



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011



READING THE ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report can be accessed in several different formats.

Online

This Annual Report is available as a PDF and Word file download from www.ccyp.wa.gov.au as a full report or in its individual sections:

- From the Commissioner (Executive summary)
- Overview of the agency, including the Performance Management Framework
- Agency performance
- Significant issues impacting the agency
- Disclosures and legal compliance, including financial statements

Hyperlinks are included throughout the report. Links to content within this report are [highlighted in blue](#) and links to websites are [highlighted in blue and underlined](#).

Hard copy

Printed copies of the report can be viewed at the:

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1 Alvan Street
SUBIACO WA

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Alternative formats

On request, large print or alternate format copies of the Annual Report can be obtained from the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Additionally, the 2010-11 Report to the Community is available from the publications section of the Commissioner's website.

Contact

Commissioner for Children and Young People
Ground floor
1 Alvan Street
SUBIACO WA 6008
Telephone: (08) 6213 2297
Country freecall: 1800 072 444
Email: info@ccyp.wa.gov.au
Web: www.ccyp.wa.gov.au



LETTER TO PARLIAMENT

Hon. Barry House MLC
President, Legislative Council

Hon. Grant Woodhams MLA
Speaker, Legislative Assembly

Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People 2010-11

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 2011.

This 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*.

MICHELLE SCOTT
Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

28 September 2011



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FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Executive Summary

I am pleased to present my fourth annual report to the Parliament of Western Australia. As Commissioner I am required to discharge a broad range of responsibilities under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act (2006)* (the Act). In accordance with the Act I have paid special regard to Aboriginal children and young people and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

In 2010-11 I have continued to fulfil the statutory requirements of my role and further establish the role of the Commissioner. Part of these requirements is to report annually on Key Performance Indicators. Two of these indicators relate to important legislated requirements of my role – consulting with children and young people, and advocating on their behalf for improved policies, programs and laws that enhance their wellbeing.

This year my office conducted 25 separate consultations with some 960 children and young people. A range of methods, such as informal meetings, structured consultations, creative workshops, online surveys and competitions, were utilised to maximise the participation of children and young people in the work of my office.

In 2010-11 I made 95 'representations' to promote and enhance the wellbeing of children and young people. This included conducting a major Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, 26 formal submissions, providing comment on draft legislation, published research and evidence to a range of parliamentary inquiries.

More detail on my Key Performance Indicators is available on [page 80](#) of this Annual Report.

A significant undertaking this year was my first Inquiry as Commissioner. My *Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia* was tabled in the Western Australian Parliament in May 2011, and made 54 recommendations to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

It provides a road map of what needs to be done at commonwealth and state levels and in government and non-government sectors. The Inquiry – the first of its kind in Australia – found there is significant under investment at every level of children and young people's mental health care, from promotion and prevention to early intervention and treatment. Both during and following the Inquiry I have been working closely with the Mental Health Commissioner about the Inquiry's findings and the priority needs of children and young people. I will be monitoring the implementation of the report's recommendations throughout 2011-2012.



Michelle Scott



Another significant achievement this year was the release of my report *Speaking out about wellbeing - The views of Western Australian children and young people*. This report was based on research I commissioned in 2009 to find out what children and young people considered important to their wellbeing. It highlights the views of almost 1,000 children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, geographical and situational backgrounds. The research found that most kids were faring well, however many had concerns about bullying, family conflict, alcohol-related harm and public safety. The research was followed by the release of 11 'policy briefs' summarising the issues important to children and young people. The research and policy briefs are designed to inform and influence policy makers and service providers.

Currently, WA does not measure in a holistic way the wellbeing of children and young people. In February 2011 work began on a project to monitor and report on the wellbeing of WA's children and young people. The Wellbeing Monitoring Framework will provide a picture of how Western Australian kids are faring. It has three components – a series of measures of children's wellbeing; a compilation of best practice and most promising programs; and a demographic profile. The framework is set to be completed in the second half of 2011.

I continued to seek direct advice and input from children and young people in a variety of ways in 2010-11. This included my two Advisory Committees, visits to regional and metropolitan communities and targeted consultations. Children and young people were invited to share their views about mental health and wellbeing

in the inaugural Commissioner for a Day Challenge. The Challenge asked kids what they would do to stay mentally healthy and 114 entries were received. The opinions gathered in the Challenge together with consultations with about 600 young people from vulnerable groups helped inform my Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in WA and will continue to guide my work in this important area.

During 2010-2011 I hosted a number of forums and seminars to exchange knowledge, share experiences and forge relationships. This included my partnership with the University of Western Australia to mark Children's Week with a forum on child and adolescent mental health. I also collaborated with the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, CREATEC at Edith Cowan University and Rio Tinto to deliver a seminar in March which explored the role of contemporary arts programs in increasing the innovation of children and young people.

In 2010-11 I have continued to work with broad sections of the community to bring about positive change to laws, policies, programs and services for children and young people.

Examples of this include an independent reference group which gave expert advice throughout my Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia, and the valuable input provided by the independent reviewer Julian Gardner. Senior government representatives and non-government stakeholders, including the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research, Curtin University, WA Council of Social Service and ARACY, are participating in a reference group that is providing



advice on the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework. Similarly, many government and non-government agencies are providing advice regarding my work on reducing alcohol-related harm on children and young people.

I value the expertise of individuals and agencies involved in the work of my office and I thank them for their dedication and contributions.

Throughout the year I provided advice on policy and legislative change, formally reviewing five pieces of draft legislation and preparing 26 formal submissions. These included a review of the *Bail Act 1982* (WA); joint submissions from the Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians on the draft Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2010; the Senate inquiry into the draft Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2010; The Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety's Inquiry on Cyber Safety; the Senate Inquiry into the Australian Film and Literature Classification Scheme; and the Review of Classification – Australian Law Reform Commission Draft Terms of Reference.

During 2010-11 I publicly represented the interests of children and young people in numerous ways. I spoke about the importance of investing in the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people at numerous forums including the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health and Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Conference, the WA Annual Magistrates' Conference on Youth Justice and the WA Local Government Association and Playgroup WA Early Years Forum. In January I represented Australia's children commissioners and guardians at the House of Representative's Roundtable on Indigenous youth and the criminal justice system.

I highlighted the issue of alcohol-related harm and called for restrictions on alcohol advertising, the introduction of a volumetric tax on alcohol and a restriction on liquor outlets in evidence to a Parliamentary inquiry into drug and alcohol problems in WA. I released a policy brief and an issues paper about the impact of alcohol on children and young people and alcohol-related harm was the theme of the 2011 Commissioner for a Day Challenge.

I advocated strongly for a focus on crime prevention, diversions, intensive interventions and rehabilitation for young offenders and those at risk of becoming so, including a 24-hour bail service to be available to children and young people in the metropolitan area. In a submission to the Department of the Attorney General on a review of the *Bail Act 1982*, I recommended that it be amended to reflect the principles of the *Young Offenders Act* that children should be treated differently from adults under the law, and contain a separate provision for child-specific criteria for bail, similar to what already occurs in other states and territories.

In addition to the policy and project work I have undertaken, my staff and I travelled more than 19,000 kilometres, visiting 10 regional towns and seven schools to speak with community members, children and young people and their families, and service providers.

The year ahead will involve a sustained focus on mental health and the further development and consideration of strategies to protect young people from alcohol-related harm. 2011-12 will see the delivery of the three reports which constitute the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework, providing an overview of children and young



people's wellbeing. It will also be marked by the visit to Perth of our inaugural Thinker in Residence who, along with key organisations and decision makers, will explore the benefit of arts and creativity to children and young people.

I will continue to build on the existing strong partnerships and relationships I have developed in the past year and will work collaboratively with children and young people and their families, the community, government and non-government organisations and the private sector to ensure the needs of children and young people are heard and acted on.

I would like to thank my Advisory Committees and the many children and young people and their families I met this year who enabled me to hear first-hand their opinions, experiences and hopes for the future.

Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People

OVERVIEW OF THE AGENCY

Operational structure

Who is the Commissioner?

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent advocate for the more than 500,000 children and young people under the age of 18 years living in Western Australia.

Operating under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act) and working collaboratively with all sections of the community, the Commissioner aims to build a future for children and young people in Western Australia where they are heard, healthy, safe, able to reach their potential and are welcomed as valued members of the community.

The first Commissioner for Children and Young People WA – Michelle Scott – was appointed in December 2007. Young people were part of the panel that selected Ms Scott, who was appointed by the Governor of Western Australia for a term of five years.

Ms Scott has a degree in social work and has spent a large part of her working life in government (local, state and federal) and the non-government sector. Much of her work has been with families and community organisations that advocate for improved supports and programs for families.

Ms Scott was previously the WA Public Advocate, protecting and promoting the rights of people with decision making disabilities from 2002 to 2007. She has also been a member of the Mental Health Review Board and senior member of both the Immigration Review Tribunal and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

What does the Commissioner do?

Our mission

To improve the wellbeing of children and young people by working with them, their families, community and government in Western Australia.

Our vision

All children and young people in Western Australia are heard, healthy, safe, able to reach their potential and welcomed as valued members of the community.

Our functions and principles

All of the Commissioner's work is underpinned by the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

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 – children and young people are entitled to live in a caring and nurturing environment, to be protected from harm and exploitation, and encouraged to reach their goals
- promotes strategies and outcomes that enhance the wellbeing of children and young people
- monitors the wellbeing of children and young people generally in the community
- recognises parents, guardians, families and communities



have the main role to protect children and young people and promote their wellbeing, and advocates that they should be supported in carrying out this role

- monitors the trends in complaints made by children and young people to government agencies
- promotes the participation of children and young people in decision making that affects their lives and encourages government and non-government agencies to include children and young people in decision making
- promotes and encourages the views of children and young people as valuable and that they should be seriously considered when decisions are made on matters that affect them
- promotes awareness and understanding in the community about the wellbeing of children and young people
- consults with children and young people and their families in their communities
- considers and makes recommendations on laws, policies, programs and services affecting children and young people
- inquires into any matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people.

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

By law, the Commissioner does not deal with complaints made by

or on behalf of individuals, however she may respond to issues that identify possible systemic problems which negatively affect the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Commissioner has legislated powers to conduct a special inquiry and to submit a report to Parliament on any matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people. A special inquiry was not conducted in 2010-11.

In 2010-11, the Commissioner established (under section 19 of the Act) an Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia. The report of the Inquiry was tabled in the WA Parliament on 5 May 2011.

Schedule 1, clause 3 of the Act, which relates to the 'Working with Children Checks', was not proclaimed as at 30 June 2011.

Who does the Commissioner report to?

The Commissioner is directly responsible to the Western Australian Parliament. On 26 June 2008, the Parliament established 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 functions and reporting. The Commissioner met with the Committee three times during 2010-11.

The Committee is chaired by Ms Andrea Mitchell MLA. More information about the Committee is available at the [Parliament of Western Australia](#) website.



The Commissioner's team

The office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People is divided into three main functions:

- Policy, Legal and Research
- Communication and Participation
- Corporate Support.

Staff profile

At 30 June 2011, the Commissioner for Children and Young People employed 18 staff – the equivalent of 16.2 full-time employees (not including school-based trainee) due to some positions being vacant at the time of the report.

Staff summary at 30 June 2011

Staff type	No. of staff	FTE	Gender	
			M	F
Full-time permanent	10	10.0	2	8
Full-time contract	3	3.0		3
Part-time permanent	3	1.7		3
Part-time contract	1	0.5		1
On secondment	1	1.0	1	
Vacancies*		1.8		
School-based trainee (not reflected in totals)	1	0.4		1
TOTAL	18	18	3	15

* Includes FTE components of staff temporarily working less than one FTE in a full-time position (flexible working arrangements).



