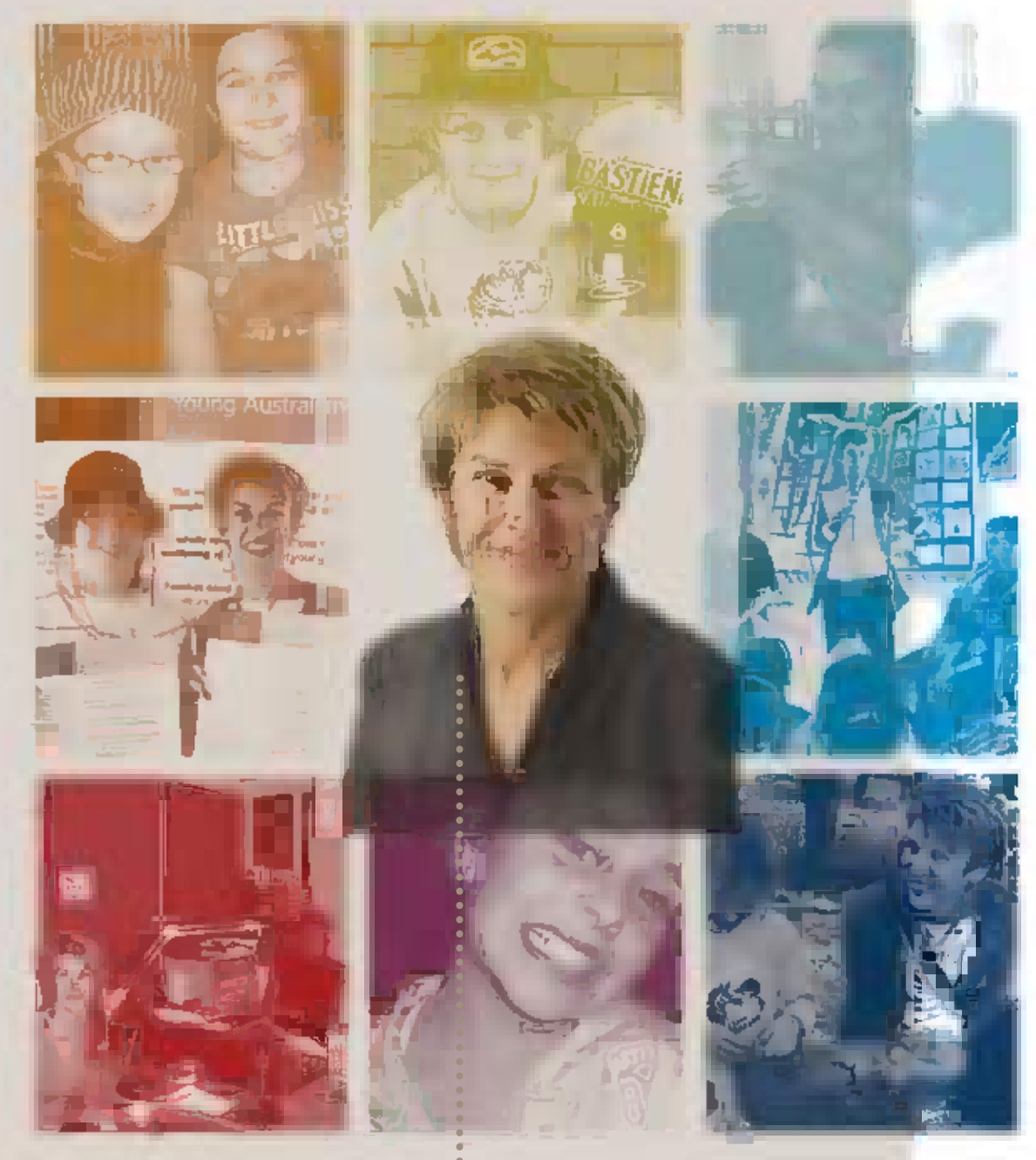




Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia



ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Cover: Cover design adapted from original artwork by children at the Wanyanyakem Taam (Little Kids' Place) Early Learning Centre, Warmun WA.

The President,
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Speaker,
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2007-2008

In accordance with section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit to Parliament for its information the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2008.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

It provides an overview of the Commissioner's goals, priorities and achievements in 2007-2008 to Parliament, children and young people, their families, and key stakeholders.

More specifically, this report details the contribution of my Office in the first seven months of my appointment towards influencing better outcomes for the half a million children and young people under 18 years of age in Western Australia.

This will be achieved by:

- building trust and creating respectful relationships with children and young people, families and communities
- developing ways to give a voice to children and young people, learn from them and be inclusive of them as an organisation
- building partnerships and relationships that enhance the capacity of the organisation to engage, advocate and influence public policy for the benefit of children and young people
- researching and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people across Western Australia
- promoting, recognising and celebrating the positive contribution of children and young people
- further developing employees, best practice culture and operating environment as a new organisation
- refining and prioritising the work of my Office, focusing on sustainable investment over time in solutions that work.



..... Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

18 September 2008



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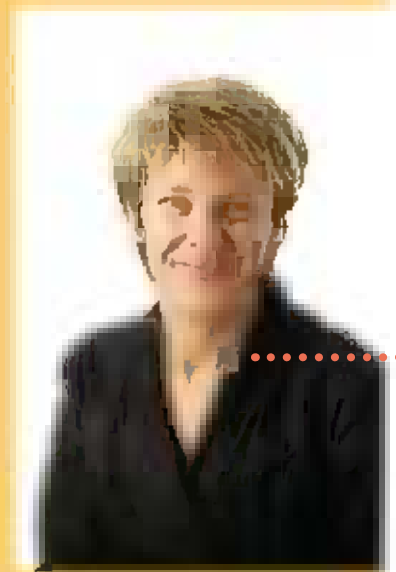
More information on the Commissioner for
Children and Young People can be found at
www.ccyp.wa.gov.au

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Commissioner's foreword



The Western Australian Parliament made a significant and historic commitment to half a million young citizens and future generations when it passed the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

It committed Western Australia to being a place where children and young people are valued, heard, healthy and safe; where their rights are recognised and upheld; and where their contributions are acknowledged and promoted.

My appointment on 7 December 2007 as Western Australia's inaugural Commissioner for Children and Young People marked the first step in this commitment.

My focus for the first year was on introducing myself and my role, listening to children and young people, gathering information and influencing public policy. I and the staff of my Office have met or contacted hundreds of people in all parts of the State – including children and young people themselves, families, Federal and State parliamentarians, Aboriginal organisations and elders, and representatives of government and non-government organisations at all levels.

My role as Commissioner is to be an advocate for Western Australian children everywhere,

from remote communities in the North-West, throughout the metropolitan area, the Pilbara, Goldfields, South-West and South-East and the Great Southern.

I want to turn the spotlight on children and young people at all levels of community so that their enormous contribution to the State is recognised and their input is encouraged by people and organisations that make policies and decisions affecting them both directly and indirectly.

My office, in existence for less than a year at the time of reporting, has set goals I know will take months and years to achieve.

