

2022 Snapshot for children and young people



There are almost **616,000** children and young people - that's nearly a quarter of the state's population!



Hi!
I am **Jacqueline McGowan-Jones**, WA's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

It's my job to make sure that WA children and young people are heard by decision makers to help make WA a better place.

This year I:

1. **Met** children and young people from all over WA who told me what's important to them
2. **Advocated** for children and young people involved with youth justice, out-of-home care or living in poverty
3. **Promoted** the findings of our Speaking Out Survey 2021 to decision makers



In 2021 there were **34,300** births registered

Around **40,000** Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years old live in WA

17% of children and young people are living in poverty

I consulted with **1,588** children and young people from around WA.

I promoted your views in **217** meetings with decision makers.

I prepared **28** submissions on issues that impact your lives.



The views of WA children and young people on their wellbeing - a summary report

Over **16,000** year 4-12 students shared their views about health, belonging, safety, family, community and school during my **Speaking Out Survey 2021**.

In February 2022 I reported these views to WA Parliament.

Most students said they had good mental and physical health, they had what they needed and felt loved and supported. This is great news! However, many students told us they had concerns with wellbeing and girls rated their wellbeing lower than boys.

45% of female high school students reported high life satisfaction compared with 65% of male students. One-quarter (26%) of female students reported poor life satisfaction.

My **Girls' Wellbeing** project is exploring this wellbeing gap between girls and boys and my Advisory Committees and Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community have been looking at gender issues and how to address them.



My Place in WA (Children's Week 2021)



Children and young people spoke out about where they live using artwork, online platforms, through advisory committees or took part of our community planning workshop.

They had great ideas about making things better and told us they want to be involved in designs and decisions about their local communities.

The **My Place in WA** report asked state and local governments to listen to children and young people about their living environments.

"I feel as if a lot more needs to be done for our environment and it should be easier for young adults to voice their opinions and concerns."

WA Young Person



DigiMe

DigiMe is a fun and safe place for you to make an avatar and have a say on important topics.

Nearly 1,300 young people answered this question: *What can adults learn from children?*

Here are a few of their thoughts:

"I believe adults and children should take advice from each other then there's a better understanding."

"Adults can learn lots from children like maths and even sport, children can teach so much as they are still in school."

"Don't underestimate young people."

"Adults can learn from children to be open minded."



Create your own DigiMe on our website ccyp.wa.gov.au

Have your say!

Thank you WA children and young people for speaking up. You are important, and I am always happy to hear from you!

You can share your views with the Commissioner using DigiMe, visiting ccyp.wa.gov.au, following [@CCYPWA](https://www.instagram.com/CCYPWA) on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, or by sending an email to: info@ccyp.wa.gov.au

Around 25% of children and young people in WA live in regional and remote areas



I've travelled all over WA on my Listening Tour, from Esperance to Broome. You've told me what is important to you and about the challenges you face. I will continue to be share your views with the government and work to make WA a better place to grow up.