



## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 72**

**23 November 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 8:40am at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 70 dated 2 November 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Email, dated 7 November 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the Thinker in Residence program.

**Noted.**

[The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence]

**4 Business**

**4.1 Examining Annual and other reports of the Children's Commissioner**

Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Ms Caron Irwin, Executive Director, Commissioner for Children and Young People appeared before the Committee at 8:40am to give evidence. At 9.50am the witnesses retired.

**5 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am until 9:00am on Wednesday 30 November 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENEE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 71**

**9 November 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:05am at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 70 dated 2 November 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter, dated 4 November 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding comments made by the Ombudsman at Committee hearing.

**Noted**

- 3.2 Letter, dated 8 November 2011, from the Education and Health Standing Committee, regarding an invitation to co-convene an Early Childhood Summit.

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Committee will write to the EHSC Committee declining the invitation.

[The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence]

**4 Business**

**4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**Hearing 9:00am with CREATE Foundation WA**

Ms Shar Double, State Coordinator and Ms Josie McRandall, Community Facilitator for CREATE Foundation WA appeared before the Committee at 9.25am to give evidence. At 9.55am the witnesses retired.

**4.2 Quarterly consultation with the Children's Commissioner on 23 November 2011**

- Members **noted** that the Commissioner is to appear from 8:30am to 10:00am;
- Members **noted** the questions provided for the hearing and agreed to present the Secretariat with any additional questions by 18 November 2011.

**5 General Business**

**5.1 Table Minutes on 30 November 2011**

**Resolved,**

- (a) To table the Committee's minutes for 2011 in both Houses or as required.

**5.2 Christmas Lunch**

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Christmas lunch would be held 12pm on 13 December 2011

**6 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am until 8:30am on Wednesday 23 November 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 70**

**2 November 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman) from 9:20am.  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC until 9:45am.

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:05am at Room 5 , Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 69 dated 19 October 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter, dated 19 October 2011, from Mr Chris Field, Ombudsman of Western Australia, regarding the corrected transcript of evidence and supplementary information.

##### **Resolved,**

- (a) That a copy of this item be sent to the Children's Commissioner.

- 3.2 Email, dated 25 October 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the Special Commissioner Update.

##### **Noted.**

#### 4 Business

##### 4.1 Review of the Children's Commissioner Annual Report

The Committee reviewed the Briefing paper provided and **noted** the copy of the Commissioner's *Report to the Community*.

**Resolved,**

- (a) That Members forward questions about the Annual Report to the Secretariat prior to the hearing with the Children's Commissioner on the 23 November 2011.

##### 4.2 Administration of the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* (the Act).

- (i) Seeking comment/referring the Department of Child Protection's internal 'working with children' checks to the Office of the Auditor General

The Committee discussed the letters provided and made appropriate amendments.

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Committee send the letter as amended to the Office of the Auditor General seeking his comment;
  - (b) That the Committee send the letter as amended to the Children's Commissioner seeking her comment.
- (ii) Writing to Minister for Child Protection regarding the statutory review of the Act

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Committee write to the Minister requesting an update on the progress of statutory review with a view to making a submission.

##### 4.3 Review of the Children's Commissioner Budget 2012-2013

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Committee will consider making a recommendation to the Treasurer based on the outcome of the hearing with the Children's Commissioner on the 23 November 2011; and
- (b) That the Committee will not request a detailed breakdown of this budget prior to this hearing.

##### 4.4 Review of Children's Commissioner's functions

The Committee **noted** that the hearing with CREATE Foundation is confirmed for 9 November 2011 and considered the briefing paper provided.

##### 4.5 Committee's work schedule 2012

(i) Hearing dates for Commissioner for 2012

The Committee **noted** the following table:

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
1	Wednesday 7 March 2012	Quarterly review/Mental Health/ Annual Report
2	Wednesday 20 June 2012	Quarterly review/ review of Children's Commissioner 's functions
3	Wednesday 19 September 2012	Quarterly review
4	Wednesday 14 November 2012	Budget/ Annual Report

**Resolved,**

- (a) To write to the Children's Commissioner outlining the above indicative hearing dates for 2012.

(ii) Investigative travel to UK/Ireland 2012

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the matter will be discussed in early 2012.

**5 General Business**

**5.1 Christmas Lunch**

**Resolved,**

- (a) That due to Secretariat commitments the Christmas lunch will be rescheduled from 9 December 2011 to an alternative date, pending the availability of Member's.

**6 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am until 9:00am on Wednesday 9 November 2011.

*AK Mitchell*

MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN

MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER







# ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

## **MINUTES**

### **Meeting No. 69**

**19 October 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:05a.m. at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 68 dated 28 September 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Email, dated 27 September 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the Commissioner's Update, Issue No.14, September 2011.

**Noted**

## **4 Business**

### **4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

#### **Hearing**

#### **The Department of Child Protection**

Mr Terry Murphy, Director General for the Department for Child Protection appeared before the Committee at 9.08am to give evidence. At 9.42am the witness retired.

#### **Resolved,**

- (a) That the Secretariat drafts a letter for the next meeting that refers the final DCP transcript to the Children's Commissioner and requests that the Commissioner communicate with the Auditor General about the possibility of the OAG conducting regular checks on DCP's working with children screening of its own staff.

### **4.2 Committee's work program**

The Committee **noted** the work program.