Structure



Corporate Executive Team 2010-11

In the role for the entire reporting period, unless indicated.

Executive Director

Caron Irwin

Manager Communication

Darren Gillespie – 1 July 2010 to 17 December 2010
Pip Stremmel – 20 January 2011 to 30 June 2011

Manager Corporate Support
Glenn Morgan

Aboriginal Advisor
Leah Bonson

Manager Research and Projects
Philippa Gardener



Performance Management Framework

The strategic plan that outlines the work of the Commissioner is informed by her statutory obligations under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act).

The activities undertaken by the Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2010-11 are reported in this section according to the three action areas of the Commissioner's *Strategic Directions 2010-2012*.

The Commissioner's Strategic Directions was developed following a review of the original Strategic Plan for the office in late 2009. It incorporates all key aspects of the agency's strategy and operational planning including vision statements, goals, key themes, outputs and a detailed 12-month business plan, which is updated annually.

The three goals of Strategic Directions are:

1. Promote children and young people's participation
2. Influence – policy, services, attitudes and outcomes
3. Governance and capacity.

The Strategic Directions document links directly with the Commissioner's Outcome Based Management Structure and Key Performance Indicators, and contribute to the State Government's goal of a 'greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians'.

Commissioner for Children and Young People – approved outcome based management structure

Government Goal

Outcome based service delivery.
Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Agency Level Desired Outcome

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

Key Effectiveness Indicators

- 1.1 The extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted.
- 1.2 The extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research.

Service

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

Key Cost Efficiency Indicators

- 2.1 Average cost per consultation exercise with children and young people.
- 2.2 Average cost of conducting research and consultation.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Significant initiatives

Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people

In July 2010 the Commissioner announced the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia. The purpose of the Inquiry was to report on, and make recommendations to strengthen and enhance, the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. The Commissioner appointed an expert Reference Group and Independent Reviewer to provide guidance and advice throughout the process.

The first investigation of its kind in WA, the Inquiry considered the whole spectrum of children and young people's mental health needs, including the promotion of positive mental health and early intervention, prevention and intervention services from before birth through to young adulthood.

The Inquiry considered international, national and local research into children and young people's mental health and wellbeing and 141 submissions were received from government, the non-government sector, mental health professionals and members of the public, including children and young people and their families.

Children and young people throughout WA and from diverse backgrounds provided their views and experiences, including Aboriginal children and young people, those in care, children and young people with disabilities and those from culturally and linguistically diverse and regional communities. More than 700 children and young people were consulted.

The [Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia](#) was tabled



in the Parliament of Western Australia in May 2011. Another two publications also resulted from the Inquiry: [Report to children, young people and the community](#) and [Speaking out about mental health: The views of Western Australian children and young people](#).

The Inquiry report contains 54 recommendations that provide a road map of what needs to be done at the national and state levels and in the community to improve children and young people's mental health.

The overwhelming evidence to the Inquiry was that the mental health needs of children and young people have not been afforded sufficient priority and there is an urgent need for reform in terms of both investment and focus.



The Inquiry report was distributed to more than 800 stakeholders and three briefing sessions were held in Perth and via video link to regional areas for key staff from government and non-government agencies and community groups.

In addition to the briefing sessions, following the release of the report, the Commissioner has presented two keynote speeches and two workshops on the Inquiry process and findings:

- Australian Association of Infant Mental Health and Faculty of Child Psychiatry Conference (speech)
- Positive Schools Conference (speech)
- Australian Association of Pastoral Care Conference (workshop)
- Western Australian Early Childhood Education and Care Conference (workshop).

The Commissioner will monitor action against the Inquiry recommendations and report on progress in her 2011-12 Annual Report.

Wellbeing Monitoring Framework

In February 2011 the Commissioner commenced a major project to monitor and report on the wellbeing of Western Australian children and young people.

The Wellbeing Monitoring Framework will for the first time provide a picture of how WA children and young people are faring, in a format that allows comparison with other Australian states and national and international data. It will bring together data from various agencies and provide a central resource of information and research. The data provided will help government, non-government organisations, the private sector and the broader community identify where resources should be directed to achieve the best results in the care, development, education, health and safety of children and young people.

There are three parts to the Framework:

1. Profile - A demographic profile of WA's children and young people

The Profile of children and young people in Western Australia will be the first component of the Framework to be completed. It will be released as an electronic PDF publication as well as an interactive website application. It will provide information about WA's youngest citizens through a range of socio-demographic factors and statistical information and will describe the population of children and young people, their distribution across the regions of WA, recent population developments and projected growth.

The data in the Profile will be updated regularly to ensure the information remains current and relevant and will provide a central

resource of information to agencies and individuals that work with children and young people.

The Profile report will be released in the second half of 2011.

2. Measures - A series of measures that will create a picture of children and young people's wellbeing.

A series of wellbeing measures will be categorised under the eight domains of the [ARACY Report Card](#) - material wellbeing; health and safety; education; family and peer relationships; behaviours and risks; subjective wellbeing; participation; and environment. A reference group has been established to provide advice on the measures report. The group has assisted in determining suitable



The Commissioner announced the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework project in March 2011

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measurements as well as identifying data sources. The report of the first set of measures will be released in the next financial year.

3. A compilation of best practice and most promising programs and services in WA that are evidence-based and enhance the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies was awarded the tender in May 2011 to conduct the compilation of best practice and most promising programs and services in WA that are evidence-based and enhance the wellbeing of children and young people. The report of this project will be released in 2011-2012.

Speaking out about wellbeing – the views of children and young people

One thousand children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years from across Western Australia participated in the Commissioner's research into wellbeing, which was released in October 2010.

The results of the research revealed that a loving, supportive family, good friends, fun and activity, a safe environment, a good education, acknowledgement and trust were the major factors that children and young people considered essential to living a full life. The research findings were summarised in the publication [Speaking out about wellbeing: The views of Western Australian children and young people](#).

Following the release of the research the Commissioner held two information sessions, one of which focussed specifically on the views of Aboriginal children and young people. The sessions were attended by more than 150 people. In addition the Department of Corrective



Services invited the Commissioner to conduct three seminars on the implications of the Wellbeing Research for young people in detention. These seminars were attended by approximately 90 managers and staff from the Department of Corrective Services' Youth Justice Services. The seminars were recorded for further distribution to regional staff.

The Commissioner has used the findings of the research to talk with government, non-government agencies, the private sector and the wider community about what more can be done to support children, young people and their families. Of particular note, the Commissioner was invited to present on the research findings to the ARACY National Action Plan conference and the members of the Australian Commissioners and Child Guardians (ACCG) at their Melbourne meeting in November 2010.

Both government and non-government agencies report that staff have begun to use the research to assist their policy development and service delivery.

Under the title 'Children and young people speak out', the Commissioner also released a series of policy briefs on topics arising from the research – Family; Alcohol and Drugs; Friends; Education; Being acknowledged; Fun and Activity; Bullying; and Safety. An additional three [policy briefs](#) were developed focussing on the views of Aboriginal children and young people about families, education and culture and identity. Each of the 11 briefs was distributed via email to over 1,000 stakeholders and made available on the Commissioner's website.



Goal 1 Promote children and young people’s participation

Overview

Objective

The work of the Commissioner is informed by the views of children and young people and the participation of children and young people is encouraged in activities and decision making about issues that affect their lives.

Strategies

- 1.1 Undertake consultations in regional, remote and metropolitan Western Australia.
- 1.2 Establish two Advisory Committees (one metropolitan and one regional).
- 1.3 Publish and promote participation guidelines and tools.
- 1.4 Monitor complaints made by children and young people.
- 1.5 The Commissioner will report back to children and young people on what has happened.
- 1.6 Promote positive stories and images about the achievements of children and young people.

Key Performance Indicator 1.1

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

Description

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 various locations across the State of Western Australia.

Target 2010-11

15 consultations.

Table 1: Consultations conducted in this reporting period

	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Actual 2010-11
Regional	11	5	9
Metropolitan	18	10	16
Total number of consultations	29	15	25

For more detailed information about Key Performance Indicator information, see [page 80](#).

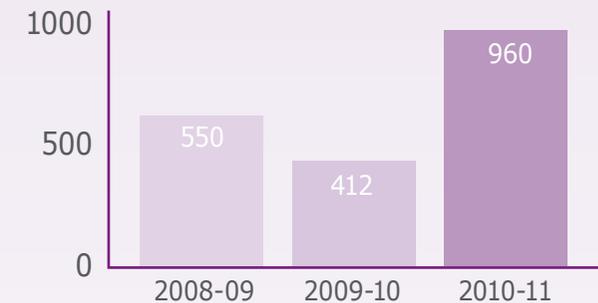


Summary of participation activities

The Commissioner works in a number of ways to promote and encourage the participation of children and young people, including direct consultation, strategic partnerships and advocating to government and non-government agencies to undertake consultation. A summary of this work is provided on the following pages.

- The Commissioner and/or her staff travelled more than 19,000 kilometres to visit 10 regional towns and speak with community members, children and young people and their families, and service providers.
- The Commissioner and/or her staff visited seven schools and spoke with students.
- Seven hundred children and young people participated in the Commissioner's [Inquiry into the mental health of wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia](#), including Aboriginal children and young people, those who were disadvantaged, from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who lived in regional and remote areas.
- Shout Out is one of the many ways that the Commissioner consults with children and young people. Over 60 children and young people have joined as Shout Out Crew members and receive information from the Commissioner about her work and opportunities to be involved. The Shout Out section of the website hosted information about opportunities for children and young people to have their say, including online polls. The views of 200 children and young people were captured in Shout Out polls.

Table 2: Number of children consulted under the age of 18 years



Regional consultation visits

The Commissioner regularly visits regional and remote communities across Western Australia. She meets with and listens to children and young people, their families and people who work with them.

[Summary reports](#) of the Commissioner's regional visits are available on her website. They include information about the population of children and young people in the region and birth rates; a snapshot of who the Commissioner met with; what the community told the Commissioner about children and young people; the views of children and young people who met with the Commissioner; and the Commissioner's comments about her visit.

More information about the Commissioner's regional consultation visit locations since 2007-08 is available on the [next page](#).



