. Some children and young people need more help to grow and thrive. Some children and young people have a hard time at home or at school. And for some children and young people, this leads them to be involved in crime.

Did you know there are around 100 children and young people in detention (that's where kids go instead of jail) every night in Western Australia?

Children and young people who have broken the law should only go to detention when there is no other option. And it should only be for the shortest amount of time. Many children and young people tell me that it is hard for them to stay away from crime. They would like more help to be able to stop doing things that get them in trouble.

I want to find out what we need to do to help all children and young people in the youth justice system. This is what I've learnt so far.

Children and young people in the youth justice system or in detention should:

- Have their voices heard and have a say in making choices that affect them.
- Be able to grow, learn, and thrive.
- Know what is happening to them.
- Be treated differently to adults.
- Get the help they need to stay away from being involved in crime.
- Have access to things like school, sport, and recreation.
- Learn new skills to help them to build a new life.
- Have someone to speak to when they need help.
- Stay in touch with their family often.



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## Now I want to know what you think

Below are some questions I'm asking the young people of WA.

### Questions for young people

- 1** How can we help children and young people to get the help they need before they get involved in crime?
- 2** How can we help children and young people to stop doing things that get them in trouble or to do things that help like going to school?
- 3** How can we help children and young people who have a hard time at home?
- 4** How can we better support families?
- 5** How can we help children and young people in detention:
  - To feel safe and to speak up about concerns?
  - To know their rights?
  - To learn new skills?
  - To be involved in things like school and sport?
  - To get the help they need when they go home?

### Your ideas

Please tell me any ideas you have for how we make the lives of children and young people better before and after they have contact with the youth justice system. Your voices matter.

You can submit your response online or email us at: [info@ccyp.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@ccyp.wa.gov.au)



Share your ideas