#### **Resolved,**

- (b) That CREATE Foundation be requested to attend a hearing as early as possible.

### **4.3 Committee's work schedule 2012**

#### **Resolved,**

- (a) That Committee will meet next year when both houses are sitting or when just the Council is sitting.
- (b) That the Secretariat will prepare recommended hearing dates for the Commissioner for 2012 for the next meeting.

## **5 General Business**

### **5.1 Commissioner's *Annual Report 2010-201*, (Tabled 29 September 2011).**

The Committee **noted** the report.

### **5.2 Commissioner's Report entitled *Speaking out about reducing alcohol-related harm on children and young people*.**

The Committee **noted** the report.

**6 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am until Wednesday 2 November 2012.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN

MS RENEE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER





## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 68**

**28 September 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 8:45 a.m. at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 67 dated 21 September 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Information Release dated 21 September 2011, from the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, regarding supplement to the 2011 *Indigenous Expenditure Report*.

**Noted**

- 3.2 Email, dated 30 September 2011, from Mr Peter McHugh, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, regarding Committee funding requests between now and 30 June 2012.

**Considered under Item 4.2**

**4 Business**

4.1 JSCCCYP Annual Report 2010-2011

The Committee reviewed the Draft Annual Report

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the report be adopted with minor amendments;
- (b) That the report be tabled in both Houses on 29 September 2011;
- (c) That the Principal Research Officer may make minor corrections to formatting and grammar when finalising the report for tabling; and
- (d) That a media release be circulated announcing tabling of the report.

4.2 Committee Investigative travel until 30 June 2012

The Committee considered Item 3.2 and the draft letters provided.

**Resolved,**

- (a) To send the Speaker the letter stating that the Committee may apply for funding for travel to the UK and Ireland in 2012.

4.3 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP

**Hearing**

The Western Australian Ombudsman

Mr Chris Field, Western Australian Ombudsman and Ms Mary White, Assistant Ombudsman Strategic Services, appeared before the Committee at 9.10am to give evidence. At 9.55am the witnesses retired.

**Resolved,**

- (a) To forward relevant extract concerning the Ombudsman's comments on the possible jurisdiction gap with respect to complaint handling in the private sector to the Commissioner for Children and Young People for comment.

4.4 Committee's work program

The Committee **noted** the updated work program.

5 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am until 9:00am Wednesday 19 October 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENEE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER







# ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

## **MINUTES**

### **Meeting No. 67**

**9:00a.m. 21 September 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:00a.m. at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 66, dated 7 September 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter, dated 2 September 2011, from Ms Jenni Perkins, Director General, Department for Communities, regarding request for supplementary information.

**Noted**

- 3.2 Letter, dated 7 September 2011, from Dr Janet Woollard, MLA, Chair of the Education and Health Standing Committee announcing a new Inquiry and terms of reference.

**Noted**

- 3.3 Letter, dated 8 September 2011, from Mr John Kobelke, MLA, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee announcing a new Inquiry and terms of reference.

**Noted**

- 3.4 Letter, dated 8 September 2011, from Mr Craig Comrie, Executive Officer, Youth Affairs Council of WA, regarding request for supplementary information.

**Noted**

- 3.5 Email, dated 13 September 2011, from Ms Linda Barker, Acting Executive Director, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding proposed hearing dates in October /November for the Commissioner to discuss the mental health Inquiry.

**Considered under Item 4.3**

- 3.6 Email, dated 13 September 2011, from Ms Linda Barker, Acting Executive Director, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding proposed hearing dates in December for the Commissioner to discuss the mental health Inquiry.

**Considered under Item 4.3**

#### **4 General Business**

- 4.1 JSCCCYP Annual Report 2010-2011

The Committee reviewed the Draft Annual Report.

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Chair make amendments to the Report as required; and
- (b) That adoption of the draft Annual Report occurs at the next meeting with a view to tabling on Thursday 29 September 2011.

- 4.2 Investigative travel to UK/Ireland 2012

The Committee considered the draft letter to Speaker applying for funding.

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Committee will review potential travel dates prior to the letter being sent to the Speaker; and
- (b) That Committee briefings received during this travel will not be recorded and later transcribed.

4.3 Hearing date with the Commissioner regarding the Children's Commissioner's mental health Inquiry

**Noted,**

- That, despite many hearing date options put, the Commissioner is unavailable to meet with the Committee either before the 18 November 2011 or at any time during December 2011; and
- That, given the oversight function of the Committee, the Children's Commissioner should treat any request to meet with the Committee as a priority.

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Commissioner will be informed in writing that the Committee may require her attendance at an additional hearing on the 30 November 2011, should the Committee deem it necessary at the conclusion of the hearing on the 23 November 2011; and
- (b) That, on the release of the Parliament sitting dates for 2012, the Committee will write to the Children's Commissioner advising her of indicative hearing dates for 2012.

4.4 Committee's work program

The Committee noted the updated work program.

**Resolved,**

- (a) That the Ombudsman's hearing will in part focus on the Ombudsman's complaints function; and
- (b) That the Principal Research Officer circulates draft questions for Member's comments prior to the hearing with the Ombudsman; and
- (c) That, pending Speakers funding approval, the Committee's Christmas function will be held on Friday 9 December at a venue to be confirmed.

**5 Adjournment**

The Committee was adjourned at 9:55a.m. until 8:45a.m. on Wednesday 28 September 2011 at Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN

MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER





## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 66**

**7 September 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman) to 9:18a.m.  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil.

