

Calling on young people to join our discussion on Child protection in Western Australia



Commissioner for Children and Young People

My name is Jacqueline McGowan-Jones and I am the Commissioner for Children and Young People for Western Australia.

My office and I work hard to make a better world for all children and young people. We:

- stand up for children and young people's rights
- listen to what children and young people have to say
- tell everyone about the great ideas children and young people have and the great things they do.

You should have the things you need to be safe and well, to learn and grow. You should also have a say in the things that matter to you. I share what I learn with people in charge so that they make things better for children and young people.

Child protection

Every child and young person has a right to be looked after, to be safe and feel safe.

Some children and young people's families have a hard time looking after them. Their family might need help to make things better.

Sometimes children and young people need to live with someone else who can look after them. This is called 'going into care'.

Life can be hard for children and young people when there are things going on in their life.

I have learnt about how hard it is to be in care and how we need to:

- Learn from children and young people about what makes things better.
- Make it easy to ask for help and give the right kind of help for them and their family.
- Help kids stay close to their culture and community (if this is safe for them).
- Make sure they can still do things that everyone else can do. Things like have friends, go to school, get help if they are sick.
- Have safe ways for children and young people to speak up and be heard if something is wrong.
- Make sure the people and places that help children, young people and their families are doing their job properly.

Now I want to know what you think

On the next page are some questions I'm asking the young people of WA.



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Western Australia

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Questions for young people

- 1** Children and young people can't always choose if they go into care or where they go. How can we make sure adults listen to what children and young people want?
- 2** How would you like to keep in contact with people and places that you care about?
- 3** If you need to get help with your health and mental health, is that easy to do? What could be better?
- 4** If you are older, what would make it easier for you leaving care?
- 5** What can we do to make things better for you if you are living away from your culture or community?
- 6** Who and what would be the best way to help you if you have problems in care?

Your ideas

Please tell me any ideas you have for how we make out of home care services better for children and young people. Your voices matter.

You can submit your response [online](#) or email us at: info@ccyp.wa.gov.au



Share your ideas