Regional travel 2010-11

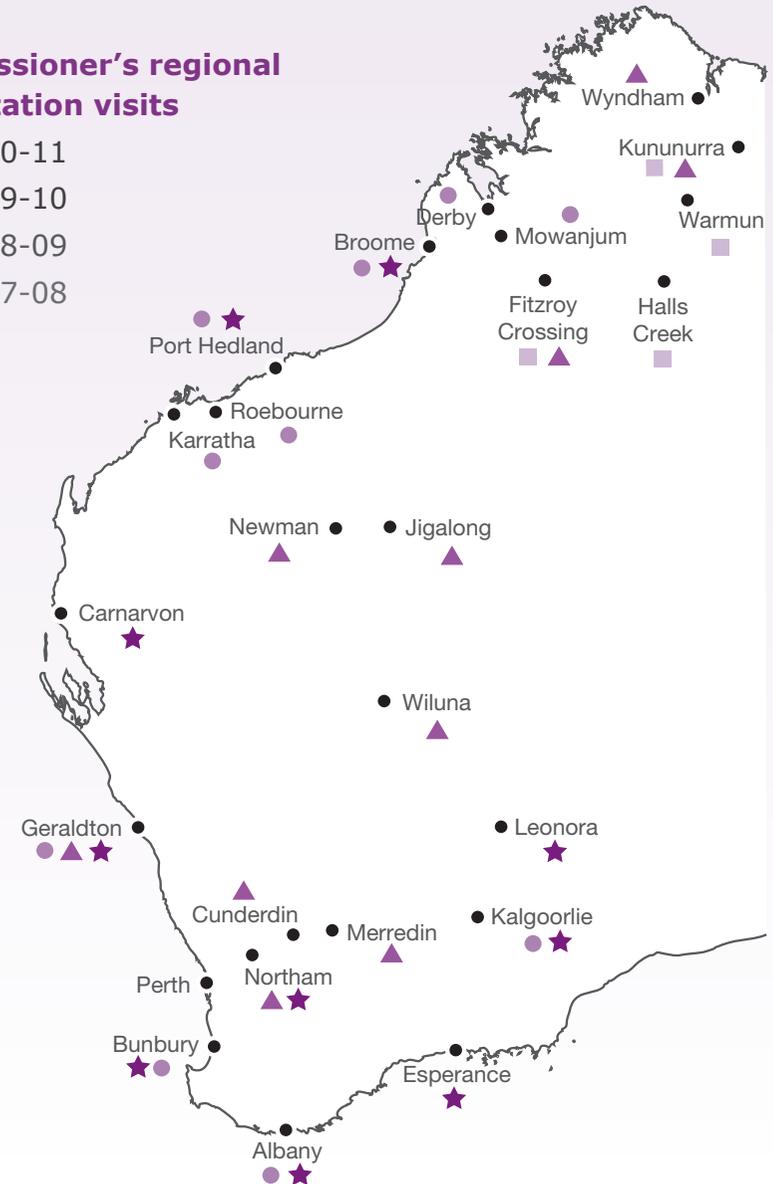
Carnarvon	28 July 2010
Northam	17 August 2010
Broome	25 August 2010
Bunbury	27 August 2010
Geraldton	3 September 2010 and 5 May 2011
Port Hedland	7 September 2010
Kalgoorlie	8 September 2010
Albany	9 September 2010
Leonora	13-15 December 2010
Esperance	29 March 2011

School visits 2010-11

Carnarvon School of the Air	28 July 2010
Carnarvon Senior High School	28 July 2010
Wesley College	21 October 2010
Infant Jesus Primary School	5 November 2010
Beckenham Primary School	6 August, 24 September and 8 December 2010
Leonora School	14 December 2010
Esperance Senior High School	29 March 2011
Roseworth Primary School	17 May 2011

Commissioner's regional consultation visits

- ★ 2010-11
- ▲ 2009-10
- 2008-09
- 2007-08





Report on Goal 1 strategies

Mental health consultation

Consultation with children and young people was a significant part of the Commissioner for Children and Young People's Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in WA. Their views were sought by:

- creating and promoting a specific information pack for children and young people on how to make a submission
- undertaking consultations with the Commissioner's two 2010 Advisory Committees
- direct contact with key organisations working with children and young people
- providing small amounts of funding to specific agencies to consult with groups of children and young people who were considered unlikely to make their own submissions.

More than 700 children and young people aged between 7 and 23 years provided their views.

Children and young people's views informed and were included in the three publications resulting from the Inquiry: [Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia](#); [Report to children, young people and the community](#); and [Speaking out about mental health – The views of Western Australian children and young people](#). Their views and experiences will be used to inform the Commissioner's work in mental health.

Additionally, the [2010 Commissioner for a Day Challenge](#) invited children and young people to tell the Commissioner about their experiences with mental health and what they would do to help other children and young people stay mentally healthy. A total of 114 entries were received from kids across WA in the form of videos, music, photographs, posters, letters and stories. The winner, 11-year-old Katie Tucker, spent the day as the Commissioner and met with politicians, organisations and the media to put forward her views on mental health.



The Commissioner released *Speaking out about mental health* at headspace Fremantle

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Perth International Arts Festival – Talking Couches

The Commissioner sponsored the Perth International Arts Festival project, [Talking Couches](#), which gave a voice to the aspirations and experiences of children and young people from diverse backgrounds who live in Perth's southern suburbs.

Perth artist Lewis Horne worked with Sudanese young people from the PROSPECT group in Port Kennedy, Aboriginal students from Melville Senior High School and young people from Youth Reach South in Cockburn to create five talking couches.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SUNDAY TIMES

The 'themed' couches featured built-in audio systems which delivered pre-recorded stories from the young people who designed them. Topics included the excitement of playing in state basketball, the challenges of moving from the country to the city, the impact of losing a loved one and reflections on the differences between living in Africa and Australia.

The talking couches were displayed throughout the Perth Festival (11 February to 6 March 2011) at the Beck's Music Box (Perth foreshore), the State Theatre Centre, Perth Cultural Centre and at the Perth Writer's Festival at the University of Western Australia. Project participants were recognised at the Perth Writer's Festival Family Day with a certificate (presented by the Commissioner and Festival Artistic Director Shelagh Magadza).

This project attracted significant interest from children and adults. The Commissioner's sponsorship of this project was recognised in the Festival's printed, broadcast and electronic media campaigns.

Young people involved
in Talking Couches with
artist Lewis Horne



Advisory Committees

Throughout 2010, the Beckenham Primary School Student Representative Council and the Geraldton Indigenous Youth Council were the Commissioner's inaugural [Advisory Committees](#).

The Commissioner and her staff met with both groups to hear their views on a number of topics, including the accessibility of the Commissioner's website to children and young people and her Inquiry into the mental health of children and young people in Western Australia. Beckenham Primary School Student Representative Council also completed an 'Us and Our Community' project, which involved a 'Kids Talk Fest' and a 'Community Lunch'.

Thirty-seven children and young people were members of the 2010 Advisory Committees, with another 20 involved with some of the Advisory Committee activities. An evaluation found the Advisory Committees were successful, enabling the Commissioner to hear from and gain insight into the views and lives of diverse groups of children and young people. They also helped inform the Commissioner's advocacy in the areas of the built environment and bullying, and in the importance of community, activities and mental health. Feedback from the Advisory Committee members was that the experience was positive and empowering.

In 2011, the Wheatbelt Youth Leadership Development Team and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre were selected to be the Commissioner's [new Advisory Committees](#) for a two-year period.

The Advisory Committees will undertake projects that report on the

views of young people in their community, and will provide feedback and comment on some of the Commissioner's projects. The move to a two-year appointment has allowed the Advisory Committees a greater opportunity to develop their ideas, projects and team capabilities.

In the first half of 2011, both Advisory Committees had begun work in their new roles by promoting and participating in the Senate Inquiry's online consultation about cyber-bullying and preparing and planning for their 'Us and Our Community' projects.

Awards

[Participate! Commissioner for Children and Young People Award](#)

The Commissioner sponsored the [Participate! Commissioner for Children and Young People Award](#) for a second consecutive year. The award is part of the Department for Communities' Office for Youth WA Youth Awards program and recognises a young person (aged 12 to 17 years) who has shown outstanding dedication to make a positive change in their community, and who has inspired other young people to get involved.

The Commissioner presented the award to Chevienna Hansen, 17 of Beckenham, at the 2011 WA Youth Awards Ceremony on 9 April 2011. Chevienna is an inspirational role model who has been active in the Gosnells Youth Advisory Council since she was 13 and now mentors other emerging young leaders. She volunteers much of her time to organising and encouraging young people to get involved in community events and speak up about issues that concern them. Other finalists for the 2011 award were Sarah Brown, 14, Parkerville;



Mohammad Sherifi, 16, Banksia Grove; and Jaco Becker, 16 (now living in Thailand).

Children and Young People Lifetime Achievement Award

In 2010, the Commissioner entered into a three-year sponsorship with Celebrate WA that involved the introduction of a new category of the popular Celebrate WA Citizen of the Year Awards - the [Children and Young People Lifetime Achievement Award](#). The inaugural Award recipient was Dr Trevor Parry.

The Children and Young People Lifetime Achievement Award recognises the dedicated work over many years of exceptional individuals. The recipient of the award is someone who has enhanced the wellbeing of children and young people and is an inspiration to others working with children and young people and the broader community. By recognising the work of exceptional Western Australians the Commissioner acknowledges their work to improve the wellbeing of our youngest citizens.

The Commissioner presented the award to Professor Stephen Zubrick at the Awards presentation and dinner on 28 May 2011.

In 2011 two finalists were also recognised for their work to improve the wellbeing of children and young people: President of the Children's Court His Honour Judge Dennis Reynolds and Ngala chief executive officer Ms Rae Walter.



Lifetime Achievement Award winner Stephen Zubrick and Michelle Scott.

Goal 2 Influencing – policy, services, attitudes and outcomes

Overview

Objective

The Commissioner works to influence policy by engaging with government, non-government and private sector organisations to improve policies, laws and services that impact on the wellbeing of children and young people.

Strategies

- 2.1 Research issues affecting children and young people’s wellbeing.
- 2.2 Work collaboratively and cooperatively to improve policies, laws and services for children and young people.
- 2.3 Research and consultation with a view to making a range of representations on policies, laws, services and programs to improve children and young people’s wellbeing.

Key Performance Indicator 1.2

Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research.

Description

The Commissioner’s role includes analysis and interpretation of information collected through consultation and research to identify issues and trends affecting children and young people. The Commissioner is responsible for making representations and developing submissions regarding the wellbeing of children and young people. The Commissioner makes specific recommendations

to Government and Parliament based on high quality research on law reform, policy, programs and services.

Target 2010-11

50 representations.

Table 3: Number of representations in this reporting period

	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Actual 2010-11
Representations	98	50	94

For more detailed information about Key Performance Indicator information, see [page 80](#).

Table 4: Breakdown of representations in 2010-11 reporting period

Representation Type	Number
Submissions	26
Evidence to Parliamentary Committees and Inquiries	5
Comments on legislation*	5*
Issues papers and policy briefs	13
Publications	7
Speeches	9
Presentations	26
Opinion pieces	8
Total representations	94

* Comments on legislation are counted as submissions in the KPI reporting data hence are not included in total number of representations

Report on Goal 2 strategies

Mental health



In addition to conducting the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (see [page 14](#)), the Commissioner continued to advocate for the best interests and views of children and young people to be considered in mental health policy and legislation.

To mark Children's Week 2010, the Commissioner hosted a Forum on 26 October in partnership with the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), University of Western Australia.

The theme for the 2010 Forum was '[Building brighter futures](#)' and focused on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

The Forum's keynote speaker, 2010 Australian of the Year Professor Patrick McGorry AO, was followed by a discussion concerning the challenges and future direction for children and young people's mental health by Professor Helen Milroy, Dr Caroline Goosens and Mental Health Commissioner Eddie Bartnik.

The Forum was attended by 115 people including Members of Parliament and senior staff from government and non-government agencies. The Forum provided an opportunity for significant debate, innovative thinking and access to quality information on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. Speeches and other Forum information was made available on the Commissioner's website and this was promoted to stakeholders in the December 2010 edition of Commissioner's Update.

Other work in the area of mental health included the Commissioner's feedback on the Mental Health Commission's *WA Mental Health Towards 2020 Consultation Paper*.

The Commissioner advocated to the Mental Health Commission for the views of children and young people to be heard as consumers of mental health services – both in regard to membership of the proposed WA Peak Mental Health Consumers' Organisation (now known as the Western Australian Association of Mental Health Consumers) and in the establishment of the Mental Health Advisory Council or some other mechanism to ensure the work of the Mental Health Commission is informed by children and young people's perspectives.

Through representations including [submissions](#), meetings and letters the Commissioner has advocated that the recommendations of the *Report of the inquiry into mental health and wellbeing of*



children and young people in Western Australia be implemented. Additionally the Commissioner has provided advice to the Mental Health Commission that the children and young people appearing before the Children's Court of Western Australia have access to appropriate, comprehensive mental health assessment, referral and treatment services; that a dedicated forensic mental health unit for children and young people be established; and that youth mental health services across the State be further developed.

The Commissioner provided comments on the drafting instructions for the proposed Mental Health Bill and released a Position statement on the *Mental Health Act 1996 (WA)* and the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996 (WA)*.