Already in the first seven months, some key, high-level priorities have been identified that will underpin the work of my Office into the future.



Michelle Scott and the
UK Commissioner for Children,
Sir Al Aynsley-Green

Best interests of the child

Government and non-government agencies usually have wide agendas, whereas my sole focus as Commissioner is children and young people.

The *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* provides that the best interests of the child are paramount. It is but one piece of legislation. In my view, the best interests of the child need to be embedded in all policy and legislation that impacts or has the potential to impact on children and young people.

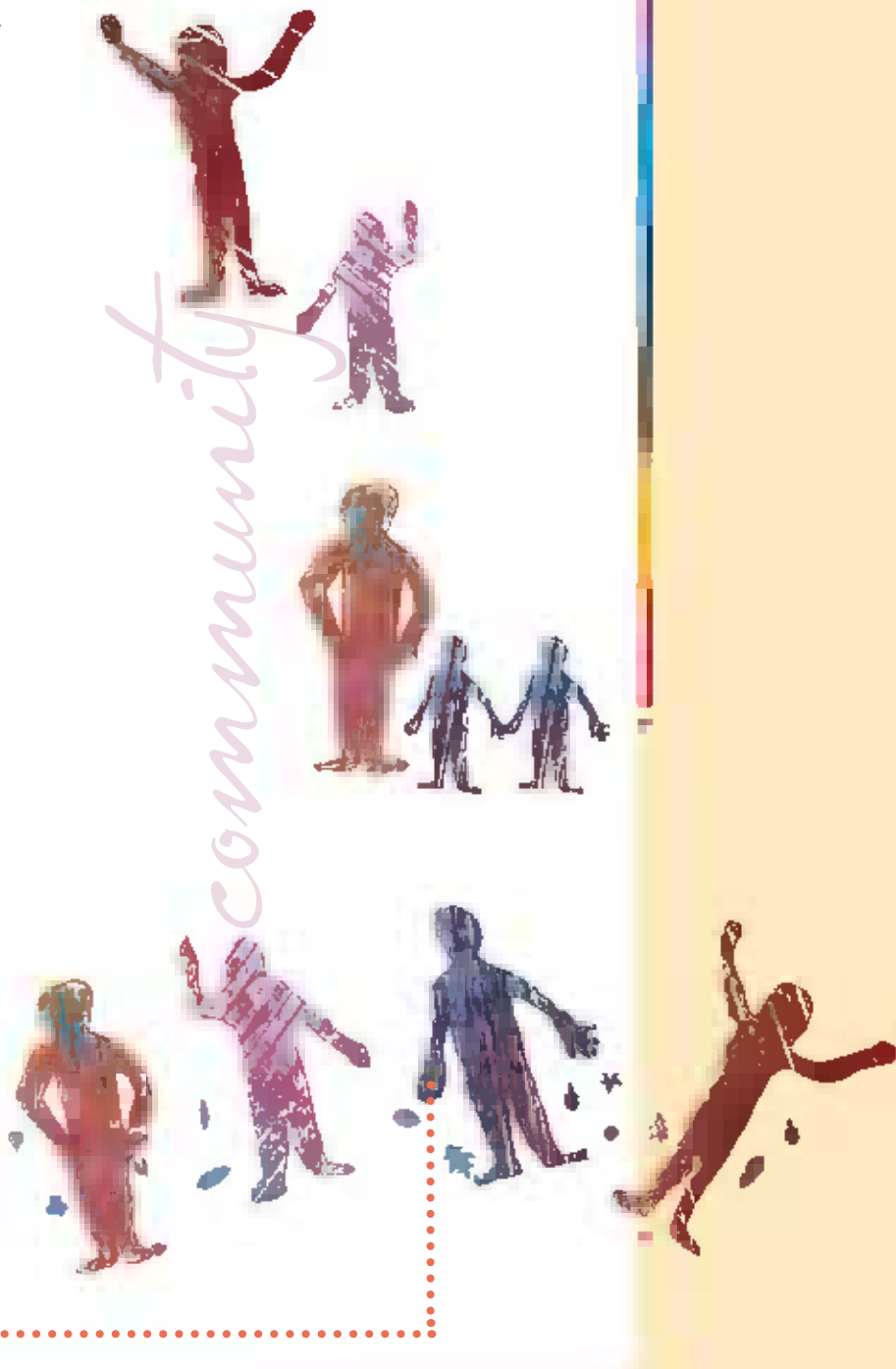
A child centred view needs to be taken to help promote the right for every child to feel loved and supported within the family and the community.

Services for adults at risk also need to be able to respond to the needs of their children. Families and communities do not always present with neat, isolated problems that can be easily classified and remedied.

The issues are often complex, hard to define, difficult to prioritise and they link and overlap with other issues.

Children of parents with an alcohol or drug problem, a mental illness or an intellectual disability, or where there is domestic violence, are at much greater risk than other children. As a result, organisations servicing these client populations need to build their capacity to respond to children's needs.

The 'best interests' principle can also be applied to work that promotes positive attitudes towards children and treats them as equal citizens with an important voice in our society, discourages discrimination against children and young people and supports child friendly communities.



Collaboration and cooperation

One of my primary goals as Commissioner for Children and Young People is to encourage cooperative approaches between families, communities, government and the private sector on particular issues relevant to children and young people.

We need to find ways to respond more appropriately to children's and communities' complexities and enhance their wellbeing. I will be working hard with government agencies to encourage strong policy leadership, particularly in policies affecting children in their early years where research has shown the greatest difference can be made to a child's future.

This theme was taken up by young people in the United Nations Youth Association of Australia's Youthspeak Survey on behalf of the Commonwealth Government¹. They urged the development of policies for the life of the child, not for the limited life of a government.

This will involve a 'bottom up', not 'top down' approach to identifying solutions at the level of local communities.

Early Childhood

There is a significant amount of research and evidence that the first years of life are the key to children's growth, development and the achievement of a harmonious and productive adult life. The nature of our future Australian society will be greatly shaped by the resources and support offered to parents and young children, even before they are born.

As many recent commentators have noted, nations with high rating economies do not necessarily perform well against countries whose policies focus more on family support, valuing parenthood, early childhood services and reducing inequalities.

The initiative to increase investment in young children in Australia is overdue. For example, in comparison with other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, Australia is among the lowest investors in early childhood with (2005) expenditure of 0.1% of gross domestic product on pre-primary educational services.

Policy and funding initiatives under consideration by the Council of Australian Governments at the

¹ United Nations Youth Association of Australia, *Youthspeak: A conversation for the future*, 2008.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People

Commissioner's foreword

time of reporting provide a unique opportunity to guarantee universal improvements in health, education, housing and employment outcomes for children and young people, especially Aboriginal children and young people who are the most disadvantaged.

It is increasingly apparent that the challenges are not in understanding the needs of children and their families, but in how the research and evidence can be used to shape and provide services and programs. Collaboration is also needed between the Commonwealth and State governments, industry and the community sector to deliver improved outcomes for children.

