



Work Plan 2016–2018

Strategic priorities

The Commissioner's strategic plan *'Our approach and priorities 2016-2020'* outlines three strategic priorities:

1. Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people
2. Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people
3. Prioritising the needs of children and young people who are our most disadvantaged and vulnerable

Current projects

Strategic priority links

		1	2	3
Out of Home Care	A project in partnership with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support to seek the views of children and young people who have experienced out-of-home care about how they raise concerns.	✓		✓
Youth Justice	In collaboration with the Department of Corrective Services, the aim of this project is to help shape future youth justice policy and practice based on the views and experiences of young people who have had contact with the justice system.	✓		✓
Child Safe Organisations	A long-term program that aims to support organisations to develop child safe policies and practices and cultivate a strong organisational commitment to child safety. The project involves a series of seminars based on the resources developed by in 2016.		✓	
Thinker in Residence 2016-17	Professor Jane Burns from the University of Sydney has been engaged for a week in October 2016 and then again in March 2017 to explore how social media and technology can be used to support children and young people's mental health. The Residency will provide research and information for parents and service providers.		✓	
Engagement in	This unique and long-term project aims to identify and analyse the factors that help			

Education	children and young people positively participate in education and learning and the barriers they experience. The first phase of this project is the School and Learning Consultation which aim to provide 2000 WA school students to provide their views and ideas. The views of parents will also be sought, with a report on the consultation published in early 2017.	✓			
Monitoring Framework	Developing a monitoring framework to measure and report on both previous recommendations released by the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and other key performance indicators of various services supporting children and young people. This will result in a regular reporting process of outcomes for children and young people in Western Australia.				✓
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People	This project will seek to further investigate and advance the findings and recommended approaches and strategies of the report of the Commissioner's 2014 consultation Aboriginal children and young people. A key component will be to ensure the voices of Aboriginal children and young people are involved in decision making to address issues which affect their wellbeing and community.		✓		✓
Family Reunification	Working with Edith Cowan University and other partners the Commissioner will undertake a preliminary study into the factors that influence the successful family reunification for children and young people who have been taken into care as a result of their parents' alcohol and drug abuse.				✓

Ongoing work

The Commissioner will continue to advocate for evidence-based, collaborative and strategic approaches to addressing issues impacting the wellbeing of WA children and young people. This work including publishing submissions, supporting research, delivering seminars and presentations, and presenting information to the community via the media and other means.

In undertaking this work the Commissioner will draw on his ongoing program of meetings with children and young people, their families and service providers in both the metropolitan and regional areas, in addition to contemporary research and evidence of existing and emerging issues.

Horizon Projects

Strategic priority links

		1	2	3
Children and young people in the legal process	Ensuring children in the legal process have a voice is vital to guarantee they have some control on decisions that impact on their futures. This project will involve a consultation with children and young people who have experience of legal processes with the aim of identifying ways in which courts can ensure their views are heard and responded to.	√		
Homelessness in young people under the age of 16	In partnership with Edith Cowan University, the Youth Affairs Council of WA, and Youth Futures, this project will seek to better understand the pathways and experiences of young people under the age of 16 years who are homeless. An initial literature review will guide this project and inform a research project involving young people with experiences of homelessness.	√	√	
Vulnerable Children and Young People Report	Drawing on a number of previous projects and ongoing work, the Commissioner is scoping the development of a report concerning the wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people in Western Australia based, for tabling in the WA Parliament.		√	√