

Face to Face 2019



It is my aim that children and young people in WA live in a state where they are heard, valued, healthy and safe. I work closely with you, your families, your community and the government to make WA a better place for you to grow up.

This year I focused on:

1. **Improving** the lives of WA's most vulnerable children and young people.
2. **Consulting** with WA children and young people on the important issues of adoption and family law.
3. **Visiting** schools across WA and listening to what thousands of you had to say about your lives in my Speaking Out Survey.

Colin Pettit



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

ccyp.wa.gov.au

There are around **598,000** children and young people in WA - that's nearly a quarter of the state's population!



7% of children and young people are living in poverty



1 in 5 students is disengaged from school at some level

1 Vulnerable children and young people

There are some children and young people in WA who don't have the support they need.

They might have problems in their family or community, or perhaps they are one of the 44,000 children in WA who are living in poverty.

After speaking with many young people about what could help them, I presented a report to the WA government on how we can better support vulnerable children.

2 Adoption and family law

Research is the first step whenever you want to know more about a problem, and I always want to hear directly from WA children and young people about any issues that affect them. So this year my office consulted with young people on their experiences with adoption and the family law system. Their ideas will help to make changes that are needed for the future.

3 Did you Speak Out?

My staff and I visited over 200 schools across WA this year, with over 4,500 children and young people taking part in my Speaking Out Survey - were you one of them? We asked you lots of questions about:

- how happy you are
- how safe you feel
- where you go for help if you need it.

Your answers will be included in a report I will share with the WA government and other organisations who need advice on what is most important to you.



DigiMe

Have you tried my DigiMe app yet? Create an avatar and have a say on an important topic!

Over 1,200 of you created a DigiMe in the last year. Here's a snapshot of what you told me when I asked...

“What’s the most important thing in your life?”



“Being able to talk to someone I trust and being around people I can trust.”



“My family and the future of the planet and neighbourhood.”



“The fact that I am Aboriginal and have all these opportunities like acting and dancing.”



“Being able to fit in and stand for the rights of others.”

Create your own DigiMe at ccyp.wa.gov.au/digime



LGBTI committees

This year, students from around WA were part of two LGBTI advisory committees that helped my office to look at the wellbeing needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex (LGBTI) children and young people.

The Perth LGBTI and Bunbury SHS advisory committees contributed to my reports and submissions to government, ran seminars for parents and teachers, and created four videos to share ways to make schools more inclusive for everyone.

You can read more about the [advisory committee](#) activities on my website.



Making a complaint

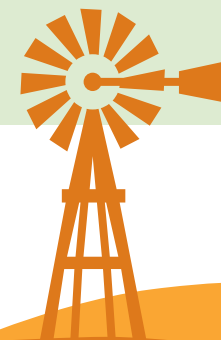
If you're unhappy with how you are being treated by someone, you have a right to speak up about it – especially if you do not feel respected or safe.



One way to speak up is to make a complaint. This can be hard for children and young people, but it is important so that mistakes can be fixed and people can learn from them.

To find out how to make a complaint, watch our [video](#) or read our [brochure](#).

Around **26%** of WA children and young people live in regional and remote areas



I've travelled all over our state this year and met with children and young people from the Kimberley to the Great Southern. You told me what is important to you, and also about the challenges you face. Your thoughts will continue to be shared with the government to help make WA a better place for you to grow up.