Services need to respond to the child and the family in an integrated way with opportunities for identification, assessment and intervention along a life continuum that begins at, or even before, birth.

The significant disadvantage that continues to be faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people is of great concern to me and, consistent with the legislation, will be a primary focus for my Office.

It is important to remember that the majority of Aboriginal children and young people in Western Australia are living happy and healthy lives as valued members of their family and community.

However, closing the gap that prevails between Aboriginal and other communities in Western Australia, especially in relation to children and young people, is a priority.

Of particular concern is:

- an infant mortality rate for Aboriginal children 3 times higher than for non-Aboriginal infants²
- Aboriginal Western Australian children suffer a great burden of infectious disease and emotional and behavioural problems³
- Aboriginal children continue to be vastly overrepresented in Western Australia's juvenile justice system, making up 75 per cent of 10-17 year olds in detention⁴
- only 4 out of 10 Aboriginal children in Year 7 meet the national reading, spelling and numeracy benchmarks, with just over half meeting the writing benchmark⁵

² Pink, B. and Allbon, P. *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2008*, Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, 2008, p.207.

³ Kulunga Research Centre, accessed at

<http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/kulunga/research/overview>, August 2008.

⁴ Snowball, L., 'Diversion of Indigenous Juvenile Offenders', in *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, No.355, Australian Institute of Criminology, June 2008, p1.

⁵ *National Benchmarks Western Australian Public Schools Results, Performance of Years 3, 5 and 7 Students*, accessed at www.det.wa.edu.au/education/walna/pdfs/2007_walna%20, August 2008.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People (cont'd)

Western Australia continues to have the worst record of any Australian State for the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in detention.⁶

Government agencies need to examine their practices to determine why these children and young people are not being cautioned and diverted away from the courts at the same rate as others.

It is also not acceptable that children and young people are being taken away from their families and homes in regional and remote communities and detained on remand in Perth for minor offences.

Detention should always be a last resort.

I commend the Prime Minister's commitment to 'close the gap' between Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people and wider Australia, beginning "with the little children"⁷, and I will be encouraging all government and non-government agencies to build on evidence-based successes – the things that work - to move Aboriginal children and young people into a future of equality, hope and dignity.

⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 'Average daily number of young people in detention by sex and indigenous status, states and territories, 2006-07', in *Juvenile Justice in Australia 2006-07*, accessed at www.aihw.gov.au/publications/juv/jjia06-07/jjia06-07-c04.pdf, September 2008.

⁷ Hon. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister, *Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples*, House of Representatives, 13 February 2008, accessed at http://www.aph.gov.au/house/Rudd_Speech.pdf.

Wherever I have travelled, particularly in regional and remote Western Australia, people are expressing the need for improvements in housing, safety and safe houses for children and young people in crisis, healing services and alcohol rehabilitation, children's services, constructive activities for children and young people, and education and employment opportunities, particularly for Aboriginal communities.

Practical action and effort is required to address the priority needs of Aboriginal children and young people.

I have been impressed with programs that provide positive outcomes for young people in Aboriginal communities. With leadership and funding, there is the opportunity for successful programs to be the models for other communities to improve the futures of children and their families.



close the gap

Giving children and young people a voice

Commissioner's foreword

While children need adequate guidance and protection, they are nevertheless active participants in their lives, their families and in the wider community, with their own perspective.

Since my appointment I have directly consulted or commissioned consultations with more than 500 children and young people in Western Australia about the issues that have either positive or negative impacts upon their lives.

These issues include the impact of alcohol and drugs, effective ways to make a complaint about poor treatment by government agencies, the provision of youth and recreation facilities and how best they can communicate with me as their Commissioner and my Office.

In the next 12 months I hope to build on these consultations to give children and young people greater opportunities to influence the way government and non-government organisations and industry make decisions which impact on their lives.

As my reach and Office expands, I hope my role as a promoter of the best interests of children and young people will be taken up by others and that the message will extend out across communities and cultures.

If consultation and collaboration fail, as an independent Commissioner I have significant powers to demand documents, conduct special inquiries and to ask for the support of Parliament.

Overall I have been encouraged by the enormous level of goodwill to this newly created position from people at all levels and across Western Australia.

I look forward to exciting initiatives including commissioning research into the wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia, working with children and young people and

the WA Museum to help design and develop the look, function and feel of Western Australia's new museum, and developing innovative ways to engage children and young people through new media and technology.

At this very important time, when Australia's focus is firmly on its children and youth, I look forward to the next 12 months with confidence, energy and enthusiasm.

I sincerely thank the members of my staff for their commitment, professionalism, hard work and passion during 2007-2008, and all of those organisations with which my Office has collaborated throughout the year.



Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia



for the future

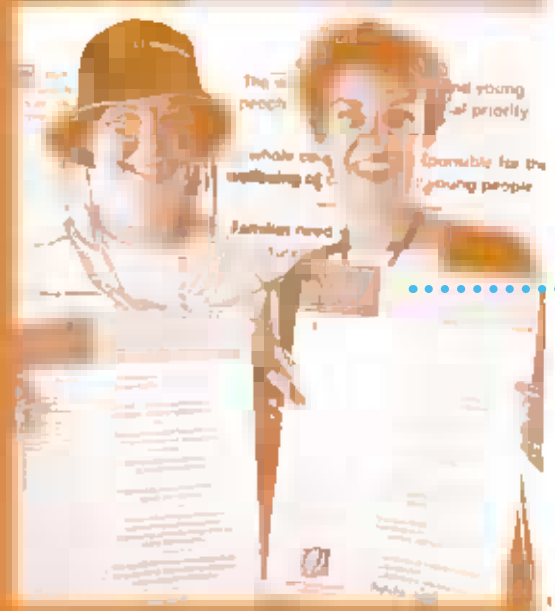
Executive summary

Highlights of Year One 2007–2008

From December 2007, the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Western Australia:

- consulted with more than 300 hundred community leaders, national and State stakeholders, government and non-government agencies and industry to gain their views about issues that impact on children and young people
 - directly sought the views of 500 children and young people under 18 year of age in Western Australia
 - promoted the participation of children and young people in the development of the Perth foreshore, public transport and alcohol and drug strategies
 - initiated research and policy development in early childhood, juvenile justice, complaints processes and overcoming disadvantage in key areas of health and education for Aboriginal children and young people
 - advocated for the best interests and wellbeing of children and young people in the justice system, under the care and protection of the State, as citizens of the community and in their representation in the media.
- travelled more than 15,000 kilometres to communities in regional Western Australia and participated in 27 meetings and forums with regional community leaders
 - began developing strategic networks and partnerships with governments at Commonwealth, State and local level, with non-government organisations and with industry
 - made 7 submissions to Commonwealth and State Parliamentary, government and other inquiries and discussion papers about legislation and policy.
 - made 17 formal presentations to professional gatherings and communities around Western Australia and gave more than 200 personal briefings to individuals and representatives of government, industry and the community
 - established an office, recruited staff and developed and commissioned an interim website
 - commenced development of a 5 year strategic plan.