Reducing alcohol-related harm on children and young people

The impact of the harmful effects of alcohol on children and young people was a priority issue for the Commissioner in 2010-11. The Commissioner has also continued to advocate for strategies and services to address the serious impact on children and young people of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The Commissioner gave further evidence to the Education and Health Standing Committee Inquiry into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia, advocating the particular needs of children and young people. She provided a submission to the Draft Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for 2010 – 2015.

In recognition of the association of FASD with higher rates of contact with the justice system, the Commissioner also raised this matter in her evidence to the Commonwealth Parliament's House

of Representatives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee's Inquiry into the high level of involvement of Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the justice system.

The Commissioner also joined with other key stakeholders to object to the expansion of liquor licensing at a metropolitan cinema complex. The Commissioner also reviewed the Misuse of Drugs Act Amendment Bill No.2 2010 and the Liquor Control Amendment Bill 2010.

The Commissioner released two publications in 2010-11 about the impact of alcohol – [*Issues Paper - Young People and Alcohol*](#) and [*Speaking out about wellbeing - children and young people speak out about alcohol and drugs*](#). Each publication was distributed to over 1,000 stakeholders and promoted on the Commissioner's website.

The Commissioner also undertook an Australian and international literature review of consultations undertaken with young people about the harm caused by alcohol. The review was completed in May 2011 and is being used to inform the development of the Commissioner's consultation with young people on the harm caused by alcohol and strategies to reduce risky drinking, which will be completed in September 2011.

The consultation project is being informed by the views of an expert Reference Group which includes the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI); McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth (MCAAY); School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA); Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO); Mission Australia and the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA).



The consultation will result in a seminar conducted in partnership with the MCAAY, DAO and the NDRI to present the views of young people to key stakeholders and decision makers, and the publication of a 'Speaking out' report in September 2011.

The Commissioner announced on the 10 June 2011 the second Commissioner for a Day consultation project which asked young people: If you were the Commissioner for a Day, what you would do to keep kids and young people safe from the harm caused by alcohol?

Built environment

There is a growing recognition that the built environment influences health and active lifestyle choices. Children and young people's physical surroundings influence and shape their interactions, development and experience of life into adulthood. The Commissioner aims to encourage the development of child-friendly communities that are welcoming, fun and safe, accessible and inclusive, and enhance health, learning and wellbeing.

The Commissioner held a built environment consultation with children and young people in August 2010 at Curtin University. During the [iBuild consultation](#), seventeen children and young people worked with over 25 fourth year architecture students to explore what they would like to see in the built environment and to document their views and opinions on the built environment. This process culminated in an exhibition held at Curtin University during Architecture Week attended by architects and built environment professionals.



A young person working on their ideas at iBuild.

The information from this consultation was used to inform the Built environment publication produced by the office and scheduled to be released later in 2011.

Early years

The Commissioner continued to advocate for reform and investment in Western Australia's early childhood sector in 2010-11. She represented the needs of children in these early years and reiterated her call for the establishment of an Office of Early Childhood, the development of an early years plan and an increase in the number of child and school health nurses in speeches, submissions and meetings with government and non-government agencies.

The Commissioner's *Report of the Inquiry into the mental health of children and young people in Western Australia* that was tabled



in the WA Parliament in May 2011 included a chapter on Pregnancy, Infancy and Early Childhood. This chapter outlined the critical supports needed to ensure WA's children (from minus nine months to three years) are mentally healthy and the programs and services required.

The Commissioner's position and recommendations for action were outlined in speeches to:

- The Local Government and Playgroup Conference
- 2011 Early Years Calendar launch – Foothills Early Years Community Partnership
- Australian Association of Infant Mental Health and Faculty of Child Psychiatry conference.

Youth justice

Youth justice continued to be an area of focus for the Commissioner in 2010-11, working with a wide range of agencies to address the high rates of juvenile detention and children and young people coming into contact with the justice system. The Commissioner welcomed the release of the *Youth Justice Framework 2010-2015* and continues to participate in the Youth Justice Steering Committee WA.

The Commissioner continues to work with the Department of Corrective Services in the roll-out of the Regional Youth Justice Services, including the established services in Kalgoorlie and Geraldton. In addition the Department of Corrective Services invited the Commissioner to conduct three seminars on the implications her wellbeing research has for young people in detention. These

seminars were attended by approximately 90 managers and staff from Department of Corrective Services' Youth Justice Services. The seminars were recorded for further distribution to regional staff.

The Commissioner provided submissions to 'The review of the *Bail Act 1982* (WA) Issues Paper and Questions' and the review of the role of the Justice of the Peace (WA) in relation to children and young people.

The Commissioner's Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia highlighted the need for the provision of mental health services for children and young people in the justice system.

In January 2011 the Commissioner represented all of Australia's children commissioners and guardians at the House of Representative's Roundtable on Indigenous youth and the criminal justice system.

Aboriginal children and young people

All of the Commissioner's work and activities reflects the views and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. She has continued to advocate for the improvement of Aboriginal children and young people's social and emotional wellbeing through monitoring of the Council of Australian Governments' Closing the Gap initiative and the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report.

The Commissioner has also focused on developing and maintaining relationships with Aboriginal communities and the non-government agencies responsible for services in these communities. The



Commissioner's Aboriginal Advisor has been able to assist the Commissioner to consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their families. Through this role links have been established with Aboriginal services, such as the Halo leadership development program, David Wirrpanda Foundation, Maamba Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Legal Services, Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services and the Champion Centre in Armadale.

In 2010-11 the Commissioner visited Leonora and Carnarvon and met with Aboriginal children and young people, their families and community members of both towns.

Throughout the year, the Commissioner's advocacy work included:

- providing comment on the Strong Spirit, Strong Mind – Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Framework for WA 2010-15
- advocating for long-term investments into early childhood, innovative approaches to strengthen connections between the schools and communities and the importance of outreach service to reach chronically disengaged children and their families
- advocating for a comprehensive Aboriginal education strategy at a State level
- advocating for the provision of appropriate child protection and mental health services for Aboriginal children and young people
- supporting communities to impose alcohol restrictions as well as alcohol management plans
- participating on the Aboriginal Health Action and Advisory Committee for the new children's hospital

- producing and distributing [three policy briefs](#) (from the wellbeing research) on issues raised by Aboriginal children and young people.

Child protection and safety

The Commissioner continued to monitor and comment on legislation, policy and practice in relation to preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect. This included providing submissions, either individually or in conjunction with children's commissioners and guardians from other jurisdictions, regarding the draft *National Out of Home Care Standards Monitoring and Reporting Framework*; the *Transition to Independent Living Allowance review*; *Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2010*; access to multiple assessments under Medicare for children in out of home care; and improved arrangements for kinship carers receiving Centrelink payments.

The Commissioner also:

- made a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety's Inquiry into Cyber Safety
- wrote to Australian Attorney General's department in response to advice that the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) is to conduct a review of classification to specifically encourage them to consider the views of children and young people and request to be informed of future opportunities to make a submission on behalf of the children and young people of Western Australia
- made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Australian film and literature classification scheme on the importance of



involving children and young people, supporting children and young people to make choices and the safety, protection and wellbeing of children and young people

The Commissioner visited several Department for Child Protection residential group homes and spoke with staff and the young people residing in these facilities. She also met with staff and young people from CREATE to discuss the issues for children and young people in out-of-home care.

Legislation to progress permanency planning under Special Guardianship provisions and to provide for the establishment of a secure care facility was enacted at the beginning of 2011. The Commissioner is monitoring the development of the policy and practice to implement these initiatives.

The Commissioner has a Memorandum of Understanding with both the WA Ombudsman and the Director General of the Department for Child Protection regarding the management of individual complaints and the exchange of information.

Case study – Response to Commissioner’s submission to the Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety’s Inquiry into Cyber Safety

In June and December 2010, the Commissioner provided information to this Inquiry which raised:

- the importance of a coordinated course of action by government and non-government agencies across Australia which is informed by the existing extensive research, expertise and good practice knowledge
- the importance of involving children and young people in decision making about this issue, including examples of consultative mechanisms
- the work of the Child Health Promotion Research Centre, Edith Cowan University
- the findings of *Speaking out about wellbeing: The views of Western*

Australian Children and Young People, particularly in relation to bullying, stress and who they talk to about their problems.

The Committee subsequently undertook consultation with children and young people in the form of two forums and two online surveys. The Commissioner supported this consultation by promoting it on her website and informing her two Advisory Committees of children and young people. Both of the Inquiry’s consultation processes were very successful with nearly 34,000 children and young people having a say via the online surveys.

The report of the Inquiry, released in June 2011, contains direct quotes from the Commissioner’s submission. Several recommendations (such as cyber safety education and awareness campaigns) reflect the views and recommendations expressed by the Commissioner. The Inquiry report directly quotes the Commissioner and her *Speaking out about wellbeing* publication is listed as an exhibit.



Middle years

The Commissioner recognises the importance of early adolescence or the middle years (from 9 to 14 years) as a critical stage in children's development and a key intervention point crucial to social, physical and emotional development.

In collaboration with the Department for Communities and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, the Commissioner has been working to develop a coordinated approach to the middle years. A middle years forum is being planned for July 2011 to provide policy makers and service providers with an opportunity to explore how policies and services can better meet the developmental needs of young adolescents in Western Australia.

Arts and young people

In addition to sponsoring the Perth International Arts Festival project Talking Couches, which gave a voice to the aspirations and experiences of children and young people from diverse backgrounds who live in Perth's southern suburbs, the Commissioner sponsored the Educating for Innovation seminar on 4 March 2011 to consider the role of contemporary arts programs in increasing the innovation of children and young people. Held in partnership with Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, CREATEC at Edith Cowan University and Rio Tinto, the seminar was attended by over 100 education and arts representatives.

Knowledge and inspiration was drawn from international and local sources. Keynote speaker, Tate Director of Learning Anna Cutler, discussed the conditions for encouraging innovation, highlighted her work on the development of a Manifesto for a Creative Britain, and

outlined her vision for Tate's learning program. The Commissioner, Roseworth Primary School Principal Geoff Metcalf and CREATEC Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Julie Robson discussed creative initiatives that are providing innovation opportunities for WA children and young people.

Ms Cutler's presence put a spotlight on the valuable work that is already being done in this field in Western Australia and inspired future possibilities to be explored. After a meeting with local arts and education stakeholders, her advocacy encouraged Rio Tinto Futures Fund Board member Janet Holmes à Court to fund the cost of creative software computer programs for five Western Australian schools.

The Commissioner looks forward to expanding on the possibilities identified at this seminar to guide her future work in the area of arts and innovation, including the inaugural Thinker in Residence project in 2011.



Educating for Innovation seminar.



Children in immigration detention

The Commissioner visited the Leonora Alternative Place of Detention, operated by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, in December 2010 and met with facility staff, refugee children and their families and local service providers in the Leonora community to understand the issues for refugee children and their families. Concerns raised with the Commissioner during the visit included the indefinite nature of refugee detention, the impact of detention on children and young people's mental and physical health, the harsh environment and the lack of social and recreational activities.

The Commissioner raised concerns with the Federal Minister for Immigration about refugee children's access to mental health services, the need for rigorous child abuse and neglect policies and practices, and appropriate social and recreational facilities to ensure the health and safety of these children and young people.

The Commissioner was particularly concerned about the lack of clear policies and protocols for the management of concerns about the abuse or neglect of children in detention facilities. She called on both the Federal Minister for Immigration and the Western Australian Minister for Child Protection to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to clarify the roles, responsibilities and procedures for the management of child protection concerns in detention facilities as a matter of priority.

