



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

READING THE ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report can be accessed in several different formats.

Online

This Annual Report is available as a PDF 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 and are [highlighted in blue and underlined](#).

Hard copy

Printed copies of the report can be viewed at the:

Commissioner for Children and Young People
Ground floor
1 Alvan Street
SUBIACO WA

State Library of Western Australia
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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 2011-12 Report to the Community is available from the [publications](#) section of the Commissioner's website.

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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 2011-12

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 2012.

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

27 September 2012



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FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Executive summary

I am pleased to present my fifth 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).

As required under the Act, all aspects of my work in 2011-12 had a special regard to Aboriginal children and young people and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Partnerships with government and non-government agencies and private sector organisations, and a focus on a strong evidence base, have continued to underpin all of my work.

This focus has been vital in the development and delivery of several initiatives which fulfil the statutory requirements of my role and raise the profile of critical matters impacting the wellbeing of children and young people in our State.

Wellbeing monitoring framework

On 29 February 2012, I tabled two major reports to the Western Australian Parliament which completed edition one of my Wellbeing Monitoring Framework – *The State of Western Australia's Children and Young People and Building Blocks: Best practice programs that improve the wellbeing of children and young people*.

These reports were informed by an expert, multi-agency reference group and were developed to increase our understanding of how children and young people in Western Australia are faring by providing a single, accessible point for key data and research concerning their wellbeing.

The framework shows that generally children and young people are faring well, however there are gaps in wellbeing which represent priority areas for action. This includes addressing the inter-related nature of the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal children and young people by developing a comprehensive, whole-of-government response. Other priorities include a focus on early childhood, meeting the needs of children and young people in regional and remote communities, increasing mental health services, addressing alcohol-related harm and diverting young people away from the criminal justice system.

The framework increases the capacity of the government, non-government and private sectors to develop and implement evidence-based programs and make targeted, meaningful improvements to children and young people's wellbeing. I have received positive feedback about the reports from ministers, members of parliament, government and non-government agencies and I will continue to promote and monitor their usage by agencies in 2012-13.



Commissioner for Children and Young People Michelle Scott

Thinker in Residence

In 2011-12 I established the Thinker in Residence initiative with the aim of raising awareness on important public policy issues that affect the wellbeing of children and young people, and to enhance the access Western Australia's policy and decision makers have to leading international researchers and practitioners.

In November 2011, United Kingdom expert and chief executive officer of not-for-profit organisation Creativity, Culture and Education, Paul Collard, spent two weeks as my inaugural Thinker in Residence. He presented at around 40 events and meetings exploring the residency theme of 'Unlocking Creativity'. More than 600 people participated in the residency which was supported by seven partner organisations.

A key recommendation of Mr Collard's residency report was the development of a pilot creativity program for schools, and my office now is working closely with the chief executive officer of the Western Australian Museum, Alec Coles, who has indicated his interest in leading this project.

My second Thinker in Residence, held in June 2012, focused on self-regulation in children and young people, a theme closely related to my work in the early years, wellbeing and mental health. World-renowned Canadian child development specialist Dr Stuart Shanker accepted my invitation to be the 2012 Thinker in Residence.

The response to this residency was outstanding, with more than 2,000 people participating in Dr Shanker's 35 events and meetings. I attribute much of this success to the topic of this year's residency which resonated with parents, teachers and a wide range of other professionals who work with and support children and young people.

The nine partner agencies involved in the 2012 residency (Rio Tinto; the WA Council of Social Service; the departments of Health, Education and Communities; the Mental Health Commission; Child Australia; Edith Cowan University; and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research) have expressed great interest and enthusiasm to respond practically to Dr Shanker's report, which will be delivered early in 2012-13.

The support of these agencies and the contributions from their representatives has resulted in the high degree of engagement in the Thinker in Residence initiative, and I thank all involved.



Being creative at 2011 Thinker in Residence Paul Collard's workshop

Reducing alcohol-related harm

More than 300 young people aged 14 to 17 years of age took part in a consultation which resulted in the report *Speaking out about reducing alcohol-related harm on children and young people*. Five young people involved in the consultation took part in a seminar I hosted to release and discuss the research findings, which also involved leading researchers and advocates in the field of alcohol-related harm.

This research informs the approach needed to tackle the issue of alcohol abuse and harm. As young people pointed out, this will require cultural change and, while there are relatively simple short-term improvements to be made, our approach needs to be multi-faceted and sustained. This includes compulsory education in schools, more information and education for parents, and secondary supply legislation. I thank the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth, the Drug and Alcohol Office, and the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University for their expertise and support for this project.

Response to recommendations of the Inquiry into mental health

A focus in 2011-12 was to promote and monitor the recommendations of my *Report on the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people*, which I tabled in the Western Australian Parliament in May 2011. At the time the report was tabled, it was welcomed by ministers, members of parliament, government and non-government agencies.

I am pleased that over the last 12 months there has been significant progress on the Inquiry's 54 recommendations, and I will continue to collaborate with the relevant agencies and monitor their progress on this important work in 2012-13.

Other key policy areas

In addition to these significant initiatives, I have continued to work with the community to advance the wellbeing of children and young people across a number of important policy areas. A broad picture of this work can be obtained by reviewing data from my key performance indicators – 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 43 separate consultations with 708 children and young people. I also made 228 'representations' to promote and enhance the wellbeing of children and young people. More detail on my Key Performance Indicators is available on [page 77](#) of this Annual Report.

I developed and published two policy briefs concerning children and young people with specific mental health needs (those in care and in contact with the criminal justice system), delivered several keynote addresses and worked closely with the government and non-government sectors delivering policy, services and programs for children and young people experiencing mental health problems. I also prepared a submission on the Draft Mental Health Bill 2011.

Youth justice remains an ongoing and crucial area. I continued to strongly advocate for evidence-based prevention and diversion programs that address the underlying causes of offending behaviour and support young people, families and communities. My youth justice-related submissions included writing to the Mental Health Commission on the joint Mental Health Commission and Department of Attorney General cabinet proposal on mental health and criminal justice. I also welcomed the government's announcement of a \$1.7 million pilot forensic mental health service to be located at the Perth Children's Court as an important initiative to care for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Responding to the concerns of parents and health professionals, I continued my work on the issue of the sexualisation of children. I developed and published three resources that provide a basis for discussion on this issue, while also identifying what can be done immediately to better protect children and young people from sexualised material and marketing. With the Department for Communities, I will continue to focus on this issue in 2012-13.

In the area of early childhood, I welcomed the government's announcement of investment in 10 child and parent centres and an additional 100 community child health nurses.

Other areas of activity included child protection and safety, the detention of Indonesian young people accused of people smuggling, the impact of fly-in fly-out work on communities and families, and the treatment of young asylum seekers on their arrival in Australia. Overall, I made 69 submissions, commented on 11 pieces of legislation, delivered 25 speeches, released 23 separate publications and had 15 opinion pieces published during 2011-12.

Following a request from Special Inquirer Hon. Peter Blaxell, I provided a submission to the St Andrew's Hostel Special Inquiry.

Working with children and young people

As always, the views of children and young people have been integral to my work. My regional and metropolitan advisory committees continued to provide input into my office including the delivery of their 'Us and Our Community' reports. I held my second Commissioner for a Day Challenge on the topic of alcohol-related harm. Codee-Lee Down (16) from Eaton was selected as Commissioner for a Day for her multimedia submission which included a recording of her original song.

I particularly enjoyed recognising and celebrating the work of outstanding young people. Torekana Bule-Turner (12) from South Hedland was the third annual winner of my Participate Award, part of the WA Youth Awards run by the Department for Communities' Office of Youth. There were a further three young people who were finalists in my award and I was pleased to highlight their wonderful achievements on my website and in the media, and spend an evening with them at the awards ceremony.

Through my support of the Mental Health Commission's Good Outcome Awards, I recognised the work of Parkerville's Therapeutic Family Services who won the Dr Mark Rooney Award for Improved Outcomes in Child and Youth Mental Health.

I would like to acknowledge the children and young people and families, and hard-working professionals and other members of the community who have contributed to the work of my office in 2011-12. I also thank my staff who have had another full and productive year.

I look forward to enhancing partnerships with government and non-government organisations and the private sector to strengthen the wellbeing of our children and young people in 2012-13.

Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

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 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 community organisations that advocate for improved supports and programs for families.

From 2002 to 2007, Ms Scott was the WA Public Advocate, protecting and promoting the rights of people with decision-making disabilities. 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?

Mission

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

Vision

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

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

- 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.

Under the Act, the Commissioner is not able to deal with complaints made by, or on behalf of, individuals, however she may respond to issues that identify possible systemic matters 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 2011-12.

Schedule 1, clause 3 of the Act, which relates to the 'Working with Children Checks', was not proclaimed as at 30 June 2012.

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 twice in 2011-12.

At 30 June 2012 the Committee was 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 and Research
- Communication and Participation
- Corporate Support.

Staff profile

At 30 June 2012, the Commissioner for Children and Young People employed 18 staff – the equivalent of 16.0 full-time employees (not including school-based trainee) – due to some positions being vacant at the time of the report.

Table 1: Staff summary at 30 June 2012

Staff type	Number of staff	FTE	Gender	
			Male	Female
Full-time permanent	7	7.0	3	4
Full-time contract	6	6.0		6
Part-time permanent	5	3.0		5
Part-time contract	0	0.0		
On secondment (not reflected in totals)	1	1.0		1
Vacancies*		2.0		
School-based trainee (not reflected in totals)	1	0.4		1
TOTAL	18	18.0	3	15

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

Corporate Structure



Corporate Executive Team 2011-12

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

Executive Director

Caron Irwin

Manager Communications

Darren Gillespie

(For entire year, excluding period below)

Pip Stremmel (01/07/11 to 31/07/11)

Manager Corporate Support

Glenn Morgan

(For entire year, excluding period below)

Darren Jones

(21/11/11 to 20/02/12)

Aboriginal Advisor

Leah Bonson

(on secondment 18/07/11 to 18/01/12)

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 2011-12 are reported in this section according to the three action areas of the Commissioner's [Strategic Directions 2010-2012](#).

Strategic Directions incorporates all key aspects of the agency's strategic 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(s)	The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon
Key Effectiveness Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Report on the recommendations of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia.

In May 2011 the Commissioner tabled in the Western Australian Parliament the report of her first Inquiry conducted under section 19 of the Act. The [Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people](#) (the Report) made 54 recommendations.