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:05a.m. at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 65, dated 17 August 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter, dated 17 August 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, thanking the Committee for providing a copy of the Queensland's Commissioner's correspondence.

**Noted.**

- 3.2 Letter, dated 18 August 2011, from Mr Craig Comrie, YACWA, regarding the hearing on 10 August 2011.

**Noted.**

- 3.3 Letter, dated 19 August 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, providing the Committee with PowerPoint slides for the Wellbeing Research and Mental Health Inquiry.

**Considered under Item 4.1**

- 3.4 Letter, dated 19 August 2011, from Mr A.P. O’Gorman, MLA, Chair of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee advising of a new Committee Inquiry.

**Noted.**

- 3.5 Letter, dated 19 August 2011, from Dr M.D. Nahan, MLA, Chair of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee advising of a new Committee Inquiry.

**Noted.**

- 3.6 Email, dated 29 August 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the release of the Report and website entitled *Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia*.

**Considered under Item 5.1**

#### **[Outgoing correspondence]**

The Committee noted outgoing correspondence.]

#### **4 Business**

- 4.1 Review of the CCYP’s mental health inquiry

– The Committee considered the focus of this review.

**Resolved;**

- (a) That a dedicated hearing be organised with the Commissioner to examine the CCYP’s mental health inquiry further;
- (b) That the Committee table a report on the Inquiry primarily based on information gathered during this hearing; and
- (c) That the Committee’s review be tabled in early 2012.

4.2 Committee's Work program

- The Committee considered the work program.

**Resolved;**

- (a) That the Committee's review of the CCYP's Annual Report be tabled in early 2012, preferably before April; and
- (b) That the Committee's review of the CCYP's functions be tabled in August 2012.

**5 General Business**

5.1 CCYP's Wellbeing Monitoring Framework

- The Committee noted the release of the Report and website entitled *Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia*.

**Resolved;**

- (a) That the Commissioner's *Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia* be examined as part of the Committee's broader examination of the CCYP's functions.

**6 Adjournment**

The Committee was adjourned at 9:50a.m. until 9:00a.m. on 21 September 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENEE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER







## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 65**

**17 August 2011**

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 8:30a.m. at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No 64, dated 10 August 2011, were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Email, dated 29 June 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the release of a new policy brief on children and young people's views on education. The *Policy brief* was attached to this item.

**Noted.**

- 3.2 Email, dated 30 June 2011, from Ms Caron Irwin, Executive Director, Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding potential Hearings dates in November 2011.

**Considered under item of Business 4.2.**

- 3.3 Email, Dated 1 July 2011, from Liz Wane, Media Advisor, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the Middle Years Seminar held on 1 July 2011.

**Noted.**

- 3.4 Email, dated 4 July 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the release of policy briefs on Aboriginal children and young people's views with respect to : a) education, and b) culture. *The Policy briefs were attached to this item.*

**Noted.**

- 3.5 Email, dated 11 July 2011, from Ms Caron Irwin, Executive Director, Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding the Commissioner being informed of the Committee's Hearings with other agencies.

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the Commissioner will not be informed of the Committee's Hearings with other agencies prior to the release of any media alert.

- 3.6 Email, dated 12 July 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding the Commissioner's Update for July.

**Noted**

- 3.7 Email, dated 13 July 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding the release of the Commissioner's publication on the Built Environment. *The Commissioner's publication Building spaces for children and young people was attached to this item.*

**Noted.**

- 3.8 Email, dated 19 July 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding the release of the Commissioner's Issues Paper on the Middle Years. *The Issues Paper was attached to this item.*

**Noted.**

**4 Business**

- 4.1 Regular quarterly consultation with the Commissioner for Children and Young People

**Public hearing**

Ms Michelle Scott, the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Ms Caron Irwin, the Executive Director, Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, appeared before the Committee at 8:40a.m. to give evidence. At 9:52a.m. the witnesses retired.

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the Secretariat follows up with the Commission regarding the offer to forward a copy of the power point presentation on the Wellbeing Research to the Committee.

**4.2 Future hearing date with the Children's Commissioner**

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the Commissioner's Annual Report and to review Commissioner's budget for next year.

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the Secretariat organises a public hearing with the Commissioner for Wednesday 23 November 2011.

**4.3 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

Rescheduling of hearing date with the Department of Child Protection

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the Secretariat organises a public hearing with the Department of Child Protection for Wednesday 19 October 2011.

**5 Adjournment**

The Committee was adjourned at 10:00a.m. until 9:00a.m. on 31 August 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENEE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER





## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 64**

**10 August 2011**

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 8:30 a.m. at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 63, dated 22 June 2011, were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter, dated 21 July 2011, from Ms Helen Bullock MLC, Member for Mining & Pastoral Region, regarding correspondence Ms Bullock received from the Children's Commissioner in reply to a letter sent with regard to the *Laverton Abandoned Children- Domestic Violence Report January 2011*.

##### **Considered under item of Business 4.3**

- 3.2 Email, dated 9 August 2011, from Mr Robert Hicks, CEO, Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC), regarding a request from the Committee Secretariat to provide a 'released' copy of the *Laverton Abandoned Children- Domestic Violence Report January 2011*.

