

Ombudsman Western Australia
Serving Parliament - Serving Western Australians

27 February 2015

Ms Lisa Baker MLA
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People
Parliament of Western Australia
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Chair

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

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People (**the Committee**) Inquiry into the functions exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People (**the Inquiry**).

The office of the Ombudsman (**the Office**) takes this opportunity to acknowledge the important work being undertaken in the Inquiry and our appreciation of the Committee's invitation to make a submission to the Inquiry.

The Office notes the identified priority of the Committee, namely:

... that the proposed child abuse complaints support function allows the Commissioner to become a trusted avenue for people to be made aware of the issues surrounding child abuse - and to raise their concerns about child abuse. For this to occur, the role will need the support of, and be supportive of, the existing child protection framework.

The Office supports this identified priority. A function to support children and young people in being aware of, having access to, and safely and successfully using, the current administrative and criminal complaints and investigations systems for child abuse is important and welcome.

The Office further supports the undertaking of the proposed child abuse complaints support function by the Commissioner for Children and Young People (**the Commissioner**). The Office will work cooperatively with the Commissioner in establishing and undertaking this important proposed function.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 9220 7529 (Direct) if you would like me to provide any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.

Chris Field
OMBUDSMAN