The extent of concern about the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people was evidenced by the wide range of individuals and organisations that provided 141 written submissions. The overwhelming evidence to the Inquiry was that the mental health needs of children and young people have not been given sufficient priority and there is an urgent need for reform in terms of both investment and focus. The Inquiry also found there is a general lack of understanding in the community that children (including infants and young children) and young people can experience mental health problems and disorders.

The Commissioner has worked with relevant organisations including the Mental Health Commission in 2011-12 to ensure the needs of children and young people and their families are included in the reform process.

At the time of tabling the Report the Commissioner advised the Parliament that it was her intention to provide updates to the Parliament on the progress of the recommendations.

In November 2011 the Commissioner wrote to the Mental Health Commission advising of her intention to report on progress as part of her annual report. In addition, the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People wrote to the Mental Health Commissioner in November 2011 requesting an update on general progress made towards implementing the recommendations.

The Mental Health Commissioner later advised that the Department of Premier and Cabinet would coordinate a whole-of-government response to the implementation of the inquiry recommendations.

The Commissioner subsequently received a copy of a report from the Minister for Mental Health which provides an overview of the progress made on recommendations of the Inquiry. The report was prepared by the Department of Premier and Cabinet with input from a number of State government agencies including the Mental Health Commission.

The Commissioner indicated in her Inquiry Report that the Inquiry and its recommendations 'is intended to be a 'road map' for short, medium and long-term action...assisting to guide priorities for children and young people's mental health over the next ten years.'

Significant progress has been achieved in relation to the 54 recommendations of the Inquiry since the Report was tabled in the Parliament in May 2011.

The Commissioner in particular has welcomed the following developments:

- The increased focus by government, particularly through the Mental Health Commission, which has identified infants, children and young people as priority populations in the strategic policy *Mental Health 2020 – Making it personal and everybody's business*. Government has also convened an infant mental health planning group to progress short and long-term strategies for infant mental health services and have worked with the Federal government to develop a 10-year road map for mental health that recognises that mental illness is experienced disproportionately by young people.

- The increased coordination through inter-agency groups, for example, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service is establishing a school-aged mental health inter-agency group which aims to strengthen communication and collaboration; and the Department for Communities has established the inter-agency Parenting Reference group.
 - The State government's budget initiatives to develop 10 Child and Parent Centres located on school sites.
 - An additional 100 community child health nurses.
 - A \$1.7million pilot of forensic mental health services at the Children's Court announced in the State Budget. The service will provide vital assessments, referrals and treatment for vulnerable children and young people who come in contact with the criminal justice system.
 - The establishment of the pilot service for young people with exceptionally complex needs.
 - The expansion of the Assertive Community Intervention program – \$13.5 million over five years to establish a 24/7 service to respond to the specific needs of children aged 0 to 18 years experiencing a mental health crisis, and their families.
 - The refurbishment of the Bentley Adolescent Unit.
 - The range of mental health, parenting and anti-bullying programs available through schools has been increased including MindMatters, KidsMatter and the State-wide expansion of the Triple-P program to be delivered for parents.
 - The Mental Health Commission has encouraged the involvement of children and young people in planning, policy and program development. This includes consulting directly with young people on the development of a State-wide youth mental health service stream and the direct involvement of young people in the development of community action plans through the WA Suicide Prevention Strategy.
 - The development of the Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service is well progressed in both regional and metropolitan areas thereby enhancing the provision of culturally appropriate mental health services for Aboriginal people and their families, including children and young people. There has been a focus on recruitment of Aboriginal staff and training opportunities are available through courses provided by Charles Sturt University.
- Overall the Commissioner notes the considerable progress and positive commitment of both State and Federal governments to address the mental health needs of children and young people.
- There are several areas that still require attention, in particular:
- Many children and young people and their families are still unable to access services when they need them. The State's Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service requires adequate resourcing so it is able to provide comprehensive early intervention and treatment services, including in regional WA.
 - A more coordinated and comprehensive approach is required to the funding and implementation of evidence-based programs that focus on the promotion of mental health and prevention of mental ill health of infants, children and young people throughout Western Australia.
 - Reliable data is needed to plan services and programs and ensure they are effective. Both the Inquiry report and the Commissioner's Wellbeing Monitoring Framework found that there was an absence of comprehensive data relating to mental health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people.
- Monitoring the recommendations will continue in 2012-13.

Wellbeing Monitoring Framework

On 29 February 2012, the Commissioner tabled in the WA Parliament two major reports which completed edition one of the [Wellbeing Monitoring Framework](#). These reports were informed by an expert, multi-agency reference group and were developed to increase our understanding of how children and young people in Western Australia are faring by providing a single, accessible point for key data and research concerning their wellbeing. Data from other Australian states and territories, as well as international data, has been included to allow for comparisons.

The framework shows that generally children and young people are faring well, however there are gaps in wellbeing for some groups of children and young people which represent priority areas for action. This includes addressing the inter-related nature of the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal children and young people by developing a comprehensive, whole-of-government response. Other priorities include a focus on early childhood, meeting the needs of children and young people in regional and remote communities, increasing mental health services, addressing alcohol-related harm and diverting young people away from the criminal justice system.

The framework provides information that can contribute to the effective planning and delivery of evidence-based services and programs by the government, non-government and private sector, to strengthen the wellbeing of children and young people in WA.

The framework is made up of three reports:

Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia

Provides socio-demographic information about children and young people.

The State of Western Australia's Children and Young People

Provides 33 key measures of wellbeing categorised under eight internationally recognised domains – material wellbeing; health and safety; education; family and peer relationships; behaviours and risks; subjective wellbeing; participation; and environment. These measures will be used to monitor the wellbeing of children and young people in WA over successive years.

Building Blocks Best practise programs that improve the wellbeing of children and young people

Describes 82 best practice and promising programs from WA and other jurisdictions that are evidence based. This report was developed from research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies for the Commissioner.

A series of policy briefs have been released highlighting specific areas from the framework:

- Early childhood
- Youth justice
- Risky behaviour of children and young people
- Regional areas
- Aboriginal children and young people: Education
- Aboriginal children and young people: Health and safety
- Aboriginal children and young people: Behaviours and risks.

The Commissioner's staff conducted six information sessions, including one via video link to regional areas, to outline the main findings of the framework and on how to use the data to support policy development, service delivery and resource allocation.

Planning has commenced for the second edition of the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework report, scheduled to be published in 2014.

Thinker in Residence program

The Commissioner developed the Thinker in Residence initiative to promote public awareness and understanding of matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people, consistent with the functions of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

Through the Thinker in Residence, the Commissioner will each year invite an internationally renowned expert to Western Australia for a short residency to explore and discuss a specific aspect of children and young people's wellbeing. The residency initiative is the first of its type in Australia to focus solely on children and young people.

The aim is to bring to WA the latest evidence-based research and programs and generate discussion about how we can build on the existing strengths in the WA community to enhance children and young people's wellbeing.

2011 – Unlocking Creativity

British education and creativity expert Paul Collard was appointed by the Commissioner as her [inaugural Thinker in Residence](#), which ran from 7 to 18 November 2011.

Paul Collard is the chief executive officer of the not-for-profit organisation Creativity, Culture and Education, which has worked in partnership with hundreds of schools in the United Kingdom to introduce creative ways of teaching across the curriculum. The result of this work is compelling evidence that creativity in the classroom improves not only student academic achievement, but also significantly boosts confidence, communication skills and motivation.

Under the theme of 'Unlocking Creativity', Paul Collard's two-week residency involved more than 40 events and meetings exploring how well the arts and culture are being used in and out of school to improve the educational attainment and wellbeing of children and young people. The residency included a visit to Albany where Paul attended events and meetings at the WA Museum Albany.

A series of workshops involving more than 140 children and young people was a highlight of the 2011 residency. Facilitated by Paul Collard and Western Australian artist Paula Hart, the workshops used an arts-based approach to gather the views and experiences of children and young people in relation to the residency's theme. Students from metropolitan and Great Southern schools, as well as a group of young people in out-of-home care, participated.

Paul Collard's residency report found that examples of excellent creative teaching already exist in some schools in WA and that there are outstanding organisations providing children and young people with creative experiences.

A key recommendation, however, is that WA implements a sustained, long-term approach to creative teaching within the education system.

The next step, therefore, is to develop a pilot creativity program for schools that would be applied across the curriculum in any subject, supported by professional development training for teachers and rigorously evaluated. The chief executive officer of the Western Australian Museum, Alec Coles, has indicated his interest in leading this project. The Commissioner is working with the WA Museum to progress this initiative.



Young participants leading the discussion at one of Paul Collard's workshops

Partners in the 2011 residency included Rio Tinto, the departments of Culture and the Arts and Education, the WA Museum, City of Perth, University of Western Australia and the Perth International Arts Festival.

2012 – Self-regulation

The Commissioner's [second Thinker in Residence](#) was held between 4 and 15 June 2012 on the theme of self-regulation.

Self-regulation is the ability to monitor and modify emotions, to focus or shift attention, to control impulses and to tolerate frustration or delay gratification, and is closely related to the work the Commissioner had undertaken in the areas of mental health, wellbeing and the early years.

The Commissioner invited Dr Stuart Shanker, one of Canada's foremost child development specialists and an internationally renowned expert in the field of self-regulation, to be her 2012 Thinker in Residence.

Dr Shanker has been influential in transforming education policy and practice through his work with the Canadian government, to improve self-regulation in young children. One of his projects involves working with the Ontario government, teachers, public health nurses and parents to implement a \$1.5 billion project to transform early childhood education.

More than 2,000 people participated in the 35 events and meetings of Dr Shanker's two-week residency. In addition to parents, teachers and health professionals, Dr Shanker met with directors general and senior management of State government agencies, chief executive officers of non-government agencies, State government ministers and members of Parliament, and leading WA child health researchers.

He also travelled to Roebourne to meet community members and service providers and hear what is being done locally to support Aboriginal children and young people.

The evaluation of the residency and its individual events has been very positive.

The 2012 residency was coordinated in partnership with Rio Tinto, the departments of Education, Health and Communities, the Mental Health Commission, the WA Council of Social Services, Edith Cowan University, the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and Child Australia.

The release of the residency report is scheduled for early 2012-13.