##### **Considered under item of Business 4.3**

**[Outgoing Correspondence]**

The Committee noted outgoing correspondence]

**4 Business**

**4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**(a) Hearing**

**Department for Communities**

Ms Jenni Perkins, Director General and Ms Margaret Dawkins, Executive Director, Policy & Planning, from the Department for Communities, appeared before the Committee at 8:44am to give evidence. At 9:18am the witnesses retired.

**4.2 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**(a) Hearing**

**Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA)**

Mr Brian Wooller, Chairperson and Mr Craig Comrie, Executive Officer, from the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, appeared before the Committee at 9.25am to give evidence. At 9.50am the witnesses retired.

**4.3 GEDC Project Officer Brief: *Abandoned Children and Violence/Domestic Violence in Laverton WA - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011***

**(a) Update on the Committee's resolution made on the 22 June 2011 to forward a copy of the above Brief to the Children's Commissioner.**

The Committee considered the updated information provided to them and noted Correspondence Items 3.1 and 3.2.

**Resolved;**

That the Committee will no longer pursue the resolution made during Meeting No 63 with relation to Item 5.1b).

**5 Adjournment**

The Committee was adjourned at 9.50am until 8:30am on 17 August 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 63**

**22 June 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:15 a.m. Room 4 at Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No 62 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Email, dated 26 May 2011, from Nicola Jamieson, Executive Officer, Ombudsman, Western Australia, proposing a Hearing date with the Committee of 28 September 2011.

**Considered under item of Business 4.1.**

- 3.2 Email, dated 26 May 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the release of two new policy brief's on children and young people's views on: a) friends, and b) fun and activity. *Policy briefs were attached.*

**Noted.**

- 3.3 Letter, dated 30 May 2011, from Ms Elizabeth Fraser, Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (Qld), responding to the two follow up questions asked during the Committee's meeting with the Commissioner on 9 May 2011.

**Resolved;**

- (1) For the Principle<sup>al</sup> Research Officer to send letter thanking the Queensland Commissioner for the correspondence; and
- (2) That a copy of the letter be forwarded to Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, prior to her appearing before the Committee at the next scheduled Hearing.
- 3.4 Email, dated 7 June 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the launch of the 2011 Commissioner for the Day Challenge.

**Noted.**

- 3.5 Email, dated 8 June 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding the release of new policy brief on children and young people's views on Being Acknowledged. *Policy brief was attached.*

**Noted.**

- 3.6 Letter, dated 13 June 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, responding to the Committee's letter requesting further information pertaining to the CCYP's Mental Health inquiry.

**Considered under item of Business 4.3**

- 3.7 Email, dated 14 June 2011, from Diana Fuller, Department of Communities, advising that the Director General Ms Jenni Perkins is able to meet with the Committee on 10 August 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**Considered under item of Business 4.1**

- 3.8 Email, dated 14 June 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding the release of two new policy briefs on children and young people's views on: a) safety, and b) bullying. *Policy briefs were attached.*

**Noted.**

- 3.9 Email, dated 21 June 2011, from Caron Irwin, Executive Director for the Commissioner for Children and Young People, regarding future Hearing dates.

**Considered under item of Business 4.2**



### ***Outgoing correspondence***

The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence.

## **4 Business**

### **4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

#### **(a) Proposed Public Hearing Schedule**

##### **Resolved;**

(1) That the following Public Hearings be confirmed and that the Secretariat makes all necessary arrangements for each Hearing to proceed:

- Department for Communities, 10 August 2011 at 8.30a.m.
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, 10 August 2011 at 9:15a.m.
- Department for Child Protection, 31 August 2011 at 9:00a.m.
- Ombudsman Western Australia, 28 September 2011 at 9:00a.m.

### **4.2 Future meetings with the Commissioner for Children and Young People**

#### **(a) Rescheduling of quarterly consultation (to include presentation on the outcomes of the Wellbeing Research):**

##### **Resolved;**

(1) That the aforementioned is rescheduled to 17 August 2011 at 8:30a.m.

#### **(b) The Committee considered further dates to meet with the Commissioner to her Annual Report and to review Commissioner's budget for the next financial year.**

##### **Resolved;**

- (1) That the Committee will discuss both items at a single Hearing with the Commissioner; and that
- (2) Pending the Commissioner's availability, this will occur on the 9 November 2011.

#### 4.3 Review of the CCYP's mental health inquiry

- (a) Consideration of information received from the Commissioner with regard to information pertaining to the inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia

The Committee discussed the nature and content of the Commissioner's response.

**Resolved;**

- (1) That this item will be raised at the next scheduled meeting with the Commissioner.

#### 5 General Business

##### 5.1 Areas of Member interest

- (a) Sexualisation of Children

Letter, dated 21 June 2011, from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, addressed to Hon Nick Goiran MLC, responding to letter sent 7 June 2011 regarding a constituent's complaint to the Advertising Standards Board.

Hon Nick Goiran MLC informed the Committee about this matter and discussion ensued.

**Resolved;**

- (1) That this item be raised by Hon Nick Goiran MLC at the next scheduled meeting with the Commissioner.
- (b) GEDC Project Officer Brief, Abandoned Children and Violence/ Domestic Violence in Laverton WA - 28 January 2011.

Hon Helen Bullock MLC raised the matter of the aforementioned public report with the Committee and discussion ensued.