A Commitment to Young Australians



initiate

Emerging trends and initiatives for 2008-2009

- Initiate research into the well being of children and young people
- Consolidate the establishment of the Commissioner, including strategic development of policies, processes and performance measures
- Advocate in the best interests of children and young people through the Council of Australian Governments' initiative to redress Aboriginal disadvantage and boost early childhood education
- Work in partnership with others to maximise opportunities for children and young people to participate in decision-making by government, industry and communities
- Design, develop and commission a website that is both informative and interactive, especially for children and young people but also for families, stakeholders and the general community.

"The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration".

Principle 2, United Nations Declaration & Convention

Executive
summary

consult

advocate

Operational Structure

Mission

To work with children and young people, families, community and government to enhance the wellbeing of all children and young people in Western Australia.

Vision

All children and young people in Western Australia are active participants in our society who are heard, valued, healthy and safe.

Legislation

The Commissioner for Children and Young People advocates independently on behalf of all children and young people under the age of 18 years in Western Australia, reporting to the Western Australian Parliament.

The Commissioner acts at all times in the best interests of children and young people.

The Commissioner is guided by the following principles:

- Children and young people are entitled to live in a caring and nurturing environment and to be protected from harm and exploitation
- The contributions made by children and young people to the community should be recognised for their value and merit
- The views of children and young people on all matters affecting them should be given serious consideration and taken into account
- Parents, families and communities have the primary role in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of their children and young people and should be supported in carrying out their role.

The functions and powers of the Commissioner are broadly to:

- advocate for children and young people
- promote strategies and outcomes which enhance the wellbeing of children and young people
- monitor the wellbeing of children and young people generally in the community
- monitor the way in which a government agency investigates a complaint against it by a child or young person
- inquire into any matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people
- promote the participation of children and young people in decision-making that affects their lives and encourage government and non-government agencies to include children and young people in decision-making
- promote awareness and understanding in the community about the wellbeing of children and young people
- consult with children and young people in their communities
- consider and make recommendations on laws, policies, programs and services affecting children and young people.

In performing her functions the Commissioner must:

- give priority and have special regard to the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and children and young people who are vulnerable and disadvantaged

- have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- develop means of consulting with young people that are appropriate to their age and maturity
- develop guidelines for government and non-government agencies regarding children's and young people's participation on decisions which affect them
- adopt work practices that ensure the Commissioner is accessible to children and young people
- encourage their participation in decision-making by the Commissioner
- work in cooperation and consult with government and non-government agencies
- take reasonable steps to avoid duplicating the functions of other government agencies.

By law, the Commissioner does not deal with complaints made by or on behalf of individuals.

The Commissioner may conduct a special inquiry and submit a report to Parliament on a matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Commissioner did not convene a special inquiry in 2007-2008.

Schedule 1, clause 3 of the Act which provides for the Commissioner to take responsibility for Working with Children checks from the Department for Child Protection has not been proclaimed.

A Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Western Australian Parliament was established on 26 June 2008 to:

- monitor, review and report to Parliament on the exercise of the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People
- examine Annual and other Reports of the Commissioner
- consult regularly with the Commissioner.

At 30 June 2008 the Committee had not convened.

In 2007-2008 the Commissioner employed 12 full-time equivalent staff.





Legislative history

2003

A Select Committee on Advocacy for Children (Appointment of a Commissioner for Children) was appointed by the Western Australian Parliament on 11 June. It was formed to consider the most appropriate means of establishing an advocate for children, to enable better government for children and to ensure government and Parliament awareness of the needs of children.

2004

On 19 May, the Minister for Community Development announced the Government's intention to establish a new Children's Commission. In July, the Select Committee recommended that the appointment of a Commissioner for Children with comprehensive powers was the most appropriate means to establish advocacy for children and young people in Western Australia.

2005

The Minister for Community Development introduced the Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2005 into State Parliament on 1 June.

"The true measure of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children - their health and safety, their education and their sense of being loved, valued and included in the families and societies into which they are born".

Innocenti Report Card 7, United Nations, 2007

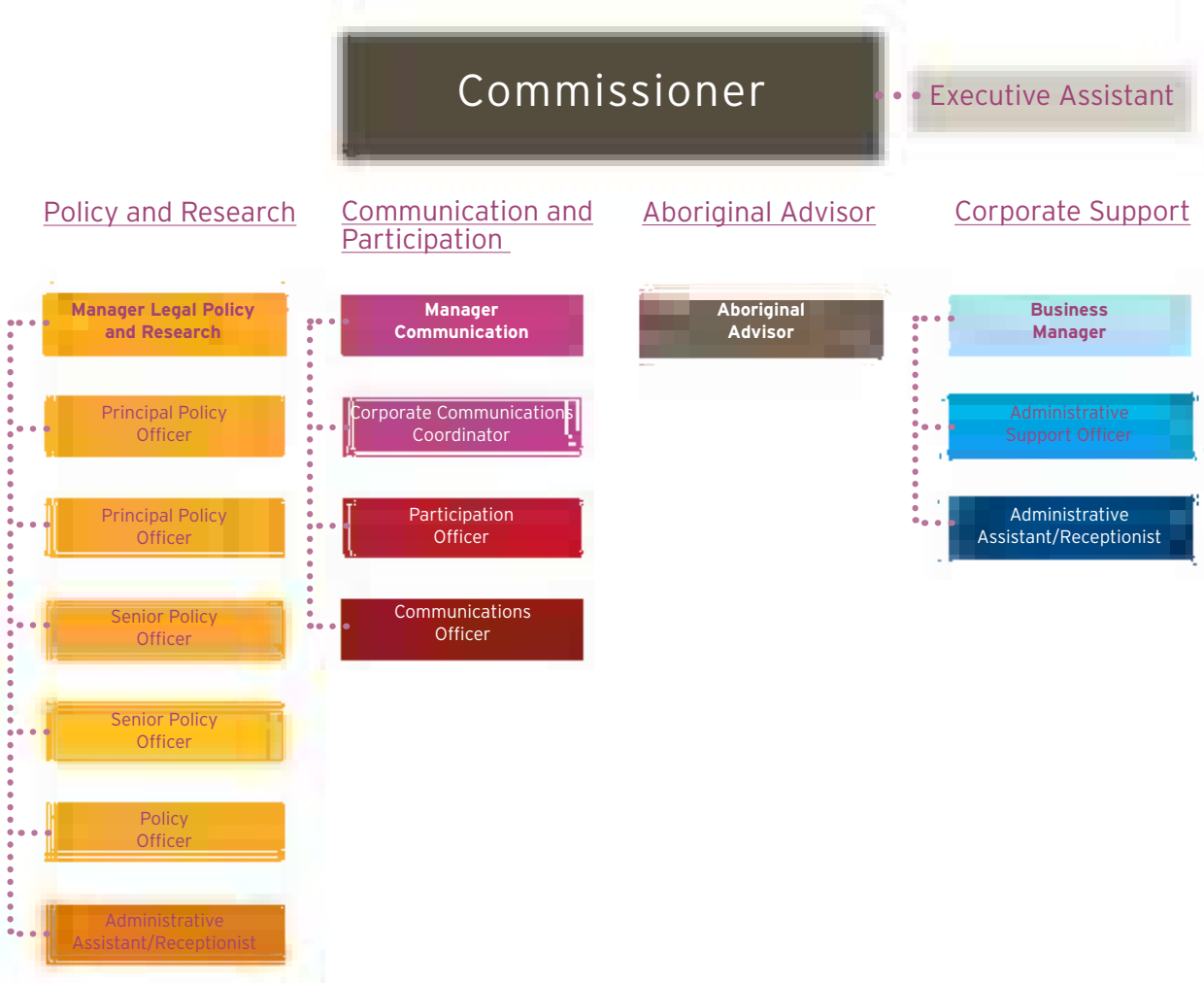
2006

The *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act WA 2006* was granted Royal Assent and sections 1 and 2 proclaimed on 4 October.