Michelle Scott and Dr Shanker at the Yaandina Child Care Centre in Roebourne

Table 2: Summary of feedback of 15 key events of the 2012 Thinker in Residence

There were 821 respondents from approximately 2,000 attendees

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information was professional and informative	81%	19%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The event increased my understanding of how self-regulation can positively impact on the wellbeing of children and young people	74%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The event provided audience members with practical examples of strategies that can help improve the self-regulation of children and young people	52%	43%	0%	5%	0%	0%
The theme of self-regulation is relevant and important	83%	16%	0%	1%	0%	0%
The residency inspired/motivated me to think about self-regulation and continue the conversation in my workplace	80%	18%	0%	1%	0%	1%
The residency initiative adds to local knowledge and understanding of self-regulation	75%	24%	0%	0%	0%	1%

Reducing alcohol-related harm on children and young people

[Reducing alcohol-related harm](#) among children and young people was a priority for the Commissioner in 2011-12. The rates of alcohol-related harm in young people have increased significantly over recent years, particularly among those aged 16 to 24 years.

In September 2011, the Commissioner undertook a project to consult directly with nearly 300 young people aged 14 to 17 years from a variety of backgrounds, seeking their views on what strategies they thought should be used to reduce alcohol-related harm.

Painted Dog Research was commissioned to undertake the consultation and report on the findings, which formed the basis of the Commissioner's publication [Speaking out about reducing alcohol-related harm on children and young people](#).



Five young people presented the views of their peers at the alcohol forum

Five young people who participated in the consultation were also involved in a unique opportunity to join leading Western Australian drug and alcohol researchers at a forum held on Friday 23 September 2011.

The Commissioner hosted the forum in collaboration with the National Drug Research Institute, the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth, and the Drug and Alcohol Office. Over 80 key stakeholders and decision makers attended, including the Minister for Mental Health who addressed the forum and other members of Parliament.

The Commissioner has also released other publications based on the findings of the consultation including policy briefs on the role of parents in reducing alcohol-related harm, school-based alcohol education, and the relationship between the availability of alcohol and alcohol-related harm.

The Commissioner also addressed members of parliament at Parliament House to discuss strategies to reduce alcohol-related harm.

The Commissioner particularly advocated for the introduction of secondary supply legislation to prevent the supply of alcohol to children and young people without parental consent.

The impact on children and young people of parental alcohol consumption has also been a priority for the Commissioner in 2011-12. Through consultations run by the Commissioner, some children and young people have identified the serious impact of parent's alcohol consumption, such as family conflict and violence. The Commissioner has been advocating for a range of strategies to reduce alcohol consumption across the community to address this issue. This has included calling for volumetric taxation on alcohol, more effective controls on alcohol promotion and advertising, and more alcohol-free activities.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is increasingly being recognised as a leading cause of non-genetic intellectual disability that is completely preventable. The Commissioner provided a submission to the Commonwealth Parliament's Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into FASD. The submission was signed on behalf of all Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG).

Table 3: Summary of feedback from the Reducing Alcohol-related Harm Forum – 23 September 2011

There were 63 respondents from 81 attendees

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The forum increased my understanding of the views and opinions of young people in relation to alcohol-related harm	29%	71%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The presentations increased my understanding of the range of strategies that should be considered in reducing the harm caused by alcohol	32%	65%	0%	3%	0%	0%
The forum provided an opportunity for debate and discussion about the most effective strategies to address alcohol-related harm	21%	74%	0%	5%	0%	0%
The information provided in the folders was relevant and useful	29%	63%	0%	2%	0%	5%
	Yes		Unsure		No	Did not answer
Do you intend to use the report <i>Speaking Out About Alcohol-Related Harm on Children and Young People</i> to influence policy and legislation to reduce the impact of harm caused by alcohol?	79%		3%		5%	13%

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

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.

For more detailed information about Key Performance Indicators, see [page 77](#).

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.

Table 4: Consultations conducted in this reporting period

	2009-10	2010-11	Target 2011-12	Actual 2011-12
Regional	11	9	10	18
Metropolitan	18	16	15	25
Total number of consultations	29	25	25	43

Table 5: Number of children consulted under the age of 18 years in this reporting period

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
550	412	960	708

A summary of this work is provided below:

- In this reporting period the Commissioner and/or her staff visited seven regional towns and met with children and young people and their families, community members and service providers
- The Commissioner and/or her staff visited 12 schools and spoke with students
- The Commissioner and her staff met with two advisory committees – Wheatbelt Youth Leadership Development and young people from the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre
- The Commissioner conducted consultations with 16 groups of children and young people as part of the reducing alcohol-related harm project
- The Commissioner conducted consultations with eight groups of children and young people as part of the 2011 Thinker in Residence project
- The Commissioner consulted with 43 young people as part of Commissioner for a Day.

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.



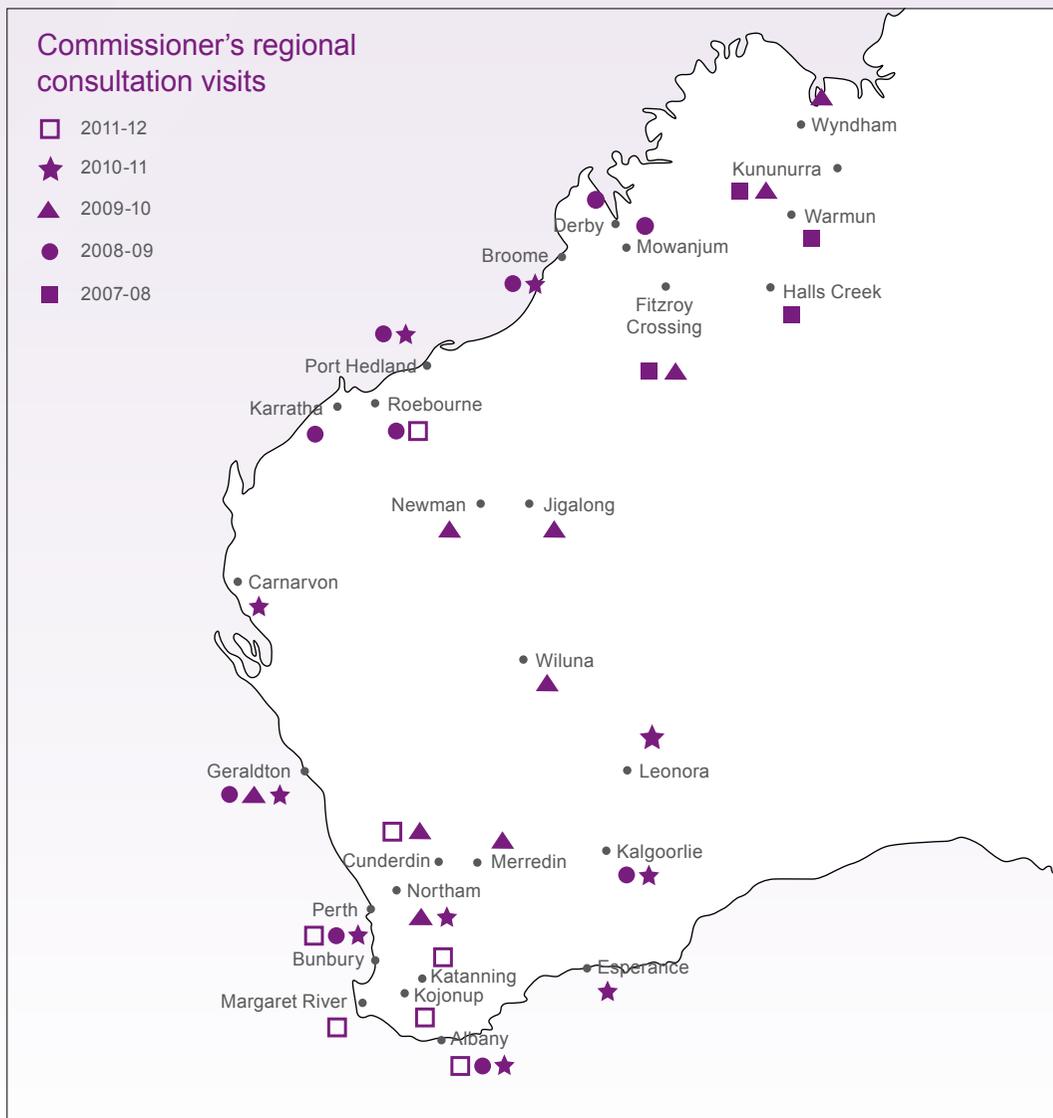
Michelle Scott with Kojonup District High School students

Regional travel 2011-12

- Katanning
- Kojonup
- Bunbury
- Cunderdin
- Albany
- Margaret River
- Roebourne

School visits 2011-12

- Katanning Primary School
- Kojonup District High School
- Tapping Primary School
- John Curtin College of the Arts
- Bertram Primary School
- Roseworth Primary School
- Mirrabooka Senior High School
- La Salle College
- Yule Brook College
- Margaret River Senior High School
- Margaret River Primary School
- Margaret River Montessori Primary School



Report on Goal 1 strategies

Commissioner for a Day (reducing alcohol-related harm)

In 2011-12 the Commissioner conducted a consultation with young people to gain their ideas on how to reduce alcohol-related harm (see [page 19](#)). As part of this project, the 2011 [Commissioner for a Day Challenge](#) asked young people for their ideas on what they would do to keep children and young people safe from the harm caused by alcohol.

Forty-two young people participated in the challenge. The Commissioner for a day for 2011 was Codee-Lee Down from Bunbury. Codee-Lee's entry reported on the results of a survey she conducted with school students and teachers. She also wrote and recorded a song about how people could break free of alcohol dependency.

Codee-Lee had the opportunity to discuss her ideas in meetings with the Governor of Western Australia, the Hon. Malcolm McCusker and Mrs Tonya McCusker, the Minister for Youth, the Hon. Robyn McSweeney, the Drug and Alcohol Office and also during an interview on the Drive program of 720 ABC radio.

For the first time the Commissioner also awarded a runner-up prize. Three students from Mirrabooka High School, Chris Warrell, Brenden Wallam and Ashton Ramirez-Watkins, made a DVD that highlighted a range of ways alcohol-related harm could be reduced. Their ideas included reducing the advertising of alcohol, promoting the positive achievements of Aboriginal people, and ensuring young people knew where to go for help.

Advisory Committees

The [Commissioner's Advisory Committees](#) provide children and young people with the opportunity to have their views heard and to talk directly with the Commissioner and her staff. The information and advice provided by the Advisory Committees assists in guiding the work the Commissioner undertakes and the recommendations she makes to the State's decision makers. The Commissioner has a metropolitan and regional advisory committee.



Codee-Lee Down with Hon. Malcolm McCusker and Michelle Scott

For 2011 and 2012, the Wheatbelt Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) Team and young people from the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC) were appointed as the new Advisory Committees. The MMRC is a non-profit community organisation which offers programs and services designed to help people during their settlement in Perth. WYLD is made up of young people who work towards making the Wheatbelt a better place to live and grow and is supported by Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt.