Guidelines resources

Over the last two years the Commissioner produced three resources to assist government, non-government agencies and the private sector to better meet the needs and interests of children and young people. They are:

- *Are you listening? Guidelines for making complaints processes accessible and responsive to children and young people*
- *Involving children and young people – Participation guidelines*
- *Improving legislation for children and young people – Guidelines for assessing the impact of proposed legislation on children and young people.*

In 2010-11 the Commissioner conducted three workshops on using the guidelines.

The Improving legislation workshop was conducted twice and the evaluations reported that:

- 95 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the information session increased their understanding of the process of assessing legislation for its impact on children and young people
- 95 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would use the guidelines and the information from the session in their work to identify and take into account the interests of children and young people.

The Involving children and young people - Participation guidelines seminar was delivered on Wednesday 8 June 2011. The session was attended by 45 people and received positive feedback with 100 per cent of respondents agreeing that the information provided was professional and informative.

The Commissioner continues to work in partnership with the Ombudsman to monitor complaints made by children and young people and to act on the findings of the Ombudsman's survey of organisations' complaints systems conducted in 2010.

Goal 3 - Governance and capacity

Objective

The Commissioner for Children and Young People will foster a professional working environment which values staff, sound research, evaluation and collaboration. Our work will be underpinned by a Governance Framework that ensures a work environment that is open, accountable and professional, incorporating compliance requirements and family-friendly work practices.

Strategies

- 3.1 Develop a workplace that is open and accessible to children and young people.
- 3.2 Work within our Governance Framework to support human, physical, financial and information technology resources.
- 3.3 Further develop policies, procedures and systems to meet governance requirements and support open, accountable and professional work practices (as detailed in the Governance Framework).

Report on Goal 3 strategies

The use of the Our Space rooms

The Commissioner is required under the Act to ensure accessibility to children and young people. One of the ways the Commissioner facilitates this is to ensure that the Commissioner's offices at 1 Alvan Street Subiaco are accessible and inviting to children and young people. As part of the fit-out of the offices the Commissioner created the Our Space meeting rooms which are available for use seven days and evenings a week by children and young people and those organisations working with children and young people.

Table 4: Use of Our Space meeting rooms

	2009-10	2010-11
Number of Our Space meeting room bookings	64*	148

*The Our Space rooms were available for groups to book and use from August 2009.

School-based trainee program

In 2010-11 the Commissioner embarked on the second school-based traineeship in clerical support based in the Commissioner's office two days a week. The 16-year-old student from Ballajura Community College is working towards her Certificate II in Business.

The school-based trainee appointed in 2009 successfully completed her two year traineeship on 29 October 2010 and graduated on the 13 October 2010 with a Certificate II in Business.

Full list of formal submissions 2010-11

Table 5: Full list of submissions 2010-11

Submissions can be viewed on the [Commissioner's website](#).

Date	Title	Delivered to
5/07/2010	Review of the Regional Development Commissions	Committee undertaking the Review of the Regional Development Commissions
15/07/2010	Prohibition of Publication of Names of Children in Criminal Proceedings	Department of the Attorney General
5/10/2010	Review of the Bail Act 1982 (WA): Issues Paper and Questions October 2010	Department of the Attorney General
7/10/2010	WA Mental Health Towards 2020 Consultation Paper	Mental Health Commission
14/10/2010	The WA Peak Mental Health Consumers' Organisation – comment on Discussion Paper	Barbara Gatter & Associates for the Mental Health Commission
4/11/2010	Draft Drug & Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for WA 2010 - 2015	Drug & Alcohol Office
30/11/2010	Proposed 'Two Tier' framework for Justice of the Peace in WA	Department of the Attorney General
13/12/2010	Senate Inquiry on the Draft Green's Bill on a Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People – Joint Submission from Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians	Senate Standing Committees on Legal & Constitutional Affairs – Legislation Committee
16/12/2010	Objection to liquor licensing expansion at cinema	Department of Racing Gaming and Liquor

22/12/2010	Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety, Cyber-Safety Inquiry – Provided 'Speaking out about wellbeing' publication as a submission	Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety
22/12/2010	Draft Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2010 – Joint submission from Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians	Federal Department of Attorney General
23/12/2010	Playground tender conducted by Department for Education and Department of Building Management and Works	Department of Education
23/12/2010	Child refugees and the conditions in the Leonora Alternative Place of Detention	Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
29/12/2010	Eligibility of children and young people in out of home care for multiple assessments under the Medicare Benefits Schedule – Joint submission Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians	Minister for Health (Commonwealth)
29/12/2010	Exemption of kinship carers from NewStart Allowance transfer – Joint submission Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians	Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Commonwealth)
29/12/2010	Exemption of kinship carers from NewStart Allowance transfer – Joint submission Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians	Minister for Employment, Participation and Childcare (Commonwealth)
17/01/2011	Children and young people's involvement in the Mental Health Advisory Committee	Minister for Mental Health
9/03/2011	Senate Inquiry into the Australian Film and Literature Classification Scheme	Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs – References Committee

31/01/2011	Review of Classification - Australian Law Reform Commission Draft Terms of Reference	Classification Branch, Department of the Attorney General (Commonwealth)
21/03/2011	National Out of Home Care Standards – Monitoring and Reporting Framework	Department for Child Protection
28/04/2011	Review of the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) – Joint submission from the Australian Children’s Commissioner and Guardians	Colmar Brunton Social Research for the Department for Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
3/05/2011	Mental Health Act 1996 (WA) and the Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996 (WA) – Position Statement	Mental Health Commission and the Department of the Attorney General
13/05/2011	Disability Care and Support Draft Report – Joint submission from Australian Children’s Commissioners and Guardians	Productivity Commission
31/05/2011	Law Reform Commission community consultation on the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004	Law Reform Commission
13/06/2011	Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child	Australian Human Rights Commission
20/06/2011	Future Direction Outcomes 2011-2013 and Strategic Priorities 2011-2014	Department of Corrective Services

This is a list of formal submissions and does not indicate all representations made by the Commissioner during 2010-11.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AFFECTING THE AGENCY

Population growth and a 24 per cent increase in the number of births since 2000 have placed a greater demand on the services and programs that enhance the wellbeing of children and young people and their families in Western Australia. Children and young people under the age of 18 years now comprise 23.5 per cent of the WA population.

The Commissioner has consistently called for the collaboration and coordination of services for young children and their families. She has focused attention on this through research, publications, evidence provided to parliamentary committees, public submissions, opinion pieces and speeches on the importance of investing in early intervention, especially in the early years of a child's life.

This call has included recommendations for the establishment of an Office for Early Childhood; a WA Early Childhood Plan; a significant investment in both universal and targeted early childhood services; and a systematic approach to measuring the results and outcomes of government and non-government services. Planning for services and programs for children and young people should take into account the increasing population growth of children and young people in Western Australia.

With 44 per cent of the Indigenous population in WA aged under 18 years and 28 per cent of all children and young people living in regional and remote communities, more targeted programs are needed to assist those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Consistent with her statutory obligations under the Act, the Commissioner is committed to ensuring priority and special regard is given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. The Commissioner has continued a program of visits to regional and remote communities – including Leonora, Jigalong, Newman, Fitzroy Crossing, Northam and Wiluna – and has advocated for four top priorities:

- Increasing the number of child health nurses
- Increasing the number of school health nurses
- Increasing the capacity of multidisciplinary child development services
- Developing the Aboriginal health workforce by recruiting, training and employing additional Aboriginal child health nurses and Aboriginal health workers.



Robust monitoring and reporting of the outcomes of programs and services are required to ensure there is effective government investment in improving the life outcomes of children and young people.

Despite the significant investment in services for children and young people there is no coordinated data collection of the impact of these services and outcomes for children and young people's wellbeing. Western Australia is now one of the few jurisdictions without a comprehensive monitoring framework for assessing outcomes for children.

The Commissioner's functions as prescribed in the Act include promoting and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people generally (Section 19(c)). In response to this function the Commissioner has established the Western Australian [Wellbeing Monitoring Framework](#).

The Framework will monitor and report on the wellbeing of Western Australian children and young people and has three components:

- Profile - A demographic profile of WA's children and young people, based on existing research and data
- Measures - A series of measures that will create a picture of children and young people's wellbeing
- A compilation of best practice and most promising programs and services in WA that are evidence-based and enhance the wellbeing of children and young people.

There is growing evidence about the gaps in services to meet the mental health needs of children and young people, and their families. The Commissioner undertook an independent Inquiry into this matter in 2010-11. The report from the Inquiry has been tabled in Parliament and made 54 Recommendations on how to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has conducted an independent Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People tabled her [Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia](#) in the WA Parliament on Thursday 5 May 2011.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2011, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Commissioner's Responsibility 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 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commissioner for Children and Young People's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Commissioner, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commissioner for Children and Young People at 30 June 2011 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People. The Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that adequate control is maintained over the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of public and other property, and the incurring of liabilities in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and other relevant written law.

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the controls exercised by the Commissioner based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Opinion

In my opinion, 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.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. 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.

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Opinion

In my opinion, the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commissioner for Children and Young People's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Auditor General Act 2006 and the Australian Auditing Standards, and other relevant ethical requirements.

COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
17 August 2011



Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2011

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 financial year ending 30 June 2011 and the financial position as at 30 June 2011.

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

Glenn Morgan
Chief Financial Officer
8 August 2011

Michelle Scott
Accountable Authority
8 August 2011

Financial Statements

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
Employee benefits expense	6	1,911,793	1,766,148
Supplies and services	7	712,581	690,278
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	88,548	90,834
Accommodation expenses	9	308,838	221,513
Grants and subsidies	10	-	3,000
Other expenses	11	19,925	22,888
Total cost of services		3,041,685	2,794,661
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Other Revenue	12	3,207	54,066
Total Revenue		3,207	54,066
Total income other than income from State Government		3,207	54,066
NET COST OF SERVICES		3,038,478	2,740,595
Income from State Government			
Service Appropriation	13	2,817,000	2,736,000
Resources received free of charge		92,821	89,579
Total income from State Government		2,909,821	2,825,579
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(128,657)	84,984
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(128,657)	84,984

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

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	25	997,349	984,480
Receivables	15	33,634	33,648
Other current assets	16	-	5,057
Total Current Assets		1,030,983	1,023,185
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	14,25	38,856	28,848
Amounts receivable for services	17	200,000	121,000
Property, plant and equipment	18	309,251	378,885
Intangible assets	19	-	4,191
Total Non-Current Assets		548,107	532,924
TOTAL ASSETS		1,579,090	1,556,109
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	21	208,201	117,710
Provisions	22	235,886	144,667
Other current liabilities	23	-	5,938
Total Current Liabilities		444,087	268,315
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	22	101,235	125,369
Total Non-Current Liabilities		101,235	125,369
Total Liabilities		545,322	393,684
NET ASSETS		1,033,768	1,162,425
EQUITY			
Contributed Equity	24	420,000	420,000
Accumulated surplus/(deficiency)		613,768	742,425
TOTAL EQUITY		1,033,768	1,162,425

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

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2011

	Note	Contributed Equity \$	Reserves \$	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2009	24	420,000	-	657,441	1,077,441
Restated balance at 1 July 2009		420,000	-	657,441	1,077,441
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		-	-	84,984	84,984
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital contributions		-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	84,984
Balance at 30 June 2010		420,000	-	742,425	1,162,425
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors		-	-	-	-
Balance at 1 July 2010		420,000	-	742,425	1,162,425
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	(128,657)	(128,657)
Balance at 30 June 2011		420,000	-	613,768	1,033,768