2007

The remainder of the Act (except schedule 1, clauses 2 and 3) was proclaimed on 20 November and commenced on 10 December.

Fig. 1 is a representation of the Commissioner's planned establishment. Recruitment will continue in 2008–2009 to achieve the full complement of staff to fulfil the Commissioner's functions.



Performance management framework



The Commissioner is an advocate for the half a million Western Australian children and young people under 18 years of age, acting in their best interests and promoting and enhancing their wellbeing.

The Commissioner commenced preliminary work to establish key performance indicators in 2008.

The Commissioner, in consultation with the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance, expects key performance indicators to be finalised in 2008-2009 and these will be used to monitor and measure outcomes achieved by the Commissioner for the community.

The work of the Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2007-2008 supported Western Australian Government goals and strategic outcomes as outlined in *Better Planning: Better Services – A Strategic Planning Framework for the Western Australian Public Sector*.

young people

children

In particular the work of the Commissioner supported the following goals:

Goal 1: Better Services - Enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia by providing high quality, accessible services, and specifically:

Strategic Outcomes:

- 1.3 A safe community.
- 1.4 A strong and vibrant community.

Goal 4: Regional Development - Ensuring that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant, and specifically:

Strategic Outcomes:

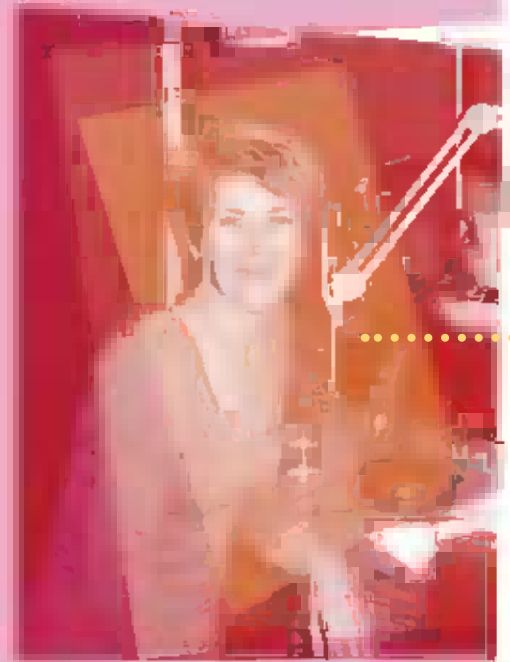
- 4.1 Regional communities that are educated, healthy, safe and supportive.
- 4.4 Government decision-making that takes account of regional issues.

Goal 5: Governance and Public Sector Improvement - Developing and maintaining a skilled, diverse and ethical public sector serving the Government with consideration of the public interest, and specifically:

Strategic Outcomes:

- 5.2 A whole-of-government approach to planning and decision-making.
- 5.3 A public sector that is responsive to the evolving needs of the community.
- 5.4 Independent oversight that contributes to a more accountable public sector.

Performance review



Appointment of Commissioner

The inaugural Commissioner for Children and Young People was appointed by His Excellency Ken Michael, AC, Governor of Western Australia on 7 December 2007 by commission under the Public Seal of the State of Western Australia.

The Commissioner's appointment followed consultation with children and young people⁸ and children and young people were involved in the selection process.

In her first 7 months of office to 30 June 2008, the Commissioner wrote to, met and consulted many hundreds of individuals and stakeholders, including children and young people, members of Parliament, representatives of government and non-government organisations, industry and community groups across Western Australia and interstate.

Her Office also began collating, examining and analysing current research on key issues impacting on children and young people to create a knowledge base to guide the policy and communications work of the Office and to guard against duplicating efforts of other government agencies.

As a result, the following were identified as priority issues affecting the health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia and were the subject of further research, consultation and recommendation by the Commissioner in 2007-2008: participation of children and young people in decision-making, early childhood, child protection and safety,

drugs and alcohol, education, employment, health and juvenile justice.

In 2007-2008 the Commissioner for Children and Young People:

- consulted directly with children and young people
- undertook to give a voice to children and young people themselves, not only to their concerns but also in recognition of their enormous positive contribution and to engage with their families and the wider community
- influenced public policy – such that the way government and non-government organisations and the private sector do their business is based on best practice, evaluation and research

enabled by:

- development of a best practice culture and operating environment.

This section outlines the achievements of the Commissioner and her Office in 2007-2008.

⁸ Office for Children and Youth, Establishment of a Western Australian Children's Commission- Consultation with Children and Youth, Key Findings, 2004.

Consulting with children and young people

Consulted with children and young people on issues that concerned them

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner consulted with children and young people from a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds and age groups throughout Western Australia.

In May 2008, the Commissioner engaged Millennium Kids⁹ as an external organisation with expertise and networks to consult children and young people on the issues that concerned them.

A total of 270 children from schools across Western Australia participated in the process

What sort of information would you like the Commissioner to provide you with?*

Children and young people said:

- information about other children and young people
- information about activities and opportunities e.g. in education, health, employment, training, events and activities
- information about ways/opportunities to express our interests and ideas
- information about the Commissioner's activities and aims.

⁹ www.millenniumkids.com.au

* Consultation with children and young people through Millennium Kids, March–May 2008.

Influencing

Those who participated rated the following issues as of concern:

- violence – on the streets, in gangs, families and communities
- drugs and alcohol – violence, negative behaviour and bad health (included smoking)
- the future – the environment, costs, opportunities and security
- the environment – promoting sustainability and protection of the environment
- safety – in public places and at home
- intolerance – against children and young people being in and using public places, and about racial differences
- standards in public places – need for lighting and security to be able to use the spaces safely and creatively
- more facilities for teenagers – sport and recreation, spaces, events.

This feedback informs the ongoing strategic direction of the Office.

What are some of the ways in which you think you and other children and young people can be involved in decision-making that affects you?*

Children and young people said:

- form a representative body of children and youth from across the regions - the 'Commissioner's Council'
- have a children's Prime Minister
- develop surveys on issues and needs
- hold summit meetings.



Began developing a participation policy to influence the work of the Commissioner and other agencies

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner commenced development of a policy to encourage and support the participation of children and young people in influencing policy and decisions taken by government departments and non-government organisations and industry.