In 2011, both committees hosted events to showcase their communities and draw attention to issues that affected them. The MMRC hosted a 'Migrants United' event which raised awareness about the contributions and benefits different cultures make to WA. WYLD held a 'Youthbiz' Youth Summit as a capacity-building opportunity for local youth.



Michelle Scott with Participate Award winner Torekana Bule-Turner

Both of these events informed the completion of the Advisory Committees' major project – the *Us and Our Community Report* to the Commissioner. Among other things, the *Us and Our Community Report* has informed the Commissioner of further issues that affect, and are important to, children and young people.

In 2012, the regional Advisory Committee provided advice and feedback to the Commissioner on the design and content of *The State of Western Australia's Children and Young People report to children and young people* and the Face to Face report.

Participate! Commissioner for Children and Young People Award

The Commissioner sponsored the [Participate! Commissioner for Children and Young People Award](#) for a third consecutive year. The award is part of the WA Youth Awards program, run by the Department for Communities' Office for Youth. It 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 Torekana Bule-Turner (12) of South Hedland at the WA Youth Awards Ceremony on 19 April 2012.

As the youth leader of The Hood, an innovative youth-led project, Torekana uses hip hop to make a positive impact on local young people in the Pilbara town of Hedland. The Hood runs a weekly program called Hip Hop Don't Stop which attracts about 40 young people, mostly local Aboriginal children who cannot access or afford dance schools or sport memberships. Many boys show a surge in confidence and an interest in other community activities after participating in the hip hop program. Torekana is also a black belt instructor for taekwondo and teaches junior classes in a club with more than 70 members.

[Other finalists](#) for the 2012 award were Sayah Drummond from Porongurup, Jayden Grazia from Mandurah and Emma Stokes from Nannup.

Guidelines resources

The Commissioner continues to promote the three resources to assist government, non-government agencies and the private sector to better meet the needs and interests of children and young people:

- [*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 2011-12, the Commissioner published four examples of projects run by agencies that demonstrate best practice in the participation of children and young people, additional to those already included in the above participation guidelines.

Following feedback that requested summary information about the guidelines, the Commissioner produced a resource, [*Involving Children and Young People – Overview and Checklist*](#). This resource will help agencies to meet best practice requirements when involving children and young people.

The Involving Children and Young People workshop was held on Thursday 12 April at the Commissioner's office. The workshop was presented by two members of the Commissioner's staff and was designed as an introductory-level session to explore the key issues and processes to consider when planning a participation project with children and young people.

Guest speakers from Fremantle headspace and community artist Lewis Horne shared their examples of successful projects involving young people, and participants had the opportunity to share their own views and engage with the guest speakers during a facilitated sharing session.

Table 6: Summary of feedback from the Involving Children and Young People – Participation Guidelines Seminar – 12 April 2012

There were 33 respondents from 52 attendees

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information provided to me was professional and informative	52%	48%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The workshop increased my understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Commissioner for Children and Young People	36%	55%	9%	0%	0%	0%
The workshop increased my understanding of the processes of effectively engaging and involving children and young people	24%	70%	6%	0%	0%	0%
I will access and use the Commissioner's guidelines in any future work that requires the involvement of children and young people	39%	49%	12%	0%	0%	0%
The information from today's workshop will assist me in identifying and taking into account the interests and views of children and young people	36%	55%	9%	0%	0%	0%
I would like to attend a follow-up workshop that focussed on advanced participation techniques and strategies	39%	46%	15%	0%	0%	0%

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

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

Table 7: Number of representations in this reporting period

	2009-10	2010-11	Target 2011-12	Actual 2011-12
Representations	98	94	90	228

For more detailed information about Key Performance Indicator Information, see [page 77](#).

Table 8: Breakdown of representations in this reporting period

Representation type	Number
Submissions	69
<i>Comments on legislation*</i>	11*
Evidence to Parliamentary Committees & Inquiries	3
Issues papers	3
Publications (including policy briefs)	23
Speeches	25
Presentations	8
Opinion pieces	15
Forums and seminars	74
CCYP support for research proposals	3
Community consultations	5
Total representations	228

* *Comments on legislation are provided by submission, and are therefore not counted in the total for representations*

Report on Goal 2 strategies

Early years

The Commissioner continued to advocate for reform and investment in WA's [early childhood](#) sector in 2011-12.

This includes the establishment of an Office of Early Childhood, the development of an early years plan, an increase in the number of child and school health nurses, integrated early childhood services and coordinated support for parents.

The Commissioner's position and recommendations for action were outlined in her submission to the *Education and Health Standing Committee – Inquiry into Improving Educational Outcomes for Western Australians of All Ages*.

Other submissions relating to the early years included providing comment on:

- *Paid Parental Leave: Dad and Partner Pay Policy Statement* and expressing support for continued progress on the implementation of the Paid Parental Leave scheme.
- Implementation of the National Planning Agreement on Early Childhood Education which commits all governments to providing universal access to pre-school education by 2013.

The Commissioner also hosted two international experts in early child development. [Dr Clyde Hertzman presented a seminar](#) and lunchtime briefing on the early years and Canadian child development expert Dr Stuart Shanker was appointed as 2012 Thinker in Residence (see [page 17](#)).

More than 150 people attended the Dr Clyde Hertzman Early Years Seminar, including approximately 50 people from 13 regional areas who watched and participated in the seminar by videoconference (hosted by the Department of Health).

The seminar was followed by a panel discussion involving the Chief Executive Officer WA Council of Social Services Irina Cattalini; Director Nifty Australia Dr Trevor Parry; and Executive Director Office of Early Childhood Development and Learning, Department of Education, Garry Hewitt.

Dr Hertzman's slide presentation and the audio of the seminar were made available on the Commissioner's website. The Commissioner also arranged for Dr Hertzman to present a separate briefing for directors general and chief executive officers of key organisations working in the early years.



Dr Shanker and Michelle Scott with students from Roseworth Primary School

Additionally, the Commissioner selected self-regulation as the theme of her [2012 Thinker in Residence](#). Visiting Canadian child development expert, Dr Stuart Shanker, outlined in his various presentations and meetings that the early years of a child's life is the most beneficial period in which to develop the skills required for lifelong learning and wellbeing. More than 2,000 parents, teachers and other professionals participated in Dr Shanker's two-week residency and there was also considerable exposure in print and radio media. Various resources from the residency are available on the Commissioner's website and the residency report is due to be released early in 2012-13.

The Commissioner welcomed the State government's budget initiatives to develop 10 child and parent centres located on school sites and an additional 100 community child health nurses. With the number of births in WA increasing by 30.9 per cent in the 10 years to 2010, these additional resources will help meet the needs of the rapidly growing population young children and parents.

Table 9: Summary of feedback from the Dr Clyde Hertzman Early Years Seminar – 1 May 2012

There were 96 respondents from approximately 240 metropolitan and regional attendees.

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The guest speaker/s presented useful and relevant information	84%	13%	0%	0%	3%	0%
The seminar increased my knowledge of the importance of the early years for life-long health and wellbeing	43%	40%	9%	4%	1%	0%
The seminar allowed me to network and make professional associations	15%	34%	29%	6%	1%	0%
The seminar was held at a convenient date and time	51%	43%	4%	1%	1%	0%
I would be interested in attending future events that focus on early childhood	74%	21%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Overall, I was satisfied with the seminar	74%	23%	1%	0%	1%	0%

Mental health

The Commissioner continued to advocate for improved services that strengthen the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. The Commissioner has worked with relevant organisations including the Mental Health Commissioner regarding the implementation of the recommendations in her 2011 [Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia](#) (see [page 13](#)) through submissions, policy briefs, speeches, strategic meetings and letters.

Five speeches focused on the Inquiry including the Commissioner's keynote address to the *Pathways to Healthy Minds Conference*. Two policy briefs were published highlighting the Inquiry's findings and recommendations on the mental health needs of children and young people in care, and young people in contact with the criminal justice system. The policy briefs identify further reforms that are required for the prevention, early detection and treatment of mental health problems among these two groups of children and young people.

The Commissioner welcomed and supported the reform of WA's mental health legislation, making a submission to the Mental Health Commission on the Draft Mental Health Bill 2011 (Draft Bill). Subsequently, the Commissioner engaged Monash University Centre for the Advancement of Law and Mental Health to provide advice regarding the Draft Bill, particularly concerning issues of consent and other safeguards that need to be included to provide greater protection for children and young people.

Youth justice

Throughout 2011-12, the Commissioner continued to monitor developments in the area of [youth justice](#). The Commissioner called for evidence-based prevention and diversion programs to reduce criminal offending and decrease the number of children and young people in detention in WA.

The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in contact with the criminal justice system has been a key focus area for the Commissioner in 2011-12. Drawing on the information collected for the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, a policy brief was developed and published. In line with Recommendation 20 from the Inquiry, the policy brief called for a dedicated forensic unit to support children and young people in detention with mental health problems.

The Commissioner welcomed the \$1.7 million trial of forensic mental health services at the Children's Court announced in the State Budget. The service will provide vital assessments, referrals and treatment for vulnerable children and young people who come in contact with the criminal justice system.

A [policy brief](#) was published, exploring how the content of three Wellbeing Monitoring Framework reports can be used to improve the State's youth justice system.

The Commissioner continued her strong advocacy for effective collaboration and coordination between both government and non-government organisations to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour. A focus of the Commissioner was for increased investment in evidence-based programs, such as the Regional Youth Justice Service and the Northbridge Project which studies have shown to reduce crime.

In the area of youth justice, the Commissioner made submissions to:

- the Mental Health Commission on the joint Mental Health Commission and Department of Attorney General cabinet proposal on mental health and criminal justice
- the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review – Criminal Investigation (Covert Powers) Bill 2011
- the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (NATSILS) *Shadow Report to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*.

The Commissioner also wrote to the WA Police Commissioner Karl O’Callaghan to request that procedures for the Metropolitan Youth Bail Service be included in the Police Operational Manual to ensure children and young people are not held in custody unnecessarily.

Indonesian minors in adult prisons

In June 2011, the Commissioner spoke publicly about her concerns that the reliance on wrist x-rays to determine the age of Indonesians accused of people smuggling was resulting in the imprisonment of young people under the age of 18 years in adult prisons.

The Commissioner, in collaboration with the Australian Children’s Commissioners and Guardians group, raised these concerns in a letter to the Commonwealth Attorney General and provided a comprehensive submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission’s *Inquiry into the treatment of individuals suspected of people smuggling who say they are children*, and in a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Australia’s Immigration Detention Network.