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

Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations		2,738,000	2,636,000
Net Cash provided by State Government		2,738,000	2,636,000
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(1,789,011)	(1,788,160)
Supplies and services		(585,847)	(628,014)
Accommodation		(308,838)	(221,513)
Grants and subsidies		-	(3,000)
GST payments on purchases		(108,567)	(108,094)
GST payments to taxation authority			
Other payments		(19,925)	(22,888)
Receipts			
GST receipts on sales		1,942	7,951
GST receipts from taxation authority		105,326	167,523
Other Receipts		4,520	195,267
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	25	(2,700,400)	(2,400,928)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(14,723)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(14,723)	-
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		22,877	235,072
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		1,013,328	778,256
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	25	1,036,205	1,013,328

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

Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year ended 30 June 2011

	2011 Estimate \$	2011 Actual \$	Variance \$	2011 Actual \$	2010 Actual \$	Variance \$
DELIVERY OF SERVICES						
Item 89 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	2,610,000	2,610,000	-	2,610,000	2,549,000	61,000
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes- Salaries and Allowances Act 1992	199,000	207,000	8,000	207,000	187,000	20,000
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	2,809,000	2,817,000	8,000	2,817,000	2,736,000	81,000

CAPITAL

Capital Contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	2,809,000	2,817,000	8,000	2,817,000	2,736,000	81,000

Details of Expenses by Services

Consultation, research and promotion	2,933,000	3,041,685	108,685	3,041,685	2,794,661	247,024
Total Cost of Services	2,933,000	3,041,685	108,685	3,041,685	2,794,661	247,024
Less total revenues from ordinary activities	-	(3,207)	(3,207)	(3,207)	(54,066)	50,859
Net Cost of Services	2,933,000	3,038,478	105,478	3,038,478	2,740,595	297,883
Adjustment	(124,000)	(221,478)	(97,478)	(221,478)	(4,595)	(216,883)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	2,809,000	2,817,000	8,000	2,817,000	2,736,000	81,000

Capital Expenditure

Purchase of non-current physical assets	-	14,723	14,723	14,723	-	14,723
Adjustments for other funding sources	-	(14,723)	(14,723)	(14,723)	-	(14,723)
Capital Contribution (appropriation)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Adjustments comprise of movements in cash balances and other accrual items such as receivables, payables and superannuation.

Note 30 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2011 and between the actual results for 2010 and 2011.



Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2011

Note 1. Australian Accounting Standards

General

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (hereafter CCYP for the purpose of the notes) financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2011 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standard Board (AASB).

CCYP has adopted any applicable, new and revised Australian Accounting Standards from their operative dates.

Early adoption of standards

CCYP cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements. No Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended but not operative have been early adopted by CCYP for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2011.

Note 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General statement

The financial statements constitute general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The Financial Management Act and the Treasurer's instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

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.



(b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Note 3. Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies' discloses judgements that have been made in process of applying CCYP's accounting policies resulting in the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Note 4. Key sources of estimation uncertainty discloses key assumptions made concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

(c) Reporting entity

The reporting entity comprises The Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Mission

The mission of CCYP is to improve the well being of children and young people by working with them, their families, community and government in Western Australia. CCYP is predominantly funded by Parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which CCYP controls resources to carry on its functions.

Services

The Commissioner for Children and Young People provides consultation, research and promotion services.



(d) 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.

The transfer of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Provision of services

Revenue is recognised on delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service appropriations

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 to the bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at Treasury.

Net Appropriation Determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of CCYP. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2010 2011 Budget Statements, CCYP retained \$3,475 in 2011 (\$54,066 in 2010).

Gains

Realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non current assets and some revaluations of non current assets.

(f) Plant and equipment

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Items of plant and equipment and costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Initial recognition and measurement

Plant and equipment is initially recognised at cost.



For items of plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is the fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition as an asset, CCYP uses the cost model for all other plant and equipment. All other 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.

Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of, plant and equipment, any revaluation surplus relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation surplus.

Depreciation

All non-current assets 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 on other assets is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Office equipment	Computer hardware	Furniture fixtures and fittings
5 years	3 years	10 years

(g) Intangible assets

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$50,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful life. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

All acquired and internally developed intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation for intangible assets with finite useful lives is calculated for the period of the expected benefit (estimated useful life) on the straight line basis using rates which are reviewed annually. All intangible assets controlled by CCYP have a finite useful life and zero residual value.

The expected useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Software
3 years

Software that is not integral to the operation of any related hardware



Licences

Licences have a finite useful life and are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Computer software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$5,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

(h) Impairment of assets

Plant and equipment, and intangible assets are tested for any indication of impairment at the end of each reporting period. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As CCYP is a not for profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of the asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at the end of each reporting period irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at the end of each reporting period.

(i) Leases

CCYP holds operating leases for its office building and motor vehicles where the lessor effectively retains all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the items held under the operating leases. Equal instalments of the lease payments are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the lease term as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property and motor vehicles.

(j) Financial instruments

In addition to cash, CCYP has two categories of financial instrument:

- Receivables; and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.



Financial instruments have been disaggregated into the following classes:

- Financial Assets
 - Cash and cash equivalents
 - Restricted cash and cash equivalents
 - Receivables
 - Amounts receivable for services
- Financial Liabilities
 - Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

(k) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(l) Accrued salaries

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are generally settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. For the current financial year a component of accrued salaries relates to settlement of liability in relation to the Public Services and Government Officers General Agreement 2011(PS GOSAG) pay award. CCYP considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

The accrued salaries suspense account consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

(m) Amounts receivable for services (holding account)

CCYP receives funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

(n) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts



(doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that CCYP will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days.

(o) Payables

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 they are generally settled within 30 days.

(p) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period.

Provisions - employee benefits

All annual leave and long service leave provisions are in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period.

Annual leave

The liability for annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Annual leave not expected to be settled more than 12 months after

the reporting period is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are 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.

The provision for annual leave is classified as current liability as CCYP does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Long service leave not expected to be settled more than 12 months after the reporting period is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service.



The expected future payments are 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.

The provision for long service leave is classified as current liability as CCYP does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period.

Purchased leave

The provision for purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund up to an additional ten weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) in accordance with legislative requirements administers public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia.

Employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members.

CCYP has no liabilities under the Pension Scheme or the GSS. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS

transfer benefits due to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by CCYP to the GESB. The concurrently funded part of the GSS is a defined contribution scheme as these contributions extinguish all liabilities in respect of the concurrently funded GSS obligations.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension or the GSS became non contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS). Both of these schemes are accumulation schemes. CCYP makes concurrent contributions to GESB on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*. These contributions extinguish the liability for superannuation charges in respect of the WSS and GESB.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension and GSS, and is recouped from the Treasurer for the employer's share.

Provisions – other

Employment on costs

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 expenses' and are not included as part of CCYP 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.



(q) Superannuation expense

The superannuation expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises of employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, and the GESBS. The employer contribution paid to the GESB in respect of the GSS is paid back into the Consolidated Account by the GESB.

(r) Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost

Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income and as assets or expenses as appropriate, at fair value.

(s) Comparative figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

Note 3. Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements about the application of accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. CCYP evaluates these judgements regularly.

Operating lease commitments

CCYP has entered into a commercial sub-lease and has determined that the lessor retains all the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the property. Accordingly, these leases have been classified as operating leases.

Note 4. Key sources of estimation uncertainty

CCYP makes key estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions 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.

Long Service Leave

Several estimations and assumptions used in calculating CCYP's long service leave provision include expected future salary rates, salary inflation, discount rates, employee retention rates and expected future payments. Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision.

Note 5. Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

CCYP has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2010 that impacted on CCYP.

		Operative for reporting periods beginning on/ after
AASB 2009-11	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 10 & 12].</i></p> <p>The amendment to AASB 7 requires modification to the disclosure of categories of financial assets. The Authority does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied. The disclosure of categories of financial assets in the notes will change.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 1053	<p><i>Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>This Standard establishes a differential financial reporting frame work consisting of two tiers of reporting requirements</p>	1 July 2013

	<p>for preparing general purpose financial statements.</p> <p>The Standard does not have any financial impact on CCYP. However it may affect disclosures in the financial statements of CCYP if the reduced disclosure requirements apply. DTF has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the new Standard for agencies.</p>	
AASB 2010-2	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to many Australian Accounting Standards, including Interpretations, to introduce reduced disclosure requirements into these pronouncements for application by certain types of entities.</p> <p>The Standard is not expected to have any financial impact on CCYP. However this Standard may reduce some note disclosures in financial statements of CCYP. DTF has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the amendments to these Standards for agencies.</p>	1 July 2013

AASB 9	<p><i>Financial Instruments</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was reissued on 6 Dec 2010 and the Department is currently determining the impact of the Standard, DTF has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard for agencies.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2010-7	<p><i>AASB1, 3,4,5,101,102,108,112,118,120,121, 127,128,131,132,136,137,139,1023 & 1038 and interpretations 2,5,10,12,19 & 127]</i></p> <p>This Amending Standard makes consequential adjustments to other Standards as a result of issuing AASB 9 Financial instruments in December 2010. DTF has not yet determined the application of the potential impact of the Standard for agencies.</p>	
AASB 2009-12	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASBs 5, 8, 108, 110, 112, 119, 133, 137, 139, 1023 & 1031 and Interpretations 2,4,16,1039 & 1052]</i></p> <p>This Standard introduces a number of terminology changes. There is no financial impact resulting from the application of this revised Standard.</p>	

AASB 2010-5	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB1, 3, 4, 5, 101, 107, 112, 118, 119, 121, 132, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 112, 115, 127, 132 & 1042] (October 2010)</i></p> <p>This Standard introduces a number of terminology changes as well as minor presentation changes to the Notes to the Financial Statements. There is no financial impact resulting from the application of this revised Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2011
AASB 2010-6	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures on Transfers of Financial Assets [AASB 1 & AASB 7]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to Australian Accounting Standards, introducing additional presentation and disclosure requirements for Financial Assets.</p> <p>The Standard is not expected to have any financial impact on the Commission. DTF has not yet determined the application of the potential impact of the amendments to these Standards for agencies.</p>	1 July 2011



AASB 1054	<i>Australian Additional Disclosures</i> This Standard in conjunction with AASB 2011-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans- Tasman convergence Project, removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards.	1 July 2011
AASB 2011-1	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project [AASB 1,5,101,107,108,121,128,132,134 and Interpretations 2, 112 & 113]</i> This Amending Standard, in conjunction with AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures, removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards.	1 July 2011

AASB 2011-2	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 101 & AASB 1054]</i> This Amending Standard removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards for reduced disclosure reporting. DTF has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the amendments to these Standards for agencies.	1 July 2011
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Note 6. Employee benefits expense

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Wages and salaries ^(a)	1,764,434	1,629,515
Superannuation - defined contribution plans ^(b)	138,474	119,925
Other related expenses	8,885	16,708
	1,911,793	1,766,148

^(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefit tax component, leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component.

^(b) Defined contribution plans include West State and Gold State and GESB Super Scheme (contributions paid).

Employment on-costs expenses such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 11 'Other Expenses'.

Employment on-costs liability is included in note 22 'Provisions'.

Note 7. Supplies and services

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Communications	39,790	55,501
Contractors	293,795	397,627
Consultants	100,421	8,680
Consumables	113,233	74,498
Travel	30,417	20,365
Lease, Rent and Hire Costs	42,025	58,153
Other	92,900	75,454
	712,581	690,278

Note 8. Depreciation and amortisation expense

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Depreciation		
Computer equipment	7,037	11,945
Furniture fixtures and fittings	73,187	69,728
Office equipment	4,133	4,133
Total Depreciation	84,357	85,806
Amortisation		
Intangible assets	4,191	5,028
Total amortisation	4,191	5,028
Total depreciation and amortisation	88,548	90,834

Note 9. Accommodation expenses

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Lease rentals	297,628	171,619
Repairs and maintenance	508	39,162
Cleaning	10,702	10,732
	308,838	221,513

Note 10. Grants and subsidies

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Recurrent		
Grants and subsidies	-	3,000
	-	3,000

Note 11. Other expenses

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Employment on-cost ^(a)	(926)	2,451
Other ^(b)	20,851	20,437
	19,925	22,888

(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 22 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

(b) Audit fee, see also note 33 'Remuneration of auditor'.

