

Statement of Commitment to Western Australia's children and young people



Commissioner for
Children and Young People
Western Australia

ccyp.wa.gov.au

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is committed to promoting the rights of all children and young people in WA. All children have the right to be safe, healthy, happy and learning. Everyone has a responsibility, including family, carers, the broader community and children and young people, to work together to deliver these rights.

In making sure these rights are upheld, the Commissioner must give special consideration to those children who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or vulnerable or disadvantaged for any reason.



SAFE AND SUPPORTED

The right to be safe and feel safe everywhere

- In a safe and peaceful home
- In a community that is safe and peaceful
- Feeling safe to make friends
- Being free from fear, neglect, violence, bullying, racism and exploitation

"I want to be able to walk around safely as a young woman."

The right to belong and be me

- Being proud of who you are and strong enough to stand up to bullying and peer-pressure
- Having the right to be yourself without judgement
- Being connected to your country, culture or community
- Being able to practise your culture and religion freely

"I think that I have the right to be myself."

The right to be treated fairly and humanely

- Being treated with kindness and respect
- Being treated with compassion and empathy
- Being able to stand up for yourself and others

"Don't judge a person by their cover."

LEARNING AND PARTICIPATING

The right to contribute, make decisions and be listened to

- Being able to make decisions - including saying 'no'
- Being accepted, understood and listened to as a rational person
- Being able to prove yourself and feel useful - having a job!
- Being able to share opinions and make mistakes

"Being heard makes me feel great."

The right to education and lifelong learning

- Through quality education which is accessible, affordable, relevant and interesting
- Being able to learn at your own level and pace, without disruptions
- Being part of a family and community that values education

"Education is important for a better future."

The right to explore, express and create

- Freedom to try something new or take a risk in a safe way
- Freedom to express yourself
- Freedom to explore different environments, so you can learn new things about yourself and others

"Don't let anything hold you back - pursue your passions and your interests."

HEALTHY AND CONNECTED

The right to a healthy life

- Stable, secure housing
- Nutritious, affordable food
- Having people, services and facilities around you to support your mental health and physical health
- Being able to enjoy the many factors that contribute to a healthy life, such as feeling loved, playing and having a good education

"The most important thing in my life is that I live in a safe town and live in a good safe comfortable house."

The right to play, have fun and be active

- Having affordable and accessible play spaces, including sporting opportunities that everyone can be involved in
- Having time to play and do activities in more formal environments, like at school
- Enjoying friendships and choosing to play with whoever you want, whether they are a boy or a girl

"I feel very happy in Western Australia. I love playing cricket down at the beach with my family and friends."

The right to be loved

- Being well looked after by people who care about you
- Being loved, supported and guided by your family, even in challenging times
- Being treated as an equal in your family

"Being loved makes you a kinder person."

"It's about your rights that you have, that you actually deserve. And people can't just take those things away from you."