The Commissioner also made a submission to the Commonwealth Parliament’s Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs – *Inquiry into the Detention of Indonesian Minors in Australia*.

In May 2012, the Commonwealth Attorney General announced a review of 24 cases of Indonesian citizens in adult prisons who are suspected of being minors.

Aboriginal children and young people

The Commissioner has continued to highlight areas of achievement and particular need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

All major projects initiated by the Commissioner in 2011-12 included, as a priority, the needs of Aboriginal children and young people. This included:

The Wellbeing Monitoring Framework (see [page 15](#)). *The State of Western Australia’s Children and Young People* report identified a wellbeing gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people. This gap is reflected in almost every wellbeing measure, including infant mortality rates, immunisation rates, overcrowded homes, preparedness for schooling, educational achievement, contact with the justice system, and injury and hospitalisation. The Commissioner developed and published three policy briefs which outline how the three reports of the framework can be used to improve specific areas of Aboriginal children and young people’s wellbeing. This work has also been presented to a number of Aboriginal groups and government agencies including the WA Aboriginal Education and Training Council, Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Health.

- The 2011 Thinker in Residence program (see [page 16](#)). Paul Collard met with representatives of the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal elders in Albany. Aboriginal children and young people from Albany and the remote community Tjuntjuntjara, along with their teachers, participated in the creativity workshops held at Western Australian Museum Albany.
- The 2012 Thinker in Residence program (see [page 17](#)). Dr Stuart Shanker visited Roebourne to meet and have discussions with Aboriginal people from this community and service providers.
- The reducing alcohol-related harm consultation (see [page 19](#)). This consultation included 18 Aboriginal young people. The views of Aboriginal young people were outlined in the Commissioner's report on the consultation findings.



Michelle Scott and Dr Shanker held meetings in Roebourne, including a visit to Yaandina Child Care Centre

Additionally, the Commissioner has identified issues that specifically affect Aboriginal children and young people in the following representations:

- Representations to the Department for Child Protection and the Mental Health Commission, calling for the provision of safe houses in Mowanjum and Derby
- Submission and evidence to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Regional Australia Inquiry into the use of fly-in, fly-out workforce practices in regional Australia
- Submission to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs' Inquiry into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Submission to the consultation on the WA Primary Health Care Strategy
- Feedback and comment to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (NATSILS) Shadow Report to United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Commissioner has also spoken with Aboriginal children and young people in various visits to metropolitan and regional communities in 2011-12. For example, the Commissioner visited Yule Brook College in March 2012 and, at the invitation of students, become a signatory to their Aboriginal Community Agreement, which underpins the schools approach to education for Aboriginal students.

Child protection and safety

The Commissioner continued to monitor and comment on legislation, policy and practice in the area of preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect.

A focus for the Commissioner has been the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in out-of-home care. As well as visiting the Secure Care Centre, the Commissioner has liaised with the directors general of the Department for Child Protection and Department of Health and the Mental Health Commissioner to advocate that children and young people with complex needs at this centre are provided with specialist mental health services. The Commissioner has also developed a policy brief on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in care.

Submissions related to child protection have been provided, either individually or jointly with the Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians group (ACCG), regarding the:

- Statutory review of the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*
- Review of Coronial Practice in Western Australia (as it relates to child deaths)
- Prioritisation of young people transitioning from care
- Centrelink initiative on '*Compulsory participation plans and support for teenage parents – targeted locations*'.

Submissions that address child protection and safety issues have been sent to the:

- Australian Law Reform Commission – National Classification Review Discussion Paper
- Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General Commonwealth – Guidelines for the Classification of Computer Games

- Parliamentary Inquiry into the Classification (Publications, Films and Computers) Amendment (R+ 18 Computer Games) Bill
- Victims of Crime Reference Group – The special needs of children as victims or witnesses to a crime.

Children and young people in immigration detention

The Commissioner has continued to advocate for improvements for children, young people and their families who are seeking asylum in Australia.

The Commissioner joined with the Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG) to provide a submission to the House of Representatives' Joint Select Committee on Australia's Immigration Detention Network. The submission recommended that children, young people and their families be released from detention facilities and moved to community-based facilities.

Sexualisation of children

Parents are increasingly voicing concerns in Australia and elsewhere that western culture generally has become inappropriately sexualised and that children are often exposed to media and marketing directed at older teenagers and adults.

There is sufficient research to support the claim that children as young as seven experience body image dissatisfaction and that therefore the potential harms caused by sexualised media and advertising on children should not be ignored.

In 2011 the Commissioner undertook a literature review to examine the evidence for the sexualisation of children and its impact on their wellbeing. Based on the literature review, the Commissioner produced:

- an issues paper, [Sexualisation of Children](#), which examines the impacts of sexualisation on children and young people and addressing the potential risk of harm to children and young people from sexualisation
- a guide, [Sexualisation of Children and its Impact on their Wellbeing: A guide for parents, members of the community, media, advertisers and retailers](#). On the release of this resource, the Commissioner produced an opinion piece, published in *The West Australian* on 20 March 2012, outlining some of the concerns regarding the sexualisation of children and the ways that the various sectors of the community can respond to make positive change.

A seminar on the topic, to be held in partnership with the Department for Communities, is planned for 2012-13.

Fly-in, fly-out workers

In August 2011, the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Regional Australia established an Inquiry into the use of fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) work practices in regional Australia.

The Commissioner provided a submission to the Inquiry, including advocating to the Committee that the views of children and young people be considered in the gathering of their evidence.

Following this submission, a number of young people from regional high schools were invited to address the Standing Committee at their public hearings. The Commissioner was also invited to give evidence and address the Standing Committee at the public hearing in Perth on 18 April 2012.

The Commissioner particularly highlighted the need for more research into the impact on children and young people of FIFO work practices to ensure that appropriate policies and practices were in place to support families and communities affected by these work practices.

Middle years

With research continuing to highlight the middle years (nine to 14 years of age) as a critical stage in children's physical, emotional and social development, the [middle years](#) has been an area of focus for the Commissioner in 2011-12.

In July 2011, and in partnership with the Department for Communities and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), the Commissioner held a Middle Years Forum. More than 120 professionals from the government and non-government sectors attended. Keynote speakers were leading adolescent health experts Professor David Bennett (AO) from the New South Wales Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health and Professor George Patton from the University of Melbourne's Centre for Adolescent Health. The forum included a panel discussion with local child health and education advocates and practitioners.

In May 2012, the Commissioner held a second middle years event, again in partnership with Department for Communities and ARACY. This seminar focused specifically on the social and emotional developmental needs of children in the middle years and was attended by more than 115 practitioners from across State and local government and non-government sectors.

Respected child, adolescent and family therapist and creator of the concept of the Resilience Doughnut, Lyn Worsley, provided the keynote address at the seminar. Local professionals also addressed various aspects of social and emotional development in the middle years.

Table 10: Summary of feedback from the Middle Years Seminar – 11 May 2012

There were 57 respondents from 117 attendees

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The guest speaker/s presented useful and relevant information	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
The seminar increased my knowledge of social and emotional development and wellbeing in the middle years	49%	47%	4%	0%	0%
The seminar allowed me to network and make professional contacts	18%	52%	21%	9%	0%
The seminar was held on a convenient day	39%	54%	5%	2%	0%
The seminar was held at a convenient time	37%	56%	7%	0%	0%
I would be interested in attending future events that focus on the middle years	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Overall, I was satisfied with the seminar	63%	37%	0%	0%	0%

Good Outcomes Award

The Commissioner was pleased to sponsor the [Dr Mark Rooney Award for Improved Outcomes in Child and Youth Mental Health](#) in 2011. Dr Mark Rooney (1959-2007) was a consultant psychiatrist specialising in child and adolescent psychiatry who made a significant contribution to shaping and establishing mental health services for young people in WA. The Award is part of the Mental Health Commission's Good Outcomes Awards which recognise the high standard of those involved in mental health programs at a local, regional or state-wide level in Western Australia.

[Therapeutic Family Services](#) was the 2011 award recipient. The organisation provides a range of services for young people and families connected with Parkerville Children and Youth Care.

Goal 3 Governance and Capacity

Overview

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.

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 encourage government and non government agencies to seek the participation of children and young people appropriate to their age and maturity. 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 11: Use of Our Space meeting rooms

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of Our Space meeting room bookings	64*	148	201

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



Young people from headspace Fremantle using the Our Space rooms for workshop on participation

School-based trainee program

In 2011-12 the Commissioner continued to support the school-based trainee program. The office is currently supporting the second school-based traineeship. The current trainee is in her second year of the school-based traineeship in clerical support and is based in the Commissioner's office two days a week. The 17 year-old student from Ballajura Community College is working towards her Certificate II in Business.

Transition out of Office of Shared Services

The Office of Shared Services (OSS) provides corporate, financial and human resource information and transactional processing to the Commissioner's office. The government announced the full decommissioning of OSS in July 2011 and the Commissioner commenced a project to source and implement replacement services. Human resource recruitment was transitioned successfully in November 2011 and a detailed project plan has been developed to successfully transition other services out of the Office of Shared Services by October 2012.

Project Management

In early 2012, the Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of the office's project management procedures and has implemented a more streamlined and strategic approach. This undertaking will help to strengthen management processes, particularly in the areas of maintaining a focus on strategic objectives, identification and management of risks, and rigorous ongoing assessment of project objectives and milestones. This integrated approach has ensured a strong alignment between strategic and operational planning, key performance measures and staff professional development requirements.

Strategic Human Resource Management

As part of ongoing management of corporate governance, the Commissioner has reviewed a number of human resource policies and practices, including:

- revision of the Performance Appraisal and Development System
- amendments to the Recruitment Policy to accommodate changes arising from revised Public Sector Commissioner's Instructions
- roll out from the Office of Shared Services.

A Code of Conduct was endorsed by the Commissioner's Corporate Executive. Implementation of this policy included formal distribution by the Commissioner along with associated training to current staff, and inclusion into the office's induction program. The Commissioner's workforce plan was submitted to the Public Sector Commissioner in June 2012.

The Commissioner was also selected by the Public Sector Commission to participate in its Review of How Agencies Undertake Employee Performance Management (Performance Appraisal and Development System) which involved a review of documentation and processes, interviews with corporate executive members and staff participation in a focus group session.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AFFECTING THE AGENCY

Growing population of children and young people

Western Australia's population growth and the increased number of births, up 30.9 per cent in the decade 2001 to 2010, are increasing demand on services and programs that enhance the wellbeing of children and young people and their families. Children and young people under 18 years of age now comprise 23.3 per cent of the population.