Note 12. Other Revenue

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Refunds	3,207	54,066
	3,207	54,066

Note 13. Income from State Government

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriations(a)	2,817,000	2,736,000
	2,817,000	2,736,000

Resources received free of charge

Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:

Department of the Attorney General - Corporate Services	86,526	84,168
Department of Treasury and Finance - Building Management Works	6,295	5,411
	92,821	89,579
	2,909,821	2,825,579

(a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

Note 14. Restricted cash and cash equivalents

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<i>Non-current</i>		
Accrued salaries suspense account (a)	38,856	28,848
	38,856	28,848

(a) Amount held in the suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

Note 15. Receivables

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Current		
Receivables	269	669
Allowances for impairment of receivables (a)	-	-
Accrued Revenue	-	-
GST Receivable	32,602	31,303
Other receivable	763	1,676
Total Current	33,634	33,648

Note 16. Other assets

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Current		
Prepayments	-	5,057
	-	5,057

Note 17. Amounts receivable for services

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Non-Current	200,000	121,000
	200,000	121,000

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. See note 2(m) 'Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)'. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

Note 18. Plant and equipment

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	36,065	36,065
Accumulated depreciation	(36,065)	(29,028)
	0	7,037
Office equipment		
At cost	20,663	20,663
Accumulated depreciation	(11,039)	(6,906)
	9,624	13,757
Furniture fixtures and fittings		
At cost	457,824	443,101
Accumulated depreciation	(158,197)	(85,010)
	299,627	358,091
	309,251	378,885

Reconciliation

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below:

	Computer hardware	Office equipment	Furniture fixtures and fittings	Total
2011	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at start of year	7,037	13,757	358,091	378,885
Additions	-	-	14,723	14,723
Depreciation	(7,037)	(4,133)	(73,187)	(84,357)
Carrying amount at end of year	-	9,624	299,627	309,251
2010				
Carrying amount at start of year	18,982	17,890	427,819	464,691
Depreciation	(11,945)	(4,133)	(69,728)	(85,806)
Carrying amount at end of year	7,037	13,757	358,091	378,885

Note 19. Intangible assets

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Computer Software		
At cost	15,086	15,086
Accumulated amortisation	(15,086)	(10,895)
	0	4,191



	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Computer Software		
Carrying amount at start of year	4,191	9,219
Amortisation expense	(4,191)	(5,028)
Carrying amount at end of year	0	4,191

Note 20. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to plant and equipment, and intangible assets at 30 June 2011.

CCYP held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period and at the end of the reporting period there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2011 have either been classified as assets held for sale or written-off.

Note 21. Payables

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade payables	17,460	2,288
Accrued Expenses	108,025	94,342
Accrued Salaries	82,716	21,080
Total current	208,201	117,710

See also Note 2(o) 'Payables' and Note 31 'Financial Instruments'.

Note 22. Provisions

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Current		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Annual leave ^(a)	79,849	49,999
Long service leave ^(b)	154,299	92,674
	234,148	142,673
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	1,738	1,994
	1,738	1,994
	235,886	144,667
Non-current		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Long service leave ^(b)	100,213	119,997
Purchased leave scheme	0	3,680
	100,213	123,677
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	1,022	1,692
	1,022	1,692
	101,235	125,369

(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Note 22. Provisions contd.

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Within 12 months of end of reporting period	72,104	42,668
More than 12 months after reporting period	7,745	7,331
	79,849	49,999

(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after end of reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of end of reporting period	63,855	91,329
More than 12 months after the reporting period	190,657	121,342
	254,512	212,671

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

Movements in other provisions

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits are set out below.

Employment on-cost provision		
Carrying amount at end of year	3,686	1,235
Additional provisions recognised	(926)	2,451
Carrying amount at end of year	2,760	3,686

Note 23. Other Liabilities

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Current		
Other	-	5,938
Total current	-	5,938

Other current liabilities includes the provision for FBT liability.

Note 24. Equity

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the CCYP. The Government holds the equity interest in CCYP on behalf of the community.

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Contributed Equity		
Balance at the start of period	420,000	420,000
Contributions by owners		
Capital appropriation		-
Total Contributions by owners	-	-
Balance at the end of period	420,000	420,000
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Balance at the start of year	742,425	657,441
Result for the period	(128,657)	84,984
Balance at the end of year	613,768	742,425
Total Equity at the end of period	1,033,768	1,162,425

Note 25. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	997,349	984,480
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer to note 14 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents')	38,856	28,848
	1,036,205	1,013,328

Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities

Net cost of services	(3,038,478)	(2,740,595)
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Non-cash items:

Depreciation and amortisation expense (note 8)	88,548	90,834
Doubtful debts expense		
Superannuation expense		
Resources received free of charge (note 13)	92,821	89,579
Net (gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment		

(Increase)/decrease in assets:

Current receivables ^(c)	1,313	141,201
Other current assets	5,057	(707)
Non-current receivables	-	-

Note 25. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement contd.

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:		
Current payables	90,491	(20,725)
Current provisions	91,219	(72,248)
Other current liabilities	(5,938)	2,607
Non-current provisions	(24,134)	41,725
Net GST receipts/(payments)(a)	(1,299)	136,236
Change in GST in receivables/payables(b)	0	(68,835)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(2,700,400)	(2,400,928)

(a) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e cash transaction.

(b) This reverses out the GST in receivables and payables.

(c) Note that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and the receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.

Note 26. Commitments

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

Non cancellable operating lease commitments

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Non-cancellable operating leases commitments		
Within 1 year	305,932	306,550
Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	289,809	290,031
Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	378,129	659,228
	973,870	1,255,809

The non cancellable operating leases represent CCYP's property lease and leases on its motor vehicles. The property lease is a non-cancellable lease with a term expiring November 2014 with a further option to renew the lease for another five years. There is a fixed 3% increase in rent rates at the end of each lease year.

The motor vehicle lease is a non-cancellable lease with a two year term, with lease payments monthly. New vehicle leases are negotiated at the end of this period, the number of vehicle leases being subject to CCYP's operational needs.

Note 27. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent liabilities

The CCYP has no contingent liabilities for the financial year 2010-2011.

Contingent assets

The CCYP has no contingent assets for the financial year 2010-2011.

Note 28. Event occurring after the end of the reporting period.

There were no events occurring after the end of the reporting date that impact on the financial statements.

Note 29. Explanatory Statement

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expenses as presented in the financial statement titles 'Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below: Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 5% or \$100,000.

Total appropriation provided to deliver services

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2011

	2011 Estimate	2011 Actual	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Consultation, research and promotion	3,009,000	3,041,685	32,685

There was no significant variance in total cost of services against budget.

Significant variances between actuals for 2010 and 2011

Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the year	2,817,000	2,736,000	81,000
Total revenue	3,207	54,066	(50,859)

The appropriation provided by government was increased to meet normal indexation of salary and other office costs.

Total revenue was higher due to increases in one off salary recoups received from other State government agencies.

Service Expenditure

Significant variances between actual results for 2010 and 2011

	2011 Estimate	2011 Actual	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Consultation, research and promotion	3,041,685	2,794,661	247,024

Increase due to additional staff as well as 5% wages increment over the prior year.



Note 30. Financial Instruments

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial Instruments held by CCYP are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents and receivables and payables. All of CCYP's cash is held in the public bank account apart from restricted cash held in a special purpose account. CCYP has limited exposure to financial risks. CCYP's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of CCYP's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to CCYP. CCYP measures credit risk on a fair value basis and monitors risk on regular basis.

The maximum credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment, as shown in the table at note 31(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 15 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with CCYP's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is amounts owing from other government agencies. For receivables other than government, CCYP trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on a ongoing basis with the result that CCYPs exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Provision for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on past experience, and current and expected changes in client credit ratings. For financial assets that are either past due or impaired, refer to note 15 'Receivables'.

Liquidity risk

CCYP is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. Liquidity risk arises when CCYP is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

CCYP has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.



Market risk

CCYP does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 31(c), CCYP is not exposed to interest rate risk because all other cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing, and CCYP has no borrowings.

(b) Categories of financial Instruments

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	997,349	984,480
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	38,856	28,848
Receivables ^(a)	201,032	123,345
Financial Liabilities		
Payables	208,201	117,710

(c) Financial Instrument disclosures

Credit risk and interest rate exposures

The following table disclose the Commission's maximum exposure to credit risk, interest rate exposures and the ageing analysis of financial assets. CCYPs maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of the financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired in financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Commission.

CCYP does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds. CCYP does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.

Interest rate exposures and ageing analysis of financial assets ^(a)

Financial Assets	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Interest Rate Exposure				Past due but not impaired					Impaired financial assets
		Carrying amount \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$	Up to 3 months \$	3-12 months \$	1-2- years \$	2-5 years \$	More than 5 years \$	
2011											
Cash and cash equivalents		997,349			997,349						
Restricted cash and cash equivalent		38,856			38,856						
Receivables ^(a)		1,032			1,032	1,032					
Amount receivable for services		200,000			200,000						
		1,237,237			1,237,237	1,032					
2010											
Cash and cash equivalents		984,480			984,480						
Restricted cash and cash equivalent		28,848			28,848						
Receivables ^(a)		2,345			2,345	2,345					
Amount receivable for services		121,000			121,000						
		1,136,673			1,136,673	2,345					

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

Liquidity risk

The following table details the contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities. The contractual maturity amounts are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. The table includes both interest and principal cash flows. An adjustment has been made where material.

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial liabilities

Financial Liabilities	Interest Rate Exposure						Maturity dates					
	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying amount \$000	Fixed interest rate \$000	Variable interest rate \$000	Non-interest bearing \$000	Adjustment for discounting \$000	Total nominal amount \$000	Up to 3 months \$000	3-12 months \$000	1-2- years \$000	2-5 years \$000	More than 5 years \$000
2011												
Payables		208,201					208,201					
		208,201					208,201					
2010												
Payables		117,710					117,710					
		117,710					117,710					

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

None of CCYP's financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period are sensitive to movements in interest rates, hence movements in interest rates have no bottom line impact on CCYP's surplus or equity.

Fair values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the statement of financial position, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.



Note 31. Remuneration of senior officers

The number of senior officers whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

	2011	2010
\$	\$	\$
0 - 10,000	-	1
40,001 - 60,000	2	-
60,001 - 70,000	-	1
90,001 - 100,000	-	1
100,001 - 120,000	2	-
120,001 - 140,000	2	1
140,001 - 150,000	-	1
210,001 - 240,000	1	1
Total remuneration of senior officers	806,983	683,709

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by CCYP in respect of senior officers. No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

Note 32. Remuneration of Auditor

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

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	18,000	16,700

This expense is included at note 11 'Other expenses'.



Note 33. Income and Expenses by Service

For the financial year ended 30 June 2011, CCYP operated under one service titled 'Consultation, research and promotion' and therefore service information is reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Note 34. Assets and Liabilities by Service

For the financial year ended 30 June 2011, CCYP operated under one service titled 'Consultation, research and promotion' and therefore service information is reflected in the Statement of Financial Position.

Note 35. Supplementary financial information

Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Losses of public money and public and other property through theft or default.	262	-



Certification of Key Performance Indicator

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 2011.

Michelle Scott
Accountable Authority
8 August 2011

Detailed Key Performance Indicators information

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's Key Performance Indicators were approved by the Government's Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009. This is the second year of reporting on the Indicators.

Commissioner for Children and Young People – approved outcome based management structure	
Government Goal	Outcome based service delivery. Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians.
Agency Level Desired Outcome(s)	The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon.
Key Effectiveness Indicators	<p>1.1 The extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted.</p> <p>1.2 The extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research.</p>
Service	Consultation, research and promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people.
Key Cost Efficiency Indicators	<p>2.1 Average cost per consultation exercise with children and young people.</p> <p>2.2 Average cost of conducting research and consultation.</p>

Key Effectiveness Indicator 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 children and young people and the scope and goals for this are set out in the Act 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 various locations across the State of Western Australia.

	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Actual 2010-11
Regional	11	5	9
Metropolitan	18	10	16
Total number of consultations	29	15	25

Note 1 – At this stage in the Agency's development it is important and prescribed in the Act that the Commissioner for Children and Young People consult with children and young people. Section 19(n) requires the Commissioner to consult with children and young people from a broad



range of socio economic backgrounds and age groups throughout Western Australia each year.

- Note 2 – The Commissioner and/or the staff of the office will consult with children and young people to increase awareness about the role of the Commissioner and to ensure the views and opinions of children and young people are heard and acted upon.
- Note 3 – The Commissioner uses the information from consultations to inform her work – to advocate for children and young people (Section 19(a)) and to promote and monitor the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(c)). This is achieved by including the views of children and young people in representations and submissions and by promoting public awareness and understanding of matters that impact on the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(h)).
- Note 4 – Within the resources of this office it is achievable to undertake 15 consultations annually and, over time, the extent to which children and young people across the State are consulted will aggregate. The target of 15 will be reviewed in early 2012.
- Note 5 – The increase in the actual number of consultations in this reporting period compared to the original target is due to the refining of the criteria to reflect the full range of face to face consultations with children and young people undertaken by the Commissioner and the staff of the office.
- Note 6 – During this reporting period the Commissioner met with

seven groups of children and young people.

- Note 7 – Staff of the office and/ or contractors working on behalf of the Commissioner met with 18 groups of children and young people.
- Note 8 – During this period the Commissioner and/or the staff of the office visited 10 regional centres and 8 schools.
- Note 9 – The online Shout Out polls are not included in the above data collection.
- Note 10 – Data does not include the partnership with the Perth International Arts Festival – Talking Couches project.

Key Effectiveness Indicator 2

Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research.

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 and developing submissions¹ that explore the impact of these issues and make recommendations to address them.

¹ *Representations include* submissions; reports; responses to Government inquiries and initiatives, Parliamentary committees and reviews; appearance before Parliamentary inquiries and committees; submissions on draft or proposed legislation; presentations; and published issue papers and reports.



	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Actual 2010-11
Representations	98	50	94

Note 1 – At this stage in the Agency’s development, it is important that the Commissioner increases awareness about her role and ensures the views and opinions of children and young people are heard and acted upon.

Note 2 – The Commissioner uses information from consultations, meetings, research and reports to inform her work i.e. to advocate for children and young people (Section 19(a)) and to promote and monitor the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(c)). This is done by including the views of children and young people, their families and other key stakeholders and the results of research and reports in representations/submissions and by promoting *public awareness and understanding of matters that impact on the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(h))*.

Note 3 – Section 19 of the Act contains a number of functions that require the Commissioner to allocate resources to make representations and prepare submissions (Section 19(d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (k), (l)).

Note 4 – Within the resources of this office it is achievable to prepare and develop 50 representations/submissions annually, over time the research, knowledge and capacity

of the office will aggregate. The target of 50 will be reviewed in early 2012.

Note 5 – The table above does not include the many strategic meetings that are conducted by the Commissioner and/or the staff of the office. Strategic meetings are held with Ministers, Directors General, Senior Officer Working Groups, Community leaders and major stakeholders. Strategic meetings are often used to fulfil the functions as outlined in the Act.

Note 6 – The criteria that are used to identify issues affecting children and young people have been refined to take into account the broad range of the Commissioner’s activities. Initially the effectiveness indicator measured submissions only. The criteria now include submissions; reports; responses to Government inquiries and initiatives; Parliamentary Committees and reviews; appearance before Parliamentary inquiries and committees; submissions on draft or proposed legislation; presentations; and published issue papers and reports.

Key Cost Efficiency Indicators

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

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*.

Efficiency Indicators	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Actual 2010 -11
2.1 Average Cost per Consulting Exercise with Children and Young People	\$29,235	\$64,844	\$37,330
2.2 Average Cost of Conducting Research and Consultation	\$19,866	\$38,907	\$22,430

Note 1 – The significant decrease in the average cost of conducting consultations with children and young people is due to the refining of the criteria to reflect the full range of consultations with children and young people.

Note 2 – The average cost of conducting research and consultation is calculated using the number of representations undertaken. The analysis and interpretation of information collected through research and consultation is used to identify issues and trends affecting children and young people. This forms the basis of the representations made by the Commissioner.

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 her functions.

There were no directions under Section 26 of the Act in 2010-11.

Other financial disclosures

The Commissioner for Children and Young People had no capital expenditure in 2010-11 or any other activity to report in this section.

Governance disclosures

The Commissioner has no disclosures to make in this section

Other legal requirements

Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail

In accordance with section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907, the Commissioner for Children and Young People incurred the following expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail:

Total expenditure for 2010-11 was \$5,151.

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas (see [next page](#)):

	Total expenditure	Organisation	Amount
Advertising agencies	\$5,151	Adcorp	\$5,151
Market research organisations	Nil		Nil
Polling organisations	Nil		Nil
Direct mail organisations	Nil		Nil
Media advertising organisations	Nil		Nil

* All advertising agency expenditure relates to advertisements placed to recruit staff.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan outcomes

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012* was finalised and approved by the Disability Services Commission in June 2009.

The comprehensive plan addresses requirements of public authorities under the *Disability Services Act 1993*, as well as access and inclusion requirements under the *WA Equal Opportunity Act 1984* and the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)*.

The Commissioner's first major step towards providing better services for people with disabilities in 2009 was to relocate the office to a street-level location. The office provides disabled parking and wheelchair

access at ground floor level and lift access to a basement car park.

Refurbishment of the office space was also undertaken to ensure ease of access by people with a disability. It includes Braille foyer signage, a wide sliding front door, low-height reception desk with wheelchair and pram access, and a wheelchair-access toilet and shower facility.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012 has been circulated to all staff and is available in the records management system of the Commissioner's office and on the website.

The Commissioner's website www.cryp.wa.gov.au was reviewed and updated last year and complies with e-Government disability standards.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People notes the Government's six desired outcomes for people with disabilities and is committed to ensuring these are incorporated and addressed in all our operations.²

The office's outcomes for children and young people with disabilities are as follows.

- The services of, and any events organised by, the Commissioner for Children and Young People identify children and young people with disabilities as a priority group, consult with them and seek their active participation.
- Access to the buildings and other facilities of the Commissioner for Children and Young People is designed to meet the special

² These six desired outcomes are listed in Schedule 3 of the Disability Services Regulations 2004



needs of children and young people with disabilities.

- Children and young people with disabilities have access to information from the Commissioner for Children and Young People in a suitable format.
- Children and young people with disabilities receive equal service from the staff of Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- Children and young people with disabilities have equal opportunity to make complaints to the Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- Children and young people with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in any public consultation by the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory officer, reporting directly to the Parliament of Western Australia. However, to promote transparency and accountability of the office, the Commissioner is pleased to report against the standards established by the Public Sector Management Act 1994 for Government agencies.

Compliance with s31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*

In the administration of the Office, I have complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and the Conduct Guide published by the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner. Regular staff meetings were held where any matters relevant to Public Sector Standards could be raised and discussed and all employees were briefed on the Code of Ethics and Conduct Guide as part of their induction on commencement.

I have established procedures to ensure such compliance and conducted appropriate internal assessments to satisfy myself that the statement above is correct.

I am pleased to report that in 2010-11 applications made for breach of standards review and the corresponding outcomes for the reporting period were:

- Number lodged - Nil
- Number of breaches found, including details of multiple breaches per application - Nil
- Number still under review - Nil

Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People



Recordkeeping Plan

The Commissioner's Recordkeeping Plan and its supporting documents (including the functional Retention & Disposal Schedule, Business Classification Scheme and Recordkeeping Policies and Procedures) were developed in accordance with Section 19 of the State Records Act 2000 and approved by the State Records Office on 4 December 2009.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People operates an electronic document records management system, with very limited storage of hard copy documents since the commencement of operations in 2007-08.

Every member of the Commissioner's staff is responsible for ensuring they are aware of, and comply with, the recordkeeping standards outlined in the *State Records Act 2000*.

All staff are provided with self-paced online training modules in both recordkeeping standards and in the electronic document records management system. Both modules are modelled on the *State Records Act 2000*. The online training is mandatory for all staff. New staff are provided access to the training at induction and also meet with the Records Management Administrator to learn their recordkeeping responsibilities as a government officer. Recordkeeping information and procedures are also included in induction packs.

Government Policy Requirements

Corruption prevention

The *Management of Conflict of Interest Policy* for the Commissioner for Children and Young People's office was endorsed by the Commissioner's Corporate Executive in March 2010. All staff were advised that the document was approved and that they were required to become familiar with its contents.

New staff are provided training in Accountable and Ethical Decision Making, as required by Public Sector Commissioner's Circular 2009-03. As part of the training, staff received a Participants' Handbook and copies of relevant CCYP policies.

All new staff joining the Commissioner's office receive information about the Public Sector Code of Ethics and the relevant office policies as part of their induction.

Substantive equality

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is not represented on the Strategic Management Council but supports the intent and substance of the *Policy Framework for Substantive Equality*.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's *Reconciliation Action Plan*, which was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, was reviewed in February 2010. The Plan contains strategies and actions to deliver realistic, achievable and measurable actions that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

Good progress on the extensive plan was noted and amendments



were made to align the document with the available resources of the office.

Occupational Safety, Health and Injury Management

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has an *Occupational Safety and Health Policy*, including incident and accident reporting forms, which are stored electronically and available to staff. This policy was reviewed and updated in 2010-11.

The policy demonstrates the Commissioner's commitment to preventing work-related injury or illness and aligns to occupational safety and health legislation, as well as to the *Code of Practice Occupational Safety & Health in the Western Australian Public Sector 2007*.

Communication and consultation

CCYP prioritises communication and consultation with employees in relation to safety and health matters. Open communication and working together aligns with the values of CCYP, and serves to promote the effective resolution of hazards and risks.

CCYP adopts a number of informal and formal strategies when communicating and consulting with employees. These include:

- Issuing staff with OSH policy and procedures during induction process
- Making OSH policy and procedures easily accessible in TRIM document management system.
- Discussing health and safety at office meetings as issues arise

- Providing written information via email and circulars on matters affecting CCYP
- Displaying information on notice boards as issues arise or to highlight whole of government OSH initiatives as relevant
- Communicating directly with employees at team meetings or individually, as issues arise

All employees are encouraged to use all available means to raise safety and health concerns and provide suggestions for the control of risks.

Injury Management Policy

In 2010-11 CCYP developed an injury management policy which complies with the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

This policy and associated procedures have been communicated to all current employees and is also included in the induction pack for new employees. This policy is also made available through the TRIM document management system and will always be directly provided to staff should they suffer a work related injury. A return to work program will be developed for each work related injury case as required under the Act.

Audit of Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems

CCYP will conduct a self evaluation of OSH management systems in the 2011-12 financial year. Results of this audit will be presented to Corporate Executive and any identified improvements will be implemented to OSH policies and procedures and then



communicated to staff.

The Department of Treasury and Finance's Shared Services handles the Commissioner for Children and Young People's workers compensation claims and assists CCYP in the injury management process.