**Resolved;**

- (1) That Hon Helen Bullock MLC forward a copy of this Brief via email to each Committee member and the Principal Research Officer; and that
- (2) The Principal Research Officer forward a copy of this Brief to Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People for her comment; and that
- (3) The Commissioner is requested to respond to the Committee in writing before the next scheduled Hearing with the Commissioner; and that
- (4) This item is raised at the next scheduled Hearing with the Commissioner.

## 5.2 Committee's work program

The Committee discussed the updated work program provided.

### **Resolved;**

- (1) The Committee will not reschedule a Public Hearing with Professor Fiona Stanley in 2011.
- (2) The Committee will formally apply to the Speaker for international travel in 2012 after the 2012 Parliament Sitting dates have been finalised, or by the end of September, whichever is first.

## 6 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am until 8.30a.m. on 10 August 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER





## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 62**

**25 May 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:05a.m at Room 3, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No 61 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

Nil

#### ***Outgoing correspondence***

The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence.

#### **4 Business**

- 4.1 Review of the CCYP's mental health inquiry. The Committee considered information to request from CCYP prior to the next Hearing on the 25 June.

**Resolved;**

- (1) That the Secretariat prepares a letter, for the review by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, requesting that the Commissioner provide supporting evidence on specific recommendations nominated by Members; and that
- (2) The information is provided to the Committee by Friday 10 June 2011 at the latest.

- 4.2 Proposed questions for quarterly review with the Commissioner.

The Committee discussed the issues to be raised with the Commissioner at the next quarterly hearing.

**Resolved;**

- (1) That prior to a Hearing with the Committee, the Commissioner be provided with an outline only of issues the Committee may wish to discuss, rather than being provided with a list of potential questions as per previous Committee practice; and that
- (2) That the Secretariat continues to prepare a list of draft questions for the Committee prior to a Hearing.

- 4.3 Review of the CCYP's functions

- (a) The Committee considered the briefing paper provided by the Secretariat and discussed potential organisations to invite to a number of public Hearings.

**Resolved;**

- (1) That the Secretariat arranges for the following agencies to be invited to attend a public hearing with the Committee:
  - Department of Child Protection
  - Department of Communities
  - Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- (b) The Committee discussed when it should conduct Hearings with the nominated agencies.

**Resolved;**

- (1) That rather than set aside a day specifically for Hearing's, the Committee will conduct half hour Hearing's with nominated agencies as a partitioned part of the Committee's Deliberative meetings during August and September, 2011.

## **5 General Business**

- 5.1 Release on 24 May 2011 of CCYP's third instalment of mental health inquiry *Speaking out about mental health: The views of Western Australian children and young people*.

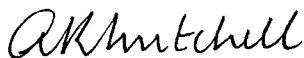
The Committee noted the CCYP's report and related media article.

- 5.2 Committee work program

The Committee noted the updated work program.

## **6 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am until 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday 22 June 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER







## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 61**

**18 May 2011**

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:05am at Room 3, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 56 dated 13 April 2011, Minutes No. 57 dated 9 May 2011, Minutes No. 58 dated 10 May 2011, Minutes No. 59 dated 11 May 2011 and Minutes No. 60 dated 12 May 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, dated 5 May 2011, regarding the tabling of, and providing a copy of, the Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia.

**Noted.**

- 3.2 Email from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, dated 13 May 2011 regarding the latest Commissioner's Update.

**Noted.**

- 3.3 Email from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, dated 16 May 2011 regarding the release of a policy brief on children and young people's views on alcohol and drugs.

**Noted**

### ***Outgoing correspondence***

The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence.

## **4 Business**

- 4.1 Investigative travel to Brisbane and Darwin - outcomes of travel.

The Chair thanked the Committee and Principal Research Officer for a successful trip.

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the Committee pursue hearings with agencies/organisations in WA that are similar to those the Committee met with in Brisbane and Darwin, and that;
  - (2) The Secretariat prepare a briefing paper outlining potential witnesses and time frames for the Committee's consideration at the next deliberative meeting.
- 4.2 The CCYP Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia.

The Committee discussed initial impressions of the Commissioner's report.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Committee's initial focus will be on the research process undertaken by the Commissioner in conducting her Inquiry; and that
  - (2) The Committee will request the Commissioner to provide supporting evidence of specific recommendations as nominated by Members at the next Committee meeting on 25 May 2011, and that;
  - (3) The Committee is to review of the CCYP's Mental Health Report as a priority.
- 4.3 Committee's work program

The Committee reviewed the updated work program.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Committee seeks funding approval in the new financial year from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of undertaking investigative travel to the UK and Ireland during February 2012, and;
- (2) The Committee seeks subsequent funding approval from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of undertaking investigative travel to South Australia and Tasmania at a time to be determined, and;
- (3) That, as a consequence of resolution 4.1(1) above, further generalist briefings or hearings with persons of interest working in the field of children and young people be deferred and revisited in 2012, and;
- (4) That arranging an information seminar for all interested Members on the outcomes of the Commissioner's Wellbeing Research is no longer a priority.

## **5 General Business**

- 5.1 Public Hearing confirmed with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, 8:30am to 10.30am, Wednesday 15 June 2011 to discuss the findings of well being research in a combined session with the Committee's quarterly review.

The Committee **noted** the next public hearing with the Commissioner.

- 5.2 Thank you letters to organisations and people the Committee met with in Brisbane and Darwin.

**Resolved** that the Secretariat will prepare letters for the Chairman to sign.

- 5.3 Ongoing communication of Secretariat with organisations and people the Committee met with in Brisbane and Darwin.