Early years

The early years (0 to eight years) of a child's life are critical to their wellbeing. In 2011, around 275,000 children of this age group lived in Western Australia. Research shows a close relationship exists between a person's experiences during early childhood and their lifelong wellbeing. Factors such as the health of the mother during pregnancy, the child's early health and the quality of the childhood environment have a long-term influence on a person's health, competence and emotional wellbeing. A comprehensive and coordinated approach is required to the investment of resources to support families with children in their early years of life.

Children and young people with particular needs

Of the entire Aboriginal population, 41.0 per cent is aged under 18 years and 28.0 per cent of all children and young people under the age of 18 years live in regional and remote communities throughout the State. Targeted additional programs are required to assist Aboriginal children and young people, those living in regional and remote communities and those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Monitoring wellbeing

As identified in the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework report *The State of Western Australia's Children and Young People*, a critical priority for the State is:

improving record keeping and research so that accurate and comprehensive data is available for the factors that influence children and young people's wellbeing.

To ensure effective public investment in programs and services that will improve the wellbeing of WA for children and young people, there must be:

- effective regular monitoring and reporting of outcomes for all children and young people
- ongoing evaluation of program and services.

Mental health

The Commissioner undertook an independent inquiry into the mental health needs of children and young people, and their families 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.

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 2012, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and 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'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 2012 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.

Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People during the year ended 30 June 2012.

Controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People are those policies and procedures established by the Commissioner to ensure 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.

Commissioner's Responsibility for Controls

The Commissioner is responsible for maintaining an adequate system of internal control to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of public and other property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and other relevant written law.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the adequacy of controls to ensure that the Commissioner complies with the legislative provisions. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement and include an evaluation of the design and implementation of relevant controls.

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

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 during the year ended 30 June 2012.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2012.

The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide information on outcome achievement and service provision.

Commissioner's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators

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 and for such controls as the Commissioner determines necessary to ensure that the key performance indicators fairly represent indicated performance.

Auditor's Responsibility

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 and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the key performance indicators. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commissioner's preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and service provision.

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

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's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Independence

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

Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2012 included on the Commissioner's website. The Commissioner's management are responsible for the integrity of the Commissioner's website. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the Commissioner's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements or key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators to confirm the information contained in this website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



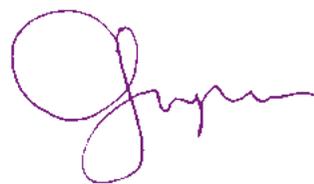
GLEN CLARKE
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
22 August 2012

Certification of Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2012

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 30 June 2012 and the financial position as at 30 June 2012.

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



Glenn Morgan
Chief Financial Officer

Commissioner for Children and
Young People Western Australia

16 August 2012



Michelle Scott
Accountable Authority

Commissioner for Children and
Young People Western Australia

16 August 2012

Financial Statements

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	2,008,244	1,911,793
Supplies and services	7	831,993	712,581
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	75,698	88,548
Accommodation expenses	9	389,836	308,838
Other expenses	10	25,727	19,925
Total cost of services		3,331,498	3,041,685
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Other revenue	11	65,052	3,207
Total Revenue		65,052	3,207
Total income other than income from State Government		65,052	3,207
NET COST OF SERVICES		3,266,446	3,038,478
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	12	2,958,000	2,817,000
Resources received free of charge		146,901	92,821
Total income from State Government		3,104,901	2,909,821
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(161,545)	(128,657)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(161,545)	(128,657)

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

Statement of Financial Position as at ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	22	877,395	997,349
Receivables	14	55,435	33,634
Total Current Assets		932,830	1,030,983
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	13, 22	42,464	38,856
Amounts receivable for services	15	212,000	200,000
Plant and equipment	16	233,553	309,251
Intangible assets	17	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		488,017	548,107
Total Assets		1,420,847	1,579,090
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	19	154,073	208,201
Provisions	20	297,708	235,886
Total Current Liabilities		451,781	444,087
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	20	96,843	101,235
Total Non-Current Liabilities		96,843	101,235
Total Liabilities		548,624	545,322
NET ASSETS	21	872,223	1,033,768
EQUITY			
Contributed Equity		420,000	420,000
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		452,223	613,768
TOTAL EQUITY		872,223	1,033,768

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 2012

	Note	Contributed Equity \$	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2010	21	420,000	742,425	1,162,425
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(128,657)	(128,657)
Balance at 30 June 2011		420,000	613,768	1,033,768
Balance at 1 July 2011		420,000	613,768	1,033,768
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(161,545)	(161,545)
Balance at 30 June 2012		420,000	452,223	872,223

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 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		2,885,000	2,738,000
Holding account drawdown		61,000	-
Net cash provided by State Government		2,946,000	2,738,000
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(1,990,661)	(1,789,011)
Supplies and services		(699,370)	(585,847)
Accommodation		(389,836)	(308,838)
GST payments on purchases		(119,235)	(108,567)
Other payments		(25,727)	(19,925)
Receipts			
GST receipts on sales		9,314	1,942
GST receipts from taxation authority		122,312	105,326
Other receipts		30,857	4,520
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	22	(3,062,346)	(2,700,400)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		-	(14,723)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		-	(14,723)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(116,346)	22,877
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		1,036,205	1,013,328
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	22	919,859	1,036,205

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 2012

	2012 Estimate \$	2012 Actual \$	Variance \$	2012 Actual \$	2011 Actual \$	Variance \$
Delivery of Services						
Item 55 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	2,734,000	2,734,000	–	2,734,000	2,610,000	124,000
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes						
– <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	224,000	224,000	–	224,000	207,000	17,000
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	2,958,000	2,958,000	–	2,958,000	2,817,000	141,000
GRAND TOTAL	2,958,000	2,958,000	–	2,958,000	2,817,000	141,000

Details of Expenses by Services

Consultation, research and promotion	3,143,000	3,331,498	188,498	3,331,498	3,041,685	289,813
Total Cost of Services	3,143,000	3,331,498	188,498	3,331,498	3,041,685	289,813
Less total income	–	(65,052)	(65,052)	(65,052)	(3,207)	(61,845)
Net Cost of Services	3,143,000	3,266,446	123,446	3,266,446	3,038,478	227,968
Adjustments		(308,446)	(308,446)	(308,446)	(221,478)	(86,968)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	3,143,000	2,958,000	(185,000)	2,958,000	2,817,000	141,000

Capital Expenditure

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

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

Note 26 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2012 and between the actual results for 2012 and 2011.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012

Note 1. Australian Accounting Standards

General

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's (hereafter CCYP for the purpose of the notes) financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2012 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards 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*. There has been no early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by CCYP for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2012.

Note 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General statement

CCYP is a not-for-profit reporting entity that prepares general purpose financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB 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 impose legislative provisions that govern the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB.

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 the 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 CCYP.

Mission

The mission of CCYP is to improve the wellbeing of children and young people by working with them, their families, community and government in Western Australia. CCYP is predominantly funded by Parliamentary appropriations.

Services

CCYP 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 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 2011 2012 Budget Statements, CCYP retained \$94,938 in 2012 (\$3,207 in 2011).

(f) Plant and equipment

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Items of plant and equipment 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, historical cost is used for the measurement of plant and equipment. 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 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 lives. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

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 which is reviewed annually) on the straight line basis. 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^(a)
3 years

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

Computer software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is recognised as plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is recognised 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.

Operating leases are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents 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 settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. CCYP considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its 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. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable). The accrued amount receivable is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

(n) Receivables

Receivables are recognised 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 settlement is generally 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 that is expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Annual leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and 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 end of the reporting period.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave that is expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Long service leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and 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.

Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as CCYP does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because CCYP has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) and other funds administer public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees varies according to commencement and implementation dates.

Eligible employees contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme closed to new members since 1987, or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme closed to new members since 1995.

The GSS is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole of government reporting. However, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by CCYP to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

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

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension Scheme 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). From 30 March 2012, existing members of the WSS or GESBS and new employees become able to choose their preferred superannuation fund. CCYP makes concurrent contributions to GESB or other funds on behalf of employees in compliance with the *Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*. Contributions to these accumulation schemes extinguish CCYP's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension Scheme 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's '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, the GESBS, or other superannuation fund. 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 at fair value. Where the resource received represents a service that CCYP would otherwise pay for, a corresponding expense is recognised. Receipts of assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

Assets or services received from other State Government agencies are separately disclosed under Income from State Government in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(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

The Commission has entered into a lease for a building used for office accommodation. It has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, this lease has been classified as an operating lease.

Note 4. Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future 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, 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 2011 that impacted on CCYP.

AASB 1054	<p><i>Australian Additional Disclosures</i></p> <p>This Standard, in conjunction with AASB 2011-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project</i>, removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards. There is no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2009-12	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 5, 8, 108, 110, 112, 119, 133, 137, 139, 1023 & 1031 and Int 2, 4, 16, 1039 & 1052]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes editorial amendments to a range of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. There is no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2010-4	<p><i>Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 1, 7, 101 & 134 and Int 13]</i></p> <p>The amendments to AASB 7 clarify financial instrument disclosures in relation to credit risk. The carrying amount of financial assets that would otherwise be past due or impaired whose terms have been renegotiated is no longer required to be disclosed. There is no financial impact.</p> <p>The amendments to AASB 101 clarify the presentation of the statement of changes in equity. The disaggregation of other comprehensive income reconciling the carrying amount at the beginning and the end of the period for each component of equity can be presented in either the Statement of Changes in Equity or the Notes. There is no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2010-5	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 101, 107, 112, 118, 119, 121, 132, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 1023 & 1038 and Int 112, 115, 127, 132 & 1042].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes editorial amendments to a range of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. There is no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2011-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project [AASB 1, 5, 101, 107, 108, 121, 128, 132 & 134 and Int 2, 112 & 113].</i></p> <p>This Standard, in conjunction with AASB 1054, removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards. There is no financial impact.</p>

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

CCYP cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements*. Consequently, CCYP has not applied early any of the following Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued that may impact CCYP. Where applicable, CCYP plans to apply these Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

		Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 9	<p><i>Financial Instruments</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was reissued in December 2010. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 10	<p><i>Consolidated Financial Statements</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i> and Int 112 <i>Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 11	<p><i>Joint Arrangements</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 12	<p><i>Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes disclosure requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i> and AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 13	<p><i>Fair Value Measurement</i></p> <p>This Standard defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013

