



Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Western Australia



# Strategic Plan 2024 - 2027

# Commissioner's message



The Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia is an independent statutory officer who must regard the best interests of children and young people as the paramount consideration.

The Commissioner has three key platforms: promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people, monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people and prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people.

I am pleased to present my Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2027. This plan will guide us as we strive to uphold the rights of all WA children and young people to be safe and supported, learning and participating, and live healthy and connected lives.

This document outlines the purpose of the Commissioner, the five strategic pillars and their outcomes which will underpin the work delivered by the office of the Commissioner and introduces the newly identified Vision and Values which were created with input from all members of my team.

I look forward to seeing the positive impact this new direction will have on the children and young people of Western Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline McGowan-Jones'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Jacqueline McGowan-Jones**  
Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

## Acknowledgement of Country

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.



# Vision

We strive for a better world for all children and young people where their voices and rights are valued and respected.

# Values

In all we do we will ensure that:

- Children and young people are central to everything that we do.
- We show care and support for everyone we work with.
- We value everyone's life experiences.
- We will have honest conversations and encourage diverse views.
- We are individually and jointly responsible for our actions.

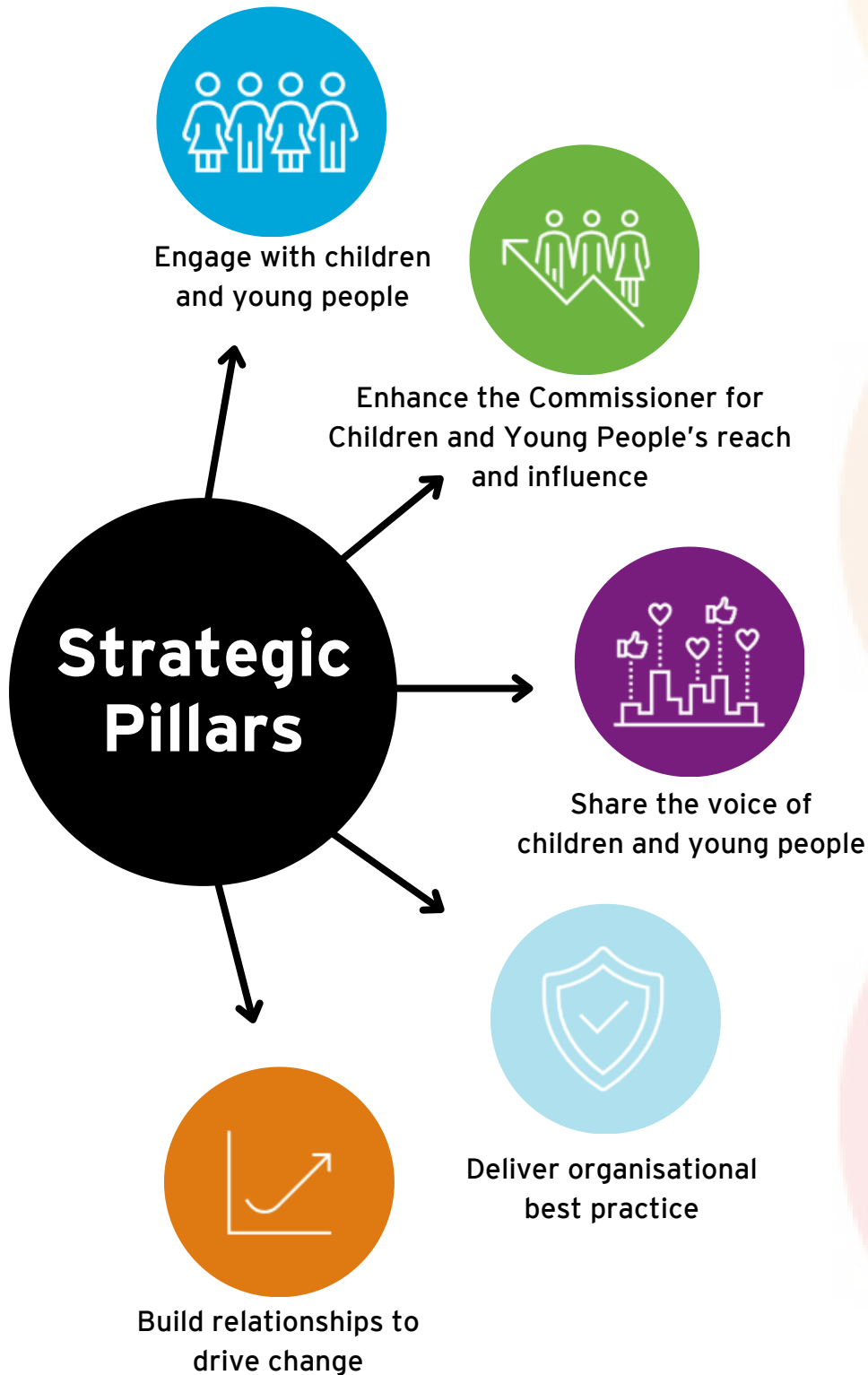
# Purpose

- 1 Independent body representing the voice, interests and wellbeing of children and young people.
- 2 Independent body holding agencies to account for improving outcomes for children and young people (front of mind).
- 3 Equipping children and young people to use their voice.
- 4 Understanding (through research, substantive data and listening to them) the issues that are important and relevant for children and young people.
- 5 Monitoring and advising all agencies that provide a service to children and young people.
- 6 Researching, measuring and accessing data on children and young people (national and international) to identify trends and provide advice and guidance.
- 7 Advocating for children and young people to improve their lives and outcomes.
- 8 Monitoring how children and young people are going across key domains and disseminating this data to help agencies to make change.
- 9 Providing children and young people with access to information about their rights.

# Strategic Pillars

Five Strategic Pillars have been identified:

- Engage with children and young people.
- Enhance the Commissioner for Children and Young People's reach and influence.
- Share the voice of children and young people.
- Deliver organisational best practice.
- Build relationships to drive change.



## Strategic Pillar: Engage with children and young people to hear their voice.

Focus area	Outcomes
Quality engagement with children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media and digital strategy and presence on critical issues for children and young people</li> <li>• Quality feedback from children and young people</li> </ul>
Listen to children and young people from across all Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional and metro youth forums</li> <li>• Listening tour covering a diverse range of locations</li> <li>• Identify trends and issues key to children and young people</li> </ul>
Children and young people defining their requirements for engagement into the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New engagement and advice program defined by young people</li> </ul>
Providing opportunities for children and young people to share their experiences to inform policy and resource development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people presenting at forums with key decision makers.</li> <li>• Development opportunities for children and young people in collaboration with the Commissioner for Children and Young People</li> </ul>

