

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

First Report — Annual report 2020–2021 — Tabling

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [9.25 am]: I present for tabling the first report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People titled *Annual report 2020–2021*.

[See paper [602](#).]

Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE: As the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People, I am pleased to present the *Annual report 2020–2021*. This annual reporting period spans the end of the previous Parliament, the fortieth, and the start of the current Parliament, the forty-first. The JSCCCYP of the forty-first Parliament met for the first time on 2 June 2021 with four new members. With just one month of operating before the end of the financial year, there were limited activities on which to report. However, an important starting point was holding a briefing with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Colin Pettit. Mr Pettit provided an overview of his role and key projects he has been working on with his staff in the past months. The committee will report on some of these in its review of the commissioner’s annual report later in the year.

Mr Pettit’s tenure will end in November and I take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated service and for furthering the interests of children and young people in this state. In Mr Pettit’s time as commissioner he has dealt with three different JSCCCYPs, from 2015 through to 2021. Although we bid him farewell towards the end of the year, we will follow with interest the outcomes and progress of the projects and initiatives he has established. We will also look into some of the concerns that have been aired with previous committees.

In this reporting period, the previous JSCCCYP tabled the inquiry report *From words to action: Fulfilling the obligation to be child safe*. This was a comprehensive review of what is required to ensure that organisations working with children implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and that appropriate monitoring and oversight is in place. I thank the previous committee for its hard work on this inquiry. We will maintain a watching brief on the progress of the key recommendations.

I thank the previous committee members—the chair, Hon Dr Sally Talbot, MLC; deputy chair, Kyran O’Donnell; Hon Donna Faragher, MLC; and Jessica Stojkovski, MLA. The principal research officer was Renee Gould and the research officer was Michele Chiasson. I wish to express my thanks to the current members for the interest and dedication they have shown so far. There is important work to be done and I look forward to proceeding with it with their support. I thank also the current secretariat—the principal research officer, Dr Sarah Palmer, and research officers Ms Lucy Roberts and Ms Catie Parsons.