AASB 119	<p><i>Employee Benefits</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 119 (October 2010). As CCYP does not operate a defined benefit plan, the impact of the change is limited to measuring annual leave as long-term employee benefit. This resultant discounting of the annual leave benefit has an immaterial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 127	<p><i>Separate Financial Statements</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 128	<p><i>Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 128 <i>Investments in Associates</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</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 framework consisting of two tiers of reporting requirements for preparing general purpose financial statements. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
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 Int 10 & 12].</i></p> <p>[Modified by AASB 2010-7]</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2010-2	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 1050 & 1052 and Int 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 127, 129 & 1052].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations to introduce reduced disclosure requirements for certain types of entities. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2010-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013

AASB 2011-8	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 [AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 101, 102, 108, 110, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1004, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 131 & 132].</i></p> <p>This Standard replaces the existing definition and fair value guidance in other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as the result of issuing AASB 13 in September 2011. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2011-9	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income [AASB 1, 5, 7, 101, 112, 120, 121, 132, 133, 134, 1039 & 1049].</i></p> <p><i>This Standard requires to group items presented in other comprehensive income on the basis of whether they are potentially reclassifiable to profit or loss subsequently (reclassification adjustments). CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</i></p>	1 Jul 2012
AASB 2011-10	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (September 2011) [AASB 1, 8, 101, 124, 134, 1049 & 2011-8 and Int 14].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 119 Employee Benefits in September 2011. There is limited financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2011-11	<p><i>Amendments to AASB 119 (September 2011) arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements.</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements for AASB 119 (September 2011). There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2012-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 3, 7, 13, 140 & 141].</i></p> <p>This Standard establishes and amends reduced disclosure requirements for additional and amended disclosures arising from AASB 13 and the consequential amendments implemented through AASB 2011-8. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013

Note 6. Employee benefits expense

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Wages and salaries ^(a)	1,841,325	1,764,434
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(b)	158,725	138,474
Other related expenses	8,194	8,885
	2,008,244	1,911,793

(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 10 'Other Expenses'.

Employment on-costs liability is included at Note 20 'Provisions'.

Note 7. Supplies and Services

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Communications	33,079	39,790
Contractors and consultants	491,703	394,216
Computer equipment	9,684	22,413
Consumables	102,762	90,820
Travel costs	44,762	30,417
Leases, rents and hire costs	36,448	42,025
Licences, fees and registrations	14,628	10,880
Promotions	15,093	25,036
Publications	57,064	3,297
Advertisements	2,201	5,108
Donations	22,193	47,705
Other	2,376	874
	831,993	712,581

Note 8. Depreciation and amortisation expense

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Depreciation		
Computer equipment	-	7,037
Furniture fixtures and fittings	71,565	73,187
Office equipment	4,133	4,133
Total depreciation	75,698	84,357
Amortisation		
Intangible assets	-	4,191
Total amortisation	-	4,191
Total depreciation and amortisation	75,698	88,548

Note 9. Accommodation expenses

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Lease rentals	377,184	297,628
Repairs and maintenance	1,358	508
Cleaning	11,294	10,702
	389,836	308,838

Note 10. Other expenses

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Employment on-cost ^(a)		
Other ^(b)	3,634	(926)
	22,093	20,851
	25,727	19,925

(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 20 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

(b) Includes audit fee.

Note 11. Other revenue

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Sponsorship	60,000	-
Refunds	5,052	3,207
	65,052	3,207

Note 12. Income from State Government

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriations ^(a)	2,958,000	2,817,000
	2,958,000	2,817,000
Resources received free of charge:		
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of the Attorney General – Corporate Services	142,049	86,526
Department of Treasury and Finance – Building Management and Works	4,852	6,295
	146,901	92,821
	3,104,901	2,909,821

(a) Service appropriations fund the net 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.

(b) Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost are recognised as revenue at fair value of the assets and/or services that can be reliably measured and which would have been purchased if they were not donated. Contribution of assets or services in the nature of contributions by owners are recognised direct to equity.

Note 13. Restricted cash and cash equivalents

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Non-Current		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(a)	42,464	38,856
	42,464	38,856

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

Note 14. Receivables

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Current		
Receivables	35,227	269
GST receivable	20,208	32,602
Other receivable	-	763
Total	55,435	33,634
Total receivables	55,435	33,634

Note 15. Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Non-current	212,000	200,000
	212,000	200,000

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

Note 16. Plant and equipment

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Computer Hardware		
At cost	13,865	36,065
Accumulated depreciation	(13,865)	(36,065)
	-	-
Office Equipment		
At cost	20,663	20,663
Accumulated depreciation	(15,172)	(11,039)
	5,491	9,624
Furniture Fixtures and Fittings		
At cost	457,824	457,824
Accumulated depreciation	(229,762)	(158,197)
	228,062	299,627
	233,553	309,251

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
2012	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at start of year	-	9,624	299,627	309,251
Depreciation	-	(4,133)	(71,565)	(75,698)
Carrying amount at end of year	-	5,491	228,062	233,553
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)	(73,871)	(84,357)
Carrying amount at end of year	-	9,624	299,627	309,251

Note 17. Intangible assets

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Computer Software		
At cost	15,086	15,086
Accumulated amortisation	(15,086)	(15,086)
	-	-
Computer Software		
Carrying amount at start of period	-	4,191
Amortisation expense	-	(4,191)
Carrying amount at end of period	-	-

Note 18. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to plant and equipment or tangible assets at 30 June 2012.

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

All surplus assets at 30 June 2012 have either been classified as assets held for sale or written-off.

Note 19. Payables

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade payables	53,000	17,460
Accrued expenses	58,204	108,025
Accrued salaries	39,011	81,552
Accrued superannuation	3,858	1,164
Total	154,073	208,201

Note 20. Provisions

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Current		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Annual leave ^(a)	110,809	79,849
Long service leave ^(b)	185,535	154,299
	296,344	234,148
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	1,364	1,738
	1,364	1,738
	297,708	235,886
Non-current		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Long service leave ^(b)	96,400	100,213
	96,400	100,213
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	443	1,022
	443	1,022
	96,843	101,235

(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 end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	92,524	72,104
More than 12 months after the reporting period	18,793	7,745
	111,317	79,849

2012
\$

2011
\$

(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 is expected to occur as follows:

	2012	2011
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	44,540	63,855
More than 12 months after the reporting period	238,694	190,657
	283,234	254,512

(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

	2012	2011
Carrying amount at start of period	2,760	3,686
Additional provisions recognised	(953)	(926)
Carrying amount at end of period	1,807	2,760

Note 21. Equity

2012
\$

2011
\$

Contributed equity

	2012	2011
Balance at start of period	420,000	420,000
Balance at end of period	420,000	420,000

Accumulated surplus/(deficit)

	2012	2011
Balance at start of period	613,768	742,425
Result for the period	(161,545)	(128,657)
Balance at end of period	452,223	613,768
Total equity at end of period	872,223	1,033,768

Note 22. Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

2012 2011
\$ \$

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:

Cash and cash equivalents	877,395	997,349
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	42,464	38,856
	919,859	1,036,205

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

Net cost of services	(3,266,446)	(3,038,478)
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Non-cash items:

Depreciation and amortisation expense	75,698	88,548
Resources received free of charge	146,901	92,821

(Increase)/decrease in assets:

Current receivables ^(a)	(34,195)	1,313
Other current assets	-	5,057

Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:

Current payables	(54,128)	90,491
Current provisions	61,822	91,219
Other current liabilities	-	(5,938)
Non-current provisions	(4,392)	(24,134)

Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)	12,391	(1,299)
--	--------	---------

Change in GST in receivables/payables ^(c)	3	-
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Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(3,062,346)	(2,700,400)
--	--------------------	--------------------

(a) 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.

b) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

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

Note 23. Commitments

	2012	2011
	\$	\$

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

Non-cancellable operating lease commitments

Commitments for minimum lease payment are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	341,074	320,735
Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	480,064	760,114
	821,138	1,080,849

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.

Prior year commitments figures have been adjusted to reflect non-cancellable leases on face value rather than present value.

Note 24. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets**Contingent liabilities**

The CCYP has no contingent liabilities for the financial year 2011-12.

Contingent assets

The CCYP has no contingent assets for the financial year 2011-12.

Note 25. Event occurring after the end of the reporting period

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

Note 26. 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 actual results for 2012 and 2011

Although there was no significant variance in the total appropriation, there were significant offsetting variances in the following service expenditure:

	2012 \$	2011 \$	Variance \$
Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the period	2,958,000	2,817,000	(141,000)

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

Service Expenditure	2012 Estimate	2011 Actual	Variance
Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2012	\$	\$	\$
Consultation, research and promotion	3,143,000	3,331,498	188,498

	2012 \$	2011 \$	Variance \$
Significant variances between actual results for 2012 and 2011			
Consultation, research and promotion	3,331,498	3,041,685	289,813

Increase due to one off project costs, higher resources free of charge and accommodation costs as well as a 4% wages increment over the prior year.

Note 27. Financial instruments

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial Instruments held by CCYP are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. 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.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any allowance for impairment, as shown in the table at note 27(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 14 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with CCYP's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, CCYP trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. CCYP has policies in place to ensure that services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that CCYP's exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when CCYP is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

CCYP is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

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

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect CCYP's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. CCYP does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. 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 end of the reporting period are:

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	877,395	997,349
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	42,464	38,856
Receivables ^(a)	247,227	201,032
Financial Liabilities		
Payables	154,073	208,201

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

(c) Financial instrument disclosures

Credit risk

The following table details CCYP's maximum exposure to credit risk and the ageing analysis of financial assets. CCYP's maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period 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 financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of CCYP.

CCYP does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

Aged analysis of financial assets

Past due but not impaired

	Carrying \$	Not past due and not impaired \$	Up to 1 month \$	1-3 months \$	3 months to 1 year \$	1-5 years \$	More than 5 years \$	Impaired financial \$
2012								
Cash and cash equivalents	877,395	877,395	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	42,464	42,464	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	35,227	32,874	-	2,353	-	-	-	-
Amount receivable for services	212,000	212,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,167,086	1,164,733	-	2,353	-	-	-	-
2011								
Cash and cash equivalents	997,349	997,349	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	38,856	38,856	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	1,032	-	1,032	-	-	-	-	-
Amount receivable for services	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,237,237	1,236,205	1,032	-	-	-	-	-

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

Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure

The following table details CCYP's interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

	Interest rate exposure				Maturity Dates					
	Carrying Amount \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-Interest Bearing \$	Nominal Amount \$	Up to 1 month \$	1-3 months \$	3 months to 1 year \$	1-5 years \$	More than 5 years \$
2012										
Financial Assets:										
Cash and cash equivalents	877,395	-	-	877,395	877,395	877,395	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	42,464	-	-	42,464	42,464	42,464	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	35,227	-	-	35,227	35,227	32,874	2,353	-	-	-
Amount receivable for services	212,000	-	-	212,000	212,000	-	-	-	-	212,000
	1,167,086	-	-	1,167,086	1,167,086	952,733	2,353	-	-	212,000
Financial Liabilities:										
Payables	154,073	-	-	154,073	154,073	154,073	-	-	-	-
	154,073	-	-	154,073	154,073	154,073	-	-	-	-
2011										
Financial Assets:										
Cash and cash equivalents	997,349	-	-	997,349	997,349	997,349	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	38,856	-	-	38,856	38,856	38,856	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	1,032	-	-	1,032	1,032	1,032	-	-	-	-
Amount receivable for services	200,000	-	-	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000
	1,237,237	-	-	1,237,237	1,237,237	1,037,237	-	-	-	200,000
Financial Liabilities:										
Payables	208,201	-	-	208,201	208,201	208,201	-	-	-	-
	208,201	-	-	208,201	208,201	208,201	-	-	-	-

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

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. Movements in interest rates would therefore have no 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 28. Remuneration of senior officers

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

	2012 \$	2011 \$
40,001 – 50,000	-	1
60,001 – 70,000	-	1
70,001 – 80,000	2	-
100,001 – 110,000	-	1
110,001 – 120,000	-	1
120,001 – 130,000	1	1
130,001 – 140,000	-	1
140,001 – 150,000	1	-
170,001 – 180,000	1	-
240,001 – 250,000	1	1
The total remuneration of senior officers^{(a) (b) (c)}	833,492	835,004

(a) Prior period has been restated to account for payments on an accrual basis as per TI 952.

(b) The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by CCYP in respect of senior officers.

(c) The value of long service leave taken was \$51,118 in 2011-12 (\$27,160 in 2010-11).

Note 29. Remuneration of the auditor

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

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and key performance indicators	19,100	18,000

The expense is included at Note 10 'Other expenses'

Note 30. Supplementary financial information

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Losses through theft, defaults and other causes		
Loss 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 2012.

Michelle Scott
Accountable Authority

Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

16 August 2012

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 third 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	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

Key Effectiveness Indicator 1 – Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted.

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.

Table 13: Consultations conducted in this reporting period

	2009-10	2010-11	Target 2011-12	Actual 2011-12
Regional	11	9	10	18
Metropolitan	18	16	15	25
Total number of consultations	29	25	25	43

Note 1 – This is the third year of reporting on the KPI determined by the Government's Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009. In the first three years of reporting, and while the scope and range of the Commissioner's work was being established, CCYP Corporate Executive annually reviewed the KPI definitions to ensure that the KPI is a transparent measure of the entire work of the office.

Note 2 – The variance in the actual number of consultations compared to the target is attributed to the consultations conducted as part of the 2011 Thinker in residence project and a large consultation conducted with multiple groups as part of the reducing alcohol-related harm project being conducted in one reporting period. It is expected that this is a one-off variation.

Note 3 – It is 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 4 – 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 5 – The Commissioner uses the information from 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 6 – Within the resources of this office it is achievable to undertake 25 consultations annually and, over time, the extent to which children and young people across the State are consulted will aggregate. The target of 25 was recently set as part of the review endorsed by the Commissioner's Corporate Executive team in June 2012 (see note 1).

Key Effectiveness Indicator 2 – Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research.

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

Table 14: Number of representations in this reporting period

	2009-10	2010-11	Target 2011-12	Actual 2011-12
Representations ¹	98	94	90	228

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.

Table 15: Breakdown of representations in this reporting period

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Submissions	64	26	69
<i>Comments on legislation</i> ¹	-	5	11
Evidence to Parliamentary Committees and Inquiries	10	5	3
Issues papers	3	13	3
Publications (including policy briefs)	3	7	23
Speeches	14	9	25
Presentations	-	26	8
Opinion pieces	4	8	15
Forums and seminars	-	-	74
CCYP support for research proposals	-	-	3
Community consultation	-	-	5
Total representations	98	94	228

¹ *Comments on legislation are provided by submission, and are therefore not counted in the totals for representations.*

² *Representation types listed with a dash were not counted in 2009-10 and 2010-11.*

Note 1 – This is the third year of reporting on the KPI determined by the Government’s Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009. In the first three years of reporting and while the scope and range of the Commissioner’s work was being established, CCYP Corporate Executive annually reviewed the KPI definitions to ensure that the KPI is a transparent measure of the entire work of the office.

As a result of this review in 2012 the definition has been broadened to include all representations made by the office. This explains some of the variance in the number of representations (above the target set in 2010-11).

Note 2 – The variance in the actual number of representations compared to the target is attributed to two Thinker in residence projects being conducted in one reporting period (usually only one Thinker in residence project would occur) and the higher than usual number of Government-initiated inquiries and legislation being reviewed. It is expected that this is a one-off variation.

Note 3 – 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 4 – 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 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.

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*.

Table 16: Efficiency indicators in this reporting period

Efficient Indicators	2009-10	2010-11	Target 2011-12	Actual 2011-12
2.1 Average cost per consulting exercise with children and young people	\$29,235	\$37,330	\$40,074	\$24,501
2.2 Average cost of conducting research and consultation	\$19,866	\$22,430	\$24,068	\$9,991

Notes

Note 1 – This is the third year of reporting on the KPI determined by the Government's Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009. In the first three years of reporting and while the scope and range of the Commissioner's work was being established CCYP Corporate Executive annually reviewed the KPI definitions to ensure that the KPI is a transparent measure of the entire work of the office.

As a result of this review in 2012 the definition has been broadened to include all representations made by the office. The increase in the number of representations impacts the efficiency indicator this explains some of the variance (above the target set in 2010-11).

Note 2 – The variance in the efficiency indicator compared to the target is attributed to two Thinker in residence projects being conducted in one reporting period (usually only one Thinker in residence project would occur) and the higher than usual number of Government initiated inquiries and legislation being reviewed. It is expected that this is a one-off variation.

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 2011-12.

Other financial disclosures

The Commissioner for Children and Young People had no capital expenditure in 2011-12 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 2011-12 was \$609

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

	Total Expenditure	Organisation	Amount
Advertising agencies	\$609	Adcorp	\$609
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

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 *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2012* has been circulated to all staff. It forms part of the Commissioner's standard induction information and is available in the records management system of the Commissioner's office and on the website.

The Commissioner's website www.ccyp.wa.gov.au 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

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

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 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 has a strong commitment to promoting integrity in official conduct.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory officer, reporting directly to the Parliament of Western Australia. The Commissioner is committed to achieving high standards of monitoring and ensuring compliance with the *Public Sector Standards*, *The Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics* and the office's *Code of Conduct*. The Corporate Executive, which includes the Commissioner leads and promotes these standards within the office.

The office has policies, procedures and processes that support the application of:

- the WA Public Sector Code of Ethics
- the WA Public Sector Standards in Human Resources Management
- the Commissioner's Code of Conduct and Management of Conflict of Interest Policy
- a family friendly workplace.

In the reporting period, the office has:

- incorporated all key public sector and CCYP documents in staff induction kits and induction programs, with all new staff are required to attend ethics and accountability training
- endorsed the Code of Conduct in March 2012, with all staff participating in ethics and accountability training in April 2012
- held regular staff meetings where any matters relevant to Public Sector Standards could be raised and discussed
- implemented and briefed staff concerning the Commissioner's Drug and Alcohol Policy which made the office a drug and alcohol-free workplace
- reviewed and endorsed the Recruitment Policy as a result of the roll-out from the Office of Shared Services.

Additionally, the Commissioner reviewed the office's Consent Policy which relates to the publication of children and young people's names and photographs along with the information they provide in consultation. This policy has been used as a model for other agencies.

Compliance with Public Sector Standards

The Commissioner has established procedures to ensure compliance with s31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and has conducted appropriate internal assessments of recruitment practices and processes.

In 2011-12, there were no applications made for breach of standards.

Compliance with Western Australia Public Sector Code of Ethics

There has been no evidence of non-compliance with Public Sector Code of Ethics.

Compliance with the Commissioner for Children and Young People Code of Conduct

There has been no evidence of non-compliance with the Commissioner's Code of Conduct. There were no public interest disclosures about the activities of the Commissioner's office.

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 Recordkeeping plan is scheduled for review in November 2012.

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

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*.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2009-2012*, was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. The Plan contains strategies and actions to deliver realistic, achievable and measurable actions that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

All work undertaken by the Commissioner for Children and Young People is underpinned by her legislative requirement to have special regard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, which ensures the principles identified within the Reconciliation Action Plan are integrated into all office procedures and practices. This included:

- acknowledgement of traditional ownership in all speeches by the Commissioner in 2011-12
- staff awareness training integrated into the Performance Appraisal and Development System
- display of art by young Aboriginal people in the Commissioner's office.

For more information on how the Commissioner has worked to acknowledge and address the needs of Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities, see the statement on [page 32](#).

Occupational Safety, Health and Injury Management

In the administration of this Office, the Commissioner is committed to complying with the injury management requirements of the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

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.

In May 2012 an Occupational Health and Safety inspection and audit was conducted. Nine minor recommendations were made, with an overall assessment that the Commissioner's occupational health and safety system is appropriate for its size, operations and risk profile.

In June 2012 an ergonomic assessment was undertaken of all staff workstations to support safe office practices.

Four out of the five members of the Corporate Executive team attended Occupational Health and Safety training in this reporting period.

Communication and consultation

The Commissioner prioritises communication and consultation with employees in relation to safety and health matters. Open communication and working together aligns with the values of the Commissioner's office and serves to promote the effective resolution of hazards and risks.

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

- issuing staff with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) policy and procedures during induction process
- making OSH policy and procedures easily accessible in the TRIM document management system.
- discussing health and safety at office meetings as issues arise
- providing written information via email and circulars on matters affecting the Commissioner
- displaying information clearly within the office as issues arise or to highlight whole-of-government OSH initiatives as relevant.

Injury Management Policy

The Commissioner's injury management policy was developed and approved in 2010-11 and complies with the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

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

Performance

In 2011-12, there were no workers compensation claims for the office of the Commissioner.

Table 17: Occupational safety and health data in this reporting period

Indicator	2010-11	2011-12	Target 2012-13
Number of fatalities	0	0	0
Lost time injury/disease (LTI/D) incidence rate	0	0	0
Lost time injury severity rate	0	0	0
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 28 days	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	75	83	100



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