This will ensure the Commissioner is more knowledgeable and effective in encouraging government and non-government agencies to seek the participation of children and young people.

Children and young people are entitled to an effective voice not only in decisions and policies made about them and on their behalf but also in policies which may indirectly affect them, their welfare, safety or wellbeing.

Influencing

The Commissioner agreed to work in partnership with the Western Australian Museum to support ways in which children and young people can participate in the design and development of the State's new museum complex to be opened in 2015.

The Office will join the WA Museum to plan and promote this involvement in 2008-2009.

The Commissioner participated in a forum with high school students in conjunction with a campaign by the Public Transport Authority to curb anti-social behaviour and graffiti.

The Commissioner advocated for children and young people to be consulted about the development of Perth's Swan River foreshore.

Began development of a policy and guidelines for the involvement of children and young people with the work of the Commissioner

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner aims to promote the participation of children and young people in decisions that affect their lives and encourages the participation of children and young people in decision-making by the Commissioner.

Children and young people were asked how they would like the Commissioner to consult with them.

A draft framework for the Commissioner for Children and Young People's internal Participation Policy was developed and circulated to stakeholders for comment in June 2008.

The Commissioner aims to ensure continual improvement in her Office in involving children and young people, and especially to ensure vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people and Aboriginal children and young people are given a voice.

Influencing

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's internal Participation Policy guides the work of the Office with children and young people.

The policy will be completed in 2008-2009.



Joint consultation with children and young people on drugs and alcohol

Listening and Engaging

In May 2008 the Commissioner joined the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) and the WA Office for Youth to host a consultation with young people about drug and alcohol issues.

Young people talked openly and honestly about a range of issues related to drugs and alcohol. They were positive about a range of approaches including prevention, harm reduction and treatment. The importance of supply reduction of drugs was emphasised by the agreement among the young people that drugs are “easy” to access and that they are often cheaper than alcohol.

Influencing

The Commissioner provided feedback to the Drug and Alcohol Office on their 5 year State-wide drug and alcohol strategy.

Consulted with children and young people on ways to improve complaints systems

Listening and Engaging

It is not a function of the Commissioner to investigate or deal with individual complaints by or on behalf of children and young people.

However, the Commissioner is required to monitor the way in which government agencies investigate or otherwise deal with complaints made by children and young people.

In June 2008 the Commissioner consulted children and young people directly about complaints processes and how they can be made child friendly.

‘The Art of Complaining’ was a theatre-based consultation with 21 children and young people,

aged 9 to 16. Participants described their fear of repercussions or confusion if they were not informed of the result of the complaint directly, especially where a complaint was about a figure in authority such as a teacher. Adults were commonly characterised as uncaring, unapproachable, too busy, not bothered or rude.

Children and young people said complaining face to face to a respectful person was their preferred method. They recommended:

- make the complaints process as easy as possible – children won’t go out of their way to complain
- have an easy to follow diagram of the process
- always make sure there is a person on the end of the phone, so young people are not just put on hold
- explain the process
- put in big bold letters on complaints publications: “You are welcome, come in and see us”.

Influencing

The Commissioner met the WA Ombudsman, Equal Opportunity Commissioner and the Director of the Office of Health Review to discuss ways their organisations could improve their accessibility and response to children and young people with complaints.

They agreed to work together and share information on an ongoing basis.

The Commissioner wrote to the Directors General of the Departments of Education and Training, Child Protection and Health encouraging each to assess their complaints policies for useability and accessibility – in effect how child and youth friendly they are.

¹⁰ The Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, The Art of Complaining – a consultation report by Anne Sorensen, April 2008.

As a result of the discussions with the Department of Health, the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children agreed to engage with children and young people about how to improve their complaints systems.

All of the agencies expressed keen interest in the outcomes of the June consultation and will be provided in 2008-2009 with a detailed report.

Submission to the Australian Youth Forum Consultation

Listening and Engaging

All views are important, especially those from young people who may be disadvantaged by distance, poverty, cultural background or disability.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations invited submissions on a proposal to establish a new national forum through which young people aged 15 to 24 could help shape Commonwealth Government policy – especially around issues that affect them.

Influencing

The Commissioner made a submission arguing that an Australian Youth Forum should build on the State-wide networks and community links already established in WA by the Youth Advisory Councils and the Youth Affairs Council, both of whom have a large and diverse membership.

The Commissioner also urged the Federal Government not to forget the views of children under 15 who are often left out of the consultation process, and of Aboriginal children and young people.

The submissions summary acknowledged, as submitted by the Commissioner, the potentially

significant imposts of distance and the cost of travel on Western Australian delegates to an Australian Youth Forum.

Commenced design and development of an interactive website to give children improved access to the Commissioner and her Office

Listening and Engaging

The website www.ccyp.wa.gov.au is an interim site that went live in February 2008.

The 270 children and young people consulted on behalf of the Commissioner between March and May 2008 identified the internet as the primary means of communication between the Commissioner and them.

While the current website allows for email contact and feedback, the Commissioner is examining innovative ways of using electronic communication to engage with children and young people including, uploading of content, polling, streaming and online forums.

Influencing

Work commenced in May 2008 on a project to design, develop and commission a fully interactive website which would afford greater accessibility to the Commissioner and her Office by children and young people.

The website is expected to be operational in the second half of 2008-2009. It will have the capacity to support web consultations with all stakeholders, video and audio content, polling and the facility to upload and share content created by children and young people themselves.

Aboriginal culture at Baldvis Children's Forest May 2008



Meeting children and young people

Listening and Engaging

As part of her function to consult with children and young people from a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds and age groups throughout Western Australia, the Commissioner visited a number of schools across the State.

These included Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Kununurra District High Schools, Ngalangangpum School at Warmun, Aranmore Catholic College, Kensington Secondary School and Mirrabooka Senior High School (Harmony Day celebrations).

In May 2008, the Commissioner joined guest speakers and 60 young people from around WA at the YAction Youth Forum in Perth, held to discuss the future direction of the WA Youth Advisory Councils in Western Australia.



All the colour and movement of Harmony Day celebrations at Mirrabooka Senior High School featuring world flags, sand painting and Indigenous dancing.

Performance
review

...connect



In May 2008 the Commissioner was the opening speaker at a forum of high school students in Melville, as part of a Public Transport Authority consultation on ways to help combat graffiti.

A Commitment to Young Australians

The wellbeing of children and young people needs to be a national priority.

The whole community is responsible for the wellbeing of children and young people.

Families need support and resources to nurture children and young people.

Children and young people should grow up in a safe environment.

Children and young people should be valued and respected.

Children and young people should have learning and development opportunities which encourage them to realise their potential.

The capacity of children and young people to contribute to the community should be acknowledged and enabled.



Australian Research Alliance
for Children & Youth.

Performance
review

The Commissioner signed the ARACY Commitment to Young Australians in June 2008.