## Strategic Pillar: Enhance the Commission's profile and reputation to improve our reach and impact.

Focus area	Outcomes
Best practice data to inform the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys of children and young people on topical issues</li> <li>• Speaking out survey 2025</li> </ul>
Commissioners' presence across the sector to influence change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media on children and young people</li> <li>• Representation at key events</li> </ul>
Collaboration and engagement with key research partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National and state collaboration projects</li> </ul>
Seen as an employer of choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attraction and retention of diverse, quality workforce</li> </ul>

## Strategic Pillar: Powerfully share the voice of children and young people to influence change.

Focus area	Outcomes
Stakeholder influence on critical organisations that affect children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder strategy and management plan</li> <li>• Stakeholder feedback</li> </ul>
Sharing the voices of children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and timely reports from engagement</li> <li>• Representation of the voices of children and young people at events, meetings and forums</li> </ul>
Media focus on key issues impacting children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad media presences on issues relevant to children and young people</li> </ul>
Maintain a focus on Aboriginal, Cultural and Linguistically Diverse, vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific engagement and reports on these cohorts</li> <li>• Continued advocacy for a national Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people</li> </ul>

## Strategic Pillar: Strengthen the organisation and achieve corporate best practice.

Focus area	Outcomes
Best practice corporate governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate policy requirements aligned with Government best practice and legislation</li> </ul>
Organisational culture that builds engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff wellbeing framework (including cultural and psychological safety)</li> <li>• Public sector census improvement</li> <li>• Staff development and retention</li> </ul>
Excellence in fiscal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unqualified Audit</li> </ul>
Organisational accountability and professional business leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment of organisational outcomes and objectives</li> <li>• Innovate and drive continuous improvement</li> </ul>

## **Strategic Pillar: Build relationships and strategically influence key stakeholders to drive change for children and young people.**

<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Strategic national and state portfolio engagement on issues impacting children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular meeting with heads of agencies and service providers</li><li>• Cabinet ministers' engagement</li></ul>
Leadership in Safe and Supported: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National leadership group</li><li>• Influencing policy action</li></ul>
ANZCCGA membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborating on jurisdictional and national policy and programs impacting children and young people</li></ul>
Influencing positive change in policies programs and services impacting children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy position statements are developed.</li><li>• Policy discussion papers provide guidance and the voice of children and young people</li><li>• Development of quality of resources.</li></ul>

## Photographs of children and young people

All photographs featured in this document are of Western Australian children and young people and have been taken by or for the Commissioner for Children and Young People's office. All children and young people and their parents/guardians have consented to their use.

## Alternative formats

On request, large print or alternative formats can be obtained from:

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