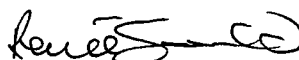
**Resolved**, that the Secretariat can communicate directly with organisations and people the Committee has met with during its investigative travel, including those in NSW, Victoria and New Zealand, for the purposes of research.

## **6 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am until 9:00am on Wednesday 25 March 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER





## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 60**

**12 May 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:30am at the Department of Children and Families, 87 Mitchell Street, Darwin.

#### **2 Minutes**

Deferred

#### **3 Correspondence**

Deferred

#### **4 Business**

##### **4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

###### **Briefing/Meeting**

The Department of Children and Families briefed the Committee from 9:30am to 11:00am. Representatives present from the Department were Ms Claire Gardiner-Barnes, A/Chief Executive Officer, Ms Bronwyn Thompson, Director Care and Protection Policy, Ms Lorraine Williams, Executive Director Regional Services.

##### **4.2 Tour of Northern Territory Parliament House**

###### **Educational**

Ms Caroline Cavanagh, Director, Parliamentary Relations and Education Unit, conducted the Committee on an educational tour from 11:30am to 12:15pm.

##### **4.3 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

###### **Briefing/Meeting**

The Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) briefed the Committee from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. AMSANT representatives present were Ms Michelle Brown, Child Protection Policy Advisor and Ms Barbara Cummings, Project Officer. Mr Chips Mackinolty was present via video link from Canberra.

##### **4.4 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

###### **Briefing/Meeting**

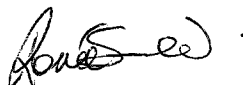
Mr David Cole, Founder and Director of the Balunu Foundation briefed the Committee from 4:20pm to 5:15pm.

#### **5 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm until 9:00am on Wednesday 18 May 2011 at Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 59**

**11 May 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 3:30pm at the Office of the Children's Commissioner for the Northern Territory, 9-11 Cavanaugh Street, Darwin.

#### **2 Minutes**

Deferred

#### **3 Correspondence**

Deferred

**4 Business**

**4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**Briefing/Meeting**

Dr Howard Bath, Children's Commissioner for the Northern Territory, and Ms Hilary Berry, Senior Policy Officer, briefed the Committee from 3:30pm to 4:40pm.

**5 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm until 9:30 am on Thursday 12 May 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER





# *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

## **MINUTES**

### **Meeting No. 58**

**10 May 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:45am at 30 Thomas Street, West End, Qld 4000

#### **2 Minutes**

Deferred

#### **3 Correspondence**

Deferred

**4 Business**

**4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**Briefing/Meeting**

Mr Siyavash Doostkhah, Director of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland, briefed the Committee from 9:50am to 10:45am.

**4.2 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**Briefing/Meeting**

Hon. Karen Struthers, MP, Minister for Community Services and Housing, and Minister for Women, briefed the Committee from 11:45am to 12:20pm.

**4.3 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**Briefing/Meeting**

The Department of Education and Training Queensland, Student Support Services and the Office of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) briefed the Committee from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. Representatives from the Department were Ms Kerry Holst, Executive Director, Regulation and Services (ECEC), Mr Brett O'Connor, A/Executive Director, Student Services and Suzanne Rothwell, Director Disability Review and Student Wellbeing.

**4.4 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**Briefing/Meeting**

The Department of Communities Queensland briefed the Committee from 3:00pm to 4:10pm. Representatives present from the Department were Ms Bette Kill, Associate Director-General, Strategy, Policy, Programs and Performance, and Ms Cathy Taylor, Executive Director, Child Safety, Youth and Families Policy and Performance.

**5 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm until 3:30pm on Wednesday 11 May 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 57**

**4:00pm Monday 9 May 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** nil

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 4.00pm on Monday 9 May 2011 Level 17, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane, Queensland.

#### **2 Minutes**

Deferred.

#### **3 Correspondence**

Deferred.

**4 Business**

**4.1 Examining the exercise of the functions of the CCYP**

**Briefing/Meeting**

Ms Elizabeth Fraser, Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, briefed the Committee from 4:00pm to 5:30p.m. Assisting the Commissioner with the briefing were Mr Barry Salmon, Assistant Commissioner, Mr Bob Van-Kempen, Executive Director and Mr Lyle Gerbich, Manager Strategic Co-ordination and Reporting.

**5 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm until 10:00a.m., Tuesday 10 May 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 56**

**13 April 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9.00 am at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 55 dated 6 April 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, dated 24 March 2011, responding to supplementary questions put to the Commissioner further to the hearing on 16 March 2011.

**Noted**

- 3.2 Letter from Hon. Kon Vatskalis MLA, Minister for Children and Families, Northern Territory, declining to meet with the Committee during its trip to Darwin in May 2001.

**Noted.**

***Outgoing correspondence***

The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence.

**4 Business**

- 4.1 Committee's work program:

- Briefings/hearings with persons of interest: Ombudsman;

**Resolved**, that the Committee Secretariat correspond with the Office of the Ombudsman to arrange a public hearing with the Ombudsman in 2011.

- Scheduling of briefing and the next quarterly consultation with the Commissioner.

**Resolved**,

- (1) that the Committee schedule the next quarterly public hearing with the Commissioner on Wednesday, 15 June 2011 at 8.30am, and that;
- (2) a separate Committee briefing by the Commissioner on the outcomes of the Wellbeing Research be organised, preferably in May 2011.