Giving a voice to children and young people and engaging effectively and collaboratively

Consulted with more than 300 individual stakeholders and organisations involved in legislation, services, programs, and the welfare and wellbeing of Western Australian children and young people

Listening and Engaging

To 30 June 2008 the Commissioner wrote to and met several hundred people including State and Commonwealth ministers, parliamentarians, directors-general and commissioners of government departments, Aboriginal elders and organisations, community and non-government organisations, research bodies, universities, institutes, local councils, legal bodies, youth organisations, community centres and advocacy groups.

Influencing

Consultation and research identified priority areas for further focus as:

- participation of children and young people in decision-making
- early childhood
- child protection and safety
- drugs and alcohol
- education
- employment
- health
- juvenile justice

Travelled more than 15,000 kilometres including to regional and remote Western Australia to observe programs and meet stakeholders in communities

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner travelled extensively in regional Western Australia in the first half of 2008. Communities and towns visited included Fitzroy Crossing, Kununurra, Halls Creek and Warmun.

The purpose of the travel program was to introduce the Commissioner and to allow her to observe first hand, the issues impacting on individual communities as well as the positive programs benefiting children and young people in these communities.

Issues raised as a result of the Commissioner's visits to the Kimberley and East Kimberley included the lack of suitable accommodation options for families, the need for healing centres and alcohol rehabilitation programs, safety of children and safe houses for children, and the need for more constructive activities for young people.

Further regional travel will be undertaken in the second half of 2008.

Influencing

The Commissioner held 11 meetings in Fitzroy Crossing in May 2008, and 16 meetings in June 2008 in Kununurra, Halls Creek and Warmun with representatives of government agencies and community organisations.

The visits to regional and remote areas received print and electronic media coverage in local, State and national mainstream and Aboriginal media outlets.



Signed the ARACY commitment

Listening and Engaging

In June 2008, the Commissioner signed the Commitment to Young Australians initiated by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY).

The Commissioner attended a tree-planting day at Baldivis Children's Forest where she joined with Millennium Kids Youth Board members to pledge the Commitment to Young Australians.

Influencing

The statement of 7 principles guides the decision-making and actions of signatories and is a public acknowledgement of a commitment to Australia's children and young people.

Addressed professional gatherings and communities around Western Australia

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner strives to promote the best interests of children and young people and the message that the responsibility to care for and nurture children and young people in a loving and healthy environment is the whole community's.

Between December 2007 and June 2008, the Commissioner gave and received more than 200 personal briefings to individuals and representatives of government, industry and the community.

Influencing

The Commissioner made 17 formal presentations to professional gatherings and communities around Western Australia.

These included addresses to the Family Pathways Conference, the Western Australian Aboriginal Education Council, Marr Mooditj, Aboriginal Legal Service, Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence, Ministerial Council on Child Protection, Society of Professional Social Workers, Australian Association of Social Workers, YAction Youth Forum and WA's Early Childhood Association.

Actively worked to improve outcomes for children at risk

Listening and Engaging

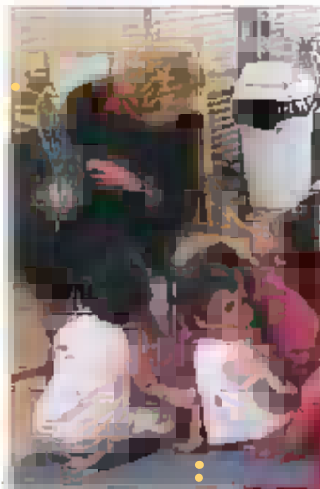
While no one can guarantee that a child will never come to harm from his or her carers, the Commissioner advocated for policies and procedures and an overall community environment which minimises risk to children and young people.

The Commissioner attended forums with key agencies concerned with children under care and protection orders.

In February 2008, the Commissioner held discussions with the WA Chief Justice in relation to the ongoing investigation by the Indigenous Taskforce into child sexual abuse in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The Commissioner held discussions with community leaders in the Kimberley in May 2008 to hear first hand their views on how to keep children and young people in their community safe.





The Commissioner reviewed the Commonwealth Government's discussion paper for a National Child Protection Framework.

Influencing

The Commissioner wrote to the Directors-General of the Department for Child Protection and Department of the Attorney General and the Commissioners for Corrective Services and the WA Police, seeking their cooperation in ensuring a coordinated response to communities and protection for children in the light of charges laid.

The Commissioner stressed the importance of providing services to and keeping safe, children and young people who are victims, along with their families and also children and young people who are alleged perpetrators.

In June 2008, she called for more support services for children and young people following the extension of restrictions to alcohol sales and supply in Fitzroy Crossing.

Promoted improved education outcomes for the most disadvantaged children and young people

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner must have as a priority the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people. Aboriginal children and young people continue to have poor education outcomes. Only 4 out of 10 Aboriginal children in Year 7 meet the national reading, spelling and numeracy benchmarks, with just over half meeting the writing benchmark.¹¹

In particular she is concerned about the wide gaps that remain in education outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people.

In February 2008, the Commissioner attended a meeting of the Aboriginal Education and Training Council.

The Commissioner commended Aranmore Catholic College, the Midland Indigenous Youth Program, and Yule Brook Community College, 3 of the 5 Australian schools to win High Achievement awards under the national Dare to Lead Excellence in Leadership in Indigenous Education Awards in April 2008.

Influencing

The Commissioner formally wrote to the Director-General of the Department of Education and Training outlining her concerns and seeking more information about Aboriginal participation and retention rates in education and the programs in Western Australia operating to address these issues.

The Commissioner visited several schools and early learning centres in the Kimberley including the Wanyanyakem Taam Early Learning Centre in the remote community of Warmun, recently evaluated by Edith Cowan University in 2007 as one of the best preparation-for-school programs in Western Australia.



¹¹ See n.5 above.

Advocated on behalf of children and young people who come into contact with the justice system

Listening and Engaging

Aboriginal children and young people continue to be vastly over-represented in Western Australia's juvenile justice system, making up more than 75% of 10-17 year olds in detention.

In February 2008, the Commissioner raised concerns that the juvenile justice system was not serving the best interests of children in Western Australia.

She noted:

- a decline in the rate of cautioning of Aboriginal children and young people by the WA Police
- a decline in the use of options for Aboriginal children and young people to divert them from the juvenile justice system
- an increase in the arrest and remand of Aboriginal children and young people
- the refusal of bail, particularly where there is no 'responsible person' or appropriate accommodation
- the transportation of juvenile offenders, particularly Aboriginal children and young people, from remote areas to Perth.

The Commissioner visited the Banksia Hill and Rangeview Juvenile Detention Centres in Perth.

Influencing

Between February and June 2008, the Commissioner met departmental directors general, the Executive Director of the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Crime Research Centre on these issues.

In June 2008 the Commissioner publicly called for urgent action by government agencies to divert children and young people away from the court system.

The Commissioner endorsed the recommendations of Western Australia's Auditor General whose report highlighted the continuing over-representation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the justice system.

