



## Media statement

**Date** 18 March 2013

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**Re:** **Advisory committee to focus on improving the wellbeing of children in their community**

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Commissioner for Children and Young People Michelle Scott met with her advisory committee at Sacred Heart Primary School (Thornlie) for the first time today.

The Commissioner said the work of the 11 and 12 year-old students will help her further understand the challenges and needs of children from diverse backgrounds living in a rapidly growing city.

“The Year 6 students from Sacred Heart Advisory Committee come from a diverse range of backgrounds and each bring with them different experiences, ideas and perspectives,” Ms Scott said.

“As leaders in their school, Year 6 students participate in many events and programs and this interaction with students of all ages, teachers and parents is one of the reasons I selected them as one of my 2013 advisory committees.”

The Commissioner said her advisory committees are one of the ways that she ensures the voices of children and young are heard and taken seriously when decisions are made about services, policies and legislation.

“In my meeting with the students today, I was impressed with their confidence and enthusiasm as they discussed with me important issues such as bullying, peer pressure and the need to promote the positive contributions children and young people are making to the community,” Ms Scott said.

“The Sacred Heart Advisory Committee will provide advice on a number of my projects throughout 2013 as well as completing their ‘Us and Our Community’ project, where they will report on what they like about their community and their ideas to improve it.

“The students are planning to focus on a range of issues including increasing student engagement at school as well as bullying, self-esteem and how to help children in the transition from primary to high school.”

The Commissioner has appointed four separate advisory committees in 2013.

The other committees are:

- Katanning Senior High School Student Leadership Team
- Y2Y (Youth to Youth) group run by Wanslea
- City of Rockingham Youth Advisory Council and Junior Council

ENDS