- 4.2 Committee's travel schedule Brisbane/Darwin 9-13 May 2011.

The Committee **noted** the updated travel schedule.

**5 General Business**

- 5.1 Committee communication with office of Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The Committee discussed notifying the Commissioner about meetings the Committee may have with Children's Commissioners in other jurisdictions.

Debate ensued.

The Chair put the question that the Committee Secretariat informs the Commissioner of such Committee meetings to occur in May 2011.

The Committee divided.

Ayes (2)

Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA

Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

Noes (1)

Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC

Question thus passed.

5.2 Commissioner for Children and Young People working update:

- Improving Legislation for Children Seminar, 17 May 2011

**Resolved** that the Committee's Principal Research Officer attend the Seminar and advise the Committee as to its effectiveness.

- Latest media releases.

The Committee **noted** the media releases.

5.3 Farewell to the former Principal Research Officer Ms Dawn Dickinson.

**Resolved**, that the Committee would apply to the speaker for funding to invite Ms Dickinson to the Committee's Christmas lunch later in the year, to thank Ms Dawn Dickinson for all of her efforts in assisting the Committee since it was established

6 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am until 4.00pm on Monday 9 May 2011 at Level 17, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER







# *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

## **MINUTES**

### **Meeting No. 55**

**Wednesday 6 April 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9.00 at Room 3, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 54 dated 23 March 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

Deferred.

**4 Business**

**4.1 Review of the Commissioner's 2009-2010 Annual Report - adoption of report**

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the report be adopted with amendments as per the attached schedule;
- (2) That the Committee Secretariat may make final the report for tabling including correcting any minor spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors;
- (3) That the Committee Secretariat circulates a Media Alert to all media regarding the tabling of the report;
- (4) That the report be tabled in both Houses on 7 April 2011.

**4.2 Committee's work program**

Deferred.

**5 General Business**

Deferred.

**6 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9.25am until 9:00am on Wednesday 13 April 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS RENÉE GOULD  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

Report 6, 2011 - Schedule of adoption as per Meeting No. 55 on 6 April 2011:

Reference <sup>1</sup>	Action
Page vii, Chairman's Foreword	Suggested amendments adopted
Page xi - xii, Executive Summary	Suggested amendments adopted
Page xix, Ministerial Response	Deleted
Pages 1-2	Suggested amendments adopted
Page 4	Suggested deletion of Finding 1 adopted
Page 6	New Finding 1 deleted Finding 2 amended to 'Guidelines documents require more robust measures of effectiveness as well as ongoing evaluation by the Commissioner for Children and Young People' and adopted
Page 7	Recommendation 1 adopted
Page 8	Suggested amendments adopted
Page 10, summary	Suggested amendments adopted
Page 11	Suggested amendments adopted
Page 12	Suggested textual amendments adopted Finding 3 adopted Recommendation 2 adopted
Page 13	Suggested amendments adopted
Page 20	Suggested amendments adopted
Page 21	Suggested textual amendments adopted New Finding 3 inserted: 'The nature of the Commissioner's role as an advocate makes it difficult to identify policy changes that arise solely from the Commissioner's work' Finding 4 adopted
Page 23	Suggested amendments adopted

<sup>1</sup> References (page number, Finding/Recommendation number) are to the Adoption Meeting copy of the report.





## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 54**

**Wednesday 23 March 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:07am at Room 3, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 53 dated 16 March 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Memorandum from Hon Grant Woodhams, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, dated 23 February 2011 regarding media consultancy services.

**Noted.**

- 3.2 Letter from Ms Erin Pasley, Acting Research Director, Queensland Parliament Social Development Committee, dated 8 March 2011 acknowledging the Committee's request for a meeting in Brisbane with the Social Development Committee.

**Noted.**

***Outgoing correspondence***

The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence.

**4 Business**

- 4.1 Review of the Commissioner's 2009-2010 Annual Report

The Committee considered the updated draft of the report.

**Resolved**, that the Committee Secretariat amends the draft report to reflect the Committee's deliberations so that the report may be adopted at the next meeting.

**Resolved**, that a decision on whether to host an information seminar for all Members be deferred until after the Committee can be briefed by the Children's Commissioner on the outcomes of the wellbeing research project.

**Resolved**, that the Committee explores the Commissioner's legislation assessment tool in greater detail at the next hearing with the Children's Commissioner.

- 4.2 Functions and Powers of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Committee **noted** the Government Response.

- 4.3 Committee's work program

The Committee **noted** the updated work program.

**5 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am until 9:00am on Wednesday 6 April 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS DAWN DICKINSON  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER



## *Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People*

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 53**

**Wednesday 16 March 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** N/A

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 8:36am at Room 4, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 52 dated 25 February 2011 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Email from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, dated 11 February 2011 regarding the latest Commissioner's Update.

**Noted.**

- 3.2 Email from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, dated 23 February 2011 regarding the release of an Issues Paper on Young People and Alcohol.

**Noted.**

- 3.3 Letter from Mr Peter McHugh, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, dated 23 February 2011 advising that the Speaker has approved funding for the Committee to travel to Brisbane and Darwin.

**Noted.**

- 3.4 Letter from Hon Christian Porter, MLA, Treasurer; Attorney General, dated 28 February 2011 providing a response to the Committee's Report No. 5, *Functions and Powers of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People* (November 2010).