The Commissioner called for:

- more support for families and their children in the early childhood years to improve their living environment so they are less vulnerable to coming into contact with the justice system
- greater use of cautioning by police of Aboriginal children and young people
- more diversionary programs and services, particularly in regional and remote areas
- better support systems in regional and remote areas to address the issues behind offending behaviour
- a halt to the transportation of children except in cases where they are facing serious criminal charges
- a comprehensive and effective system to ensure young people who are detained are escorted back to their homes on release
- greater use of telephone and audio-visual equipment so children and young people don't have to be physically present in courts
- consideration of more of alternatives to incarceration.

Subsequently in May 2008 the Director General of the Department of the Attorney General formed an inter-departmental project group to consult with other agencies and report to the Directors General Group on Indigenous Affairs.

Fears held for Kimberley kids

By ELIZABETH MURRAY



CHILD advocates say they're very concerned over claims that juvenile justice services staff routinely leave children from remote Kimberley community stranded in towns hundreds of kilometres away, following court appearances.

It is understood that welfare workers from Bidge have lodged a complaint with Corrective Services Minister Margaret Quirk, expressing fears for the safety of local children dropped off in the large centre of Halls Creek, where they'll be without adult supervision until their families can arrange to collect them.

Halls Creek is the newest and one of several troubled Kimberley towns subjected to interventionary responses aimed at curbing drug and alcohol abuse.

Last week, staff of the Bidge community health organisation whose colleagues are believed to have made the complaint refused to confer the region. However, several other welfare and social workers — who asked not to be named — told The Kool that the practice was widely systemic and had been going on for years.

Neither Minister Quirk's office nor her department would comment. The Minister herself was attending a Corrective Services

Ministers' Conference in Sydney, from which she released a statement saying that WA would host a national conference on improved prisoner transportation in August, with a view to developing national standards for prisoner transport vehicles.

However, the Kimberley claim drew a strong response from the State's new Commissioner for Children and Young People, Michelle Scott, and Youth Legal Services chief Cheryl Cassidy-Vernon.

Ms Scott said the transportation of children to be held on remand should only ever occur as a last

resort, and the system had a responsibility to ensure that any juveniles transported to Perth were returned home safely upon their release.

"It is not acceptable that children and young people are being taken away from their families and country and detained on remand at Perth," Ms Scott said. "Some children have been put in place by the Department of Corrective Services to address this issue, but we need to ensure Aboriginal children and young people don't fall through the gaps."

Aboriginal juveniles currently make up 78.5 per cent of the overall WA juvenile muster, and most of those come from the north of the State.

The only juvenile remand centre in WA is in Perth, which is thousands of kilometres from the Kimberley region. As a consequence, young people being charged are often removed from their families and held off-country until they can appear before a magistrate for matters which may not even proceed or for which they would not get a custodial sentence.

With matters sometimes "turned around" after a day or two, juvenile detainees can also find themselves

in a "black and white" situation where they're unable to get bail due to being detained off-country.

Ms Scott said over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including youth, in the justice system was the crux of the problem. Australian Institute of Criminology figures show that Indigenous children and young people make up 75 per cent of 10-17 year olds in custody in WA, which are some of the worst figures in Australia.

She said the same study also

found that one in five Indigenous juvenile offenders had eight or more contacts with the criminal justice system as opposed to one in eight for non-Indigenous juvenile offenders.

"I have recently written to the Director-General of the Department of the Attorney-General asking for a whole-of-government approach on these issues," Ms Scott said, adding that an undertaking had been received to make it the subject of an inter-department working group with relevant government departments.

"I will be continuing to monitor the progress and ensure there is a record of an early response."

Ms Scott said she had met with the WA Police Commissioner to lobby for the wider use of cautions by police when dealing with Aboriginal children and youths.

"More diversionary programs and services in regional and remote areas would also contribute to improving the situation," she said, and better support systems in these areas were needed to address the issues behind offending behaviour.

Youth Legal Services WA Manager Cheryl Cassidy-Vernon said she supported the Children's Commissioner's stance in respect to young people being transported into custody as only a last resort.

She said many of the diversionary options available to metropolitan and regional young people simply did not exist in the Kimberley, "thus the police do not have the ability to divert young people through to the Juvenile Justice Teams because there are no teams or juvenile justice officers in the towns and communities."

"This is unacceptable as it means that young people are treated differently based on where they live rather than the alleged offence," Ms Cassidy-Vernon said. She said taking children out of country before being convicted was contrary to the principles of youth justice which stipulated that it is important to retain contact with family and the strength of the role of parents.

I will be [usefully] outcomes from this process and providing input where necessary' - Commissioner Michelle Scott

process and providing input where necessary."

Ms Scott said the WA Chief Justice and the President of the WA Children's Court were working towards the use of audiovisual equipment and video link-ups to connect those in remote communities with court services in Perth, so children and young people did not have to be physically present in court.

A recent AIC study found Indigenous juveniles were far less likely to be cautioned by police than non-Indigenous juveniles, and this could result in an extensive criminal



In May 2008, the Commissioner supported the President of the Children's Court issuing a new practice direction that the removal of a child from his or her community must be a decision made by a magistrate or judge.

The Commissioner has agreed to be on the steering committee of a pilot program established at the instigation of the President of the Children's Court, to case manage 9 cases before the Court with a coordinated and collaborative approach.

Coordinated data on child deaths in Western Australia

Listening and Engaging

A coordinated process is needed across government and the non-government sector for the collection of data on child deaths and near death to aid research.

Such coordination will highlight preventable causes of death and enable agencies to work better together to prevent deaths.

The Commissioner and the State Coroner agreed to share relevant information impacting on the number of child deaths annually in Western Australia.

The Commissioner has agreed to accept data and reports from the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research which from May 2008 was the contracted agency collecting data on child deaths in Western Australia on behalf of the Department for Child Protection.

The Commissioner has also held discussions with the Department for Child Protection on the collection of reports from the Child Death Review Committee which reviews deaths of children who have come to the notice of the Department.

Influencing

It is anticipated that in 2008-2009, the Commissioner will receive reports from this committee, with a view to making recommendations to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths.

Advocated on behalf of children and young people in employment

Listening and Engaging

The WA Fair Employment Advocate released a paper in May 2008 discussing the vulnerability of young people in employment.

The report will provide a valuable tool for the Commissioner around which to base discussions with young people and the organisations that represent and advocate for them.

Influencing

The Commissioner attended a Youth Advisory Council of WA (YACWA) workshop at which the Fair Employment Advocate launched the report.

The Commissioner will consider along with YACWA how to assist young people to develop a good understanding of their rights and entitlements in the workplace.

At 30 June 2008 the Commissioner, YACWA and the Office for Youth were planning a project to disseminate information and gain the views of young people on work issues.

Australia Pacific Association of Children's Commissioners

Listening and Engaging

The association shares information, provides support and develops policy and joint responses to issues and proposed legislation.

The Commissioner attended the Association's bi-annual conference in Canberra with commissioners, child guardians and other advocates from Australian states and territories and New Zealand plus the Human Rights Commissioner and Commissioner Responsible for Disability Discrimination.

