

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE  
COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Fourth Report — Annual report 2021–2022 — Tabling*

**HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral)** [10.05 am]: I am directed to present the fourth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People titled *Annual report 2021–2022*.

[See paper [1742](#).]

**Hon NEIL THOMSON:** I am very pleased to table this annual report today. I note the very effective teamwork of the members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People. During the financial year, we welcomed Hon Ayor Makur Chuot, a member of this place, who replaced Hon Klara Andric. The members of the committee from the other place are Rebecca Stephens, MLA, and Robyn Clarke, MLA, who ably chairs the committee. Also during the financial year, we farewelled the very capable Colin Pettit as the Commissioner for Children and Young People, whose service in that role was very distinguished, and welcomed Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, the first Aboriginal person to be appointed to this role in the history of the state. She is now playing a very important part in the provision of information and is working very closely with the committee.

The committee is a pleasure to work on and I very much enjoy being a part of it. I am sure that my committee colleagues would agree. In April, the committee launched the inquiry into the most effective ways for Western Australia to address food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty, which is a big issue. We know that food insecurity can impact the developmental issues of young people and their psychological and educational outcomes. This very important inquiry is underway. We have already travelled to parts of regional Western Australia and we will continue to do so. We have met many people during our hearings and received evidence and submissions. The material relating to that inquiry and the meetings that we have had are outlined in this report.

I make the point—I am sure members who are on committees would agree—that secretariat staff who work on committees are exceptional; they bring with them so much experience. As a committee member, I would not be able to function in my role in the way that I do without the support of those important staff members. I note Dr Sarah Palmer and research officers Carmen Cummings and Lucy Roberts, who play such a key role. I thank them for the work they put into the committee and for helping the committee engage with children and young people and, of course, the stakeholders who are engaged in that process. We have been very successful in reaching out to a range of stakeholders, particularly children and young people, who have provided feedback to the inquiry. Again, I commend the staff and members of the committee, and I look forward to further outcomes.