**Resolved**, that the matter be deferred for discussion at the next meeting.

- 3.5 Letter from Dr Howard Bath, Children's Commissioner for the Northern Territory, dated 4 March 2011 agreeing to meet with the Committee during its visit to Darwin in May 2011.

**Resolved**, that when the Committee meets with the Northern Territory Children's Commissioner his view is sought on, among other things, the effectiveness of the federal intervention.

### ***Outgoing correspondence***

The Committee **noted** outgoing correspondence.

## **4 Business**

- 4.1 Regular quarterly consultation with the Commissioner for Children and Young People

### **Hearing**

#### **Commissioner for Children and Young People WA**

Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People; and Ms Caron Irwin, Executive Director, Office of the CCYP appeared before the Committee at 8:40am to give evidence. At 9:33am the witnesses retired.

**Resolved**, that the Secretariat may prepare and, with the Committee's approval, forward supplementary questions to the Children's Commissioner.

- 4.2 Review of the Functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Committee **noted** the draft outline provided.



#### 4.3 Committee's work program

The Committee reviewed the updated work program.

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the Principal Research Officer updates the draft Report No. 6, *Review of the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People* using track changes and circulates the revised draft to Members; and
- (2) That the updated draft be discussed at the next meeting with a view to adoption and tabling in early April 2011.

#### 4.4 Investigative travel to Brisbane and Darwin

The Committee considered the indicative schedule.

**Resolved,** that Members advise the Secretariat as soon as possible regarding return flight arrangements from Darwin with the default position being that Members and staff will return on the afternoon flight.

### 5 General Business

#### 5.1 Welcome to new Principal Research Officer

The Committee acknowledged that Ms Renée Gould will assume the position of Principal Research Officer to the Committee in early April 2011 when Ms Dawn Dickinson transitions to a different Committee.

#### 5.2 Tabling of Committee Minutes


**Resolved,** that Minutes No. 30 dated 10 March 2010 up to and including Minutes No. 51 dated 14 December 2010 be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

### 6 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57am until 9:00am on Wednesday 23 March 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS DAWN DICKINSON  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER





## ***Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People***

---

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting No. 52**

**Wednesday 16 February 2011**

---

**Present:** Ms A.R. Mitchell, MLA (Chairman)  
Mr M.P. Whitely, MLA (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon H.H. Bullock, MLC  
Hon N.P. Goiran, MLC

**Apologies:** N/A

#### **1 Meeting of the Committee**

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People met at 9:05am at Room 3, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth.

#### **2 Minutes**

Minutes No. 51 dated 14 December 2010 were confirmed as read.

#### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1 Letter from Ms Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, dated 27 October 2010 providing responses to questions taken on notice at the hearing of 13 October 2010.

**Noted.**

- 3.2 Letter from Judge Denis Reynolds, President, Children's Court of Western Australia, dated 22 December 2010 conveying thanks for the opportunity to meet with the Committee and discuss issues affecting young people in the justice system.

**Noted.**

- 3.3 Email from Ms Sharyn Snowball, dated 25 January 2011 requesting the Committee's assistance with respect to care options for her son.

Considered under Item 3.4.

- 3.4 Email from Ms Sharyn Snowball, dated 28 January 2011 granting permission for the Committee to forward her concerns to the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The Committee **noted** the correspondence and the response forwarded to Ms Snowball by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

### ***Outgoing correspondence***

The Committee **noted** all items of outgoing correspondence.

## **4 Business**

- 4.1 Briefing with Judge Denis Reynolds (14 December 2010)

The Committee **noted** the meeting summary supplied.

- 4.2 Review of the Commissioner's 2009-2010 Annual Report

**Resolved**, that Members review the draft Report with a view to having a preliminary discussion at the next meeting and putting any necessary follow-up questions to the Commissioner at the hearing scheduled for 16 March 2011.

- 4.3 Potential investigative travel in 2011

The Committee reviewed the briefing paper supplied.

**Resolved,**

- (1) That the Committee seeks funding approval from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of undertaking investigative travel to Brisbane and Darwin;
- (2) That subject to funding approval, arrangements for the trip be progressed by the Principal Research Officer with a view to travel occurring between Monday 9 May and Friday 13 May 2011; and
- (3) That further consideration be given to potential investigative travel to the UK and Ireland after the 2011-12 budget is handed down.

#### 4.4 Potential specialist briefings in 2011

The Committee reviewed the briefing paper supplied.

**Resolved,**

- (1) That representatives of the Fogarty Foundation and Office for Youth be invited to meet with the Committee during the course of 2011; and
- (2) That closed hearings or briefings be arranged with a view to scheduling one per quarter.

#### 4.5 Committee's work program

The Committee **noted** the updated work program.

### 5 General Business

#### 5.1 National Developments in Policy and Research

The Committee **noted** the briefing paper supplied.

#### 5.2 Children's Commissioner's comments regarding child exploitation

The Committee reviewed the response by the Children's Commissioner to a query by Hon Nick Goiran, MLC in relation to child exploitation.

**Resolved,** that the matter be put to the Children's Commissioner for further comment at the next hearing on 16 March 2011.

#### 5.3 Staffing changes

The Chairman advised Members of possible changes to the Committee's Secretariat as a consequence of Principal Research Officer rotations to occur in late March/ early April 2011.

**Noted.**

### 6 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am until 9:00am on Friday 25 February 2011.



MS A.R. MITCHELL, MLA  
CHAIRMAN



MS DAWN DICKINSON  
PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER