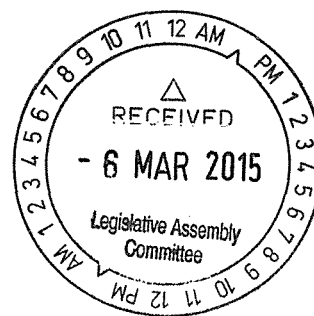




**Government of Western Australia**  
**Department of Culture and the Arts**

File no: 14/43

3 March 2015



Ms Renee Gould  
 Principal Research Officer  
 Joint Standing Committee on the  
 Commissioner for Children and Young People  
 Parliament of Western Australia  
 Legislative Assembly Committee Office  
 Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace  
 WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Ms Gould

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY  
 INTO THE FUNCTIONS EXERCISED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN  
 AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Inquiry into the Functions exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) notes that the Inquiry is specifically seeking comment on recommendations surrounding proposed support and functions of the Commissioner with respect to child abuse complaints and the child protection framework. As this does not directly relate to the Department's core business activity the DCA is not in a position to comment on all of the recommendations contained within the *Review of the Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

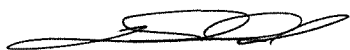
However, the DCA has interacted and collaborated with the Commissioner on a number of projects since inception, and agrees that the Commissioner could play a critical role in providing advocacy and support to children, young people and their support networks in navigating the State Government framework with respect to child abuse and complaints.

The DCA appreciates the role that the Commissioner has played to date with respect to research, advocacy, support and information for Government and the broader community; for example with respect to mental health and wellbeing, participation guidelines on involving children and young people, and development of child friendly complaints frameworks. It seems appropriate that this expertise be applied to the existing child abuse complaints framework within Western Australia.

The DCA does not wish to appear before the Committee to present its case.

Should you require further comment, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Colin Walker, Director Policy, Planning and Research on telephone 6552 7442, facsimile 6552 7306 or by email at [colin.walker@dca.wa.gov.au](mailto:colin.walker@dca.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Duncan Ord', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Duncan Ord  
Director General