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Ms. Lisa Baker MLA
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People
946 Beaufort Street
Inglewood WA 6052

Dear Ms. Baker

Inquiry into the functions exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) would like to thank the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry.

YACWA acknowledges the Commissioner for Children and Young People's critical role in strengthening the wellbeing of children and young people in WA, ensuring that relevant issues are advocated for in the Western Australian Parliament and the broader community.

YACWA has previously been, and would like to continuously be, significantly involved in policy development with regards to the role of the Commissioner in Western Australia.

We have provided recent submissions to the following relevant inquiries:

- Joint Standing Committee's Examination into the Exercise of the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (2011).
- The Public Sector Commission's Review of the operation and effectiveness of the Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006 (2013).

I have also appeared twice before the Parliamentary Committee and sat on the Public Sector Commissions Reference Group during their Review process.

During this time we have provided comment on the operation and effectiveness of the Act and subsequently the Commissioner; the ability of the Commissioner's office to administer complaints concerning child abuse; and other legislative and practical functions.

I have also appeared twice before the Parliamentary Committee and sat on the Public Sector Commissions Reference Group during their Review process.

During this time we have committed significant resources to the ongoing review of the *Act* and we believe at this stage we can provide no further insight to the process.

We are broadly supportive of the recommendations contained in the Public Sector Commission's Review, and feel they representative significant consultation undertaken with stakeholders and young people.

We do however wish to reiterate that any extension of function of the role of the Commissioner must be supported by additional resources.

If you have any further queries or would like clarification on our position with regards to this inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact our office on 9227 5440 or via email ceo@yacwa.org.au.

Regards

Craig Comrie
CEO

13 FEBRUARY 2015