



*Released 20 June 2025*

## **Meeting Communiqué – 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (ANZCCGA) met face-to-face on Gadigal Country in Sydney from 14 to 16 May 2025. The meeting was co-chaired by Zoë Robinson, Advocate for Children and Young People (NSW), and Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Commissioner for Children and Young People (WA).

Members in attendance reaffirmed their commitment to upholding the rights and wellbeing of all children and young people across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, with a particular focus on children experiencing systemic disadvantage, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and Māori and Pasifika children and young people.

During the meeting, members had the privilege of engaging with a variety of social enterprise organisations and enjoy NSW hospitality. This included inspiring presentations from the young people involved in the Backtrack Night Patrol, participating in the incredible work of Thread Together and an opportunity to sit with children and young people in Youth Justice. Members were also graciously hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC for afternoon tea and the incredible team at Colombo Social for dinner.

Each member thanks these individuals for their hospitality and sharing their stories with us.

Key Areas of Focus in the meeting included:

### **Strategic Communications and Collective Advocacy**

Members agreed on the need for a more agile, visible and values-led approach to ANZCCGA strategic communications. This approach is grounded in principles of consent, jurisdictional autonomy, and integrity.

### **Key Priorities and Shared Principles**

Members agreed on the need for a more agile, visible and values-led approach to ANZCCGA strategic communications. This approach is grounded in principles of consent, jurisdictional autonomy, and integrity.

### **Digital Safety and Social Media Regulation**

The eSafety Commissioner provided an update on the proposed social media age restrictions and digital safety reforms. ANZCCGA members discussed the implications of the proposed legislation for children's rights, wellbeing, and participation. Members are willing to review educational resources and include Youth Advisory Councils in the ongoing policy process. It was noted that the developments in this area in Australia are of interest in Aotearoa New Zealand given possible similar restrictions being explored by the New Zealand Government.

### **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**

Recognising an escalating mental health crisis among children and young people, members endorsed writing a letter to the Australian federal and state Mental Health Ministers. This advocacy will emphasise early intervention, aftercare services, and targeted support for neurodivergent and marginalised children.



### **Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Safeguarding**

Members raised serious concerns about systemic failures in child safety within ECEC settings, particularly among for-profit providers. ANZCCGA is calling for sector regulation, transparency, and stronger accountability to protect children.

### **International Collaboration**

Dr Claire Achmad (Aotearoa NZ) provided an update on international efforts to build stronger linkages between national level independent children's rights institutions. Members expressed interest in these developments and contributing to current UN consultations on children's access to justice, and the right to education.

### **Future Generations Legislation**

Taylor Hawkins presented on the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill. Members acknowledged the importance of long-term, intergenerational thinking and will consider further engagement and collaboration.

Over the course of the meeting, members acknowledged the significance of their collective voice in advancing children's rights and improving systems of care, justice, and support. The group reaffirmed the need for principled, consistent, and responsive advocacy particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Māori children and other children facing systemic barriers.

**Further information** about matters raised in this communique can be sought from the ANZCCGA Chair: Jacqueline McGowan-Jones | WA Commissioner for Children and Young People ([www.ccyp.wa.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au))



***Communique signatories – 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025***

Jodie Griffiths-Cook	Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner – ACT Human Rights Commission
Zoë Robinson	Advocate for Children and Young People - NSW Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People
Rachael Ward	Acting Children's Guardian - NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
Dale Agius	Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People – SA Commission for Aboriginal Children and Young People
Shona Reid	Guardian for Children and Young People – SA Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People
Jacqueline McGowan-Jones	Commissioner for Children and Young People – WA Commission for Children and Young People (Online)
Shahleena Musk	Children's Commissioner – NT Office of the Children's Commission
Isabelle Crompton	Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People – TAS Commissioner for Children and Young People
Meena Singh	Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young people and Acting Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People – VIC Commission for Children and Young People
Anne Hollonds	National Children's Commissioner – Australian Human Rights Commission
Luke Twyford	Principal Commissioner - QLD Family and Child Commission
Natalie Lewis	Commissioner _QLD Family and Child Commission
Shayna Smith	Public Guardian – QLD Office of Public Guardian



Dr. Claire Achmad	Chief Children's Commissioner – NZ Mana Mokopuna Children and Young People Commission
Lil Gordon	Acting National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People – National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People
Tracey Ninnette	Acting Commissioner for Children and Young People – WA Commissioner for Children and Young People
Mimi Crowe	Acting Commissioner for Children and Young People SA Commission for Children and Young People
Julie Inman – Grant	eSafety Commissioner
Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner – ACT Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People

***NOTE: Specific ANZCCGA Communiqués are endorsed by individual members as indicated.***