

# Snapshot 2023-24

## Western Australia has approximately 644,468 children and young people

who make up 22 per cent of the State's population

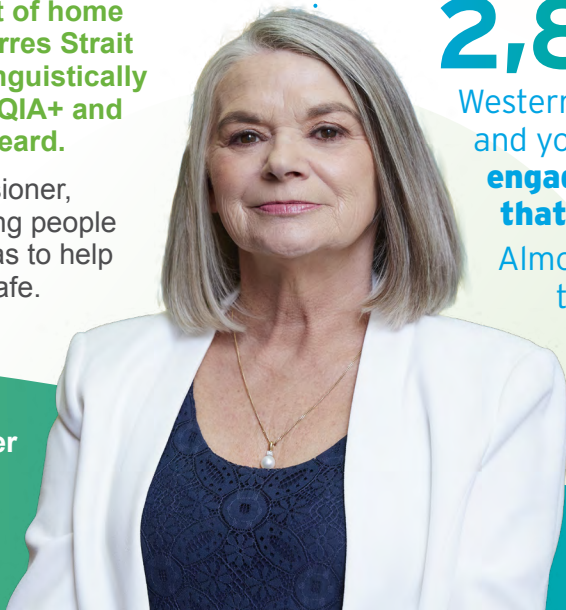


I'm Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, WA's Commissioner for Children and Young People and I'm excited to share some highlights of my latest Annual Report with you.

My office provides support to WA children and young people like you by:

- ▶ **Making sure your rights, voices, and ideas are heard and respected.**
- ▶ **Keeping an eye on the wellbeing of children and young people across WA and speaking up for them.**
- ▶ **Making sure the voices of all children and young people, including our most vulnerable like those in youth detention, out of home care, from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ and those living in poverty, are heard.**

As a part of my role as Commissioner, I must listen to children and young people about their worries and their ideas to help them to be happy, healthy and safe.



Around

# 155,000

of children and young people in WA  
**live in regional and remote areas**

There are about

# 46,000

Aboriginal children and young  
people **aged 0 to 17 years in WA**

# 2,802

Western Australian children  
and young people **were  
engaged on issues  
that affect them**

Almost one third of  
those were in-person  
discussions

### Hear Me Out

As a part of her advocacy for children and young people, the Commissioner sought to elevate the voices of children and young people in detention, asking questions about their day-to-day life and looking at what future improvements could be made.

Her team interviewed 43 juvenile detainees at Banksia Hill Detention Centre and Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison for the 'Hear Me Out' report.

The inquiry focussed on the implementation progress for Banksia Hill's Model of Care instruction. Staff and service providers were also consulted.

The result was 16 key findings and recommendations to have better support and outcomes for children and young people at Unit 18 and Banksia Hill.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People proudly acknowledges and pays respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters across Western Australia and acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation upon whose lands the Commissioner's office is located. She recognises the continuing connection to culture, lands, skies and waters, families and communities for all Aboriginal peoples.

The Commissioner and her team also pay their respects to all Elders, past and present and emerging leaders. They recognise the knowledge, insights and capabilities of Aboriginal people, and pay respect to Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing.



Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Western Australia

Connect with the Commissioner



## Youth Steering Group

Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) established a Youth Steering Group on behalf of the Commissioner to provide insights on how best to engage with children and young people across WA.

12 young people were appointed, three regional and nine metropolitan, with nine aged 14-17 and three aged 18 to 21.

The group members were young people from diverse cultural, socio-economic backgrounds, life experiences, young people with disability, young carers, neurodiverse young people, young people who identified as LGBTQIA+.

The Youth Steering Group was supported to undertake a peer research project and developed a wide range of suggestions for the Commissioner's youth engagement model going forward.

## Listening Tour

I've met with more than 860 children and young people across metropolitan and regional WA during visits to schools and community organisations.



## Commissioner's Photo Competition

The Commissioner held the Youth Week Photography Competition asking children and young people to consider the theme of 'Head, Body, Heart' and how it related to their mental and physical wellbeing. 65 entries were submitted which showcased the high-quality photography skills of our young people in WA.

Finalists and winners had their work featured on the CCYP website. Winners, including nine highly commended entrants, were invited to an afternoon tea with the Commissioner to celebrate and to receive their certificates and prizes.

Finalists and winners had their work featured on the CCYP website. Winners, including nine highly commended entrants, were invited to an afternoon tea with the Commissioner to celebrate and to receive their certificates and prizes.

**Throughout my travels, you have told me what is important to you and also about the challenges you face. Your thoughts will continue to be shared with government to help make WA a better place for you to live."**

## Making a complaint

If someone is not treating you well or you don't feel safe or respected, it's okay to say something about it.



One way to speak up is to make a complaint. This can be tough for children and young people, but it's important. It helps fix mistakes and teaches people to do better. There are easy-to-follow steps on my website.



## Surveys

This year we ran two surveys – Your Environment: Your Say and Belonging Across Borders.

Nearly 1,500 children and young people responded, sharing their views on the environment and/or their experiences as children from migrant backgrounds.

Reports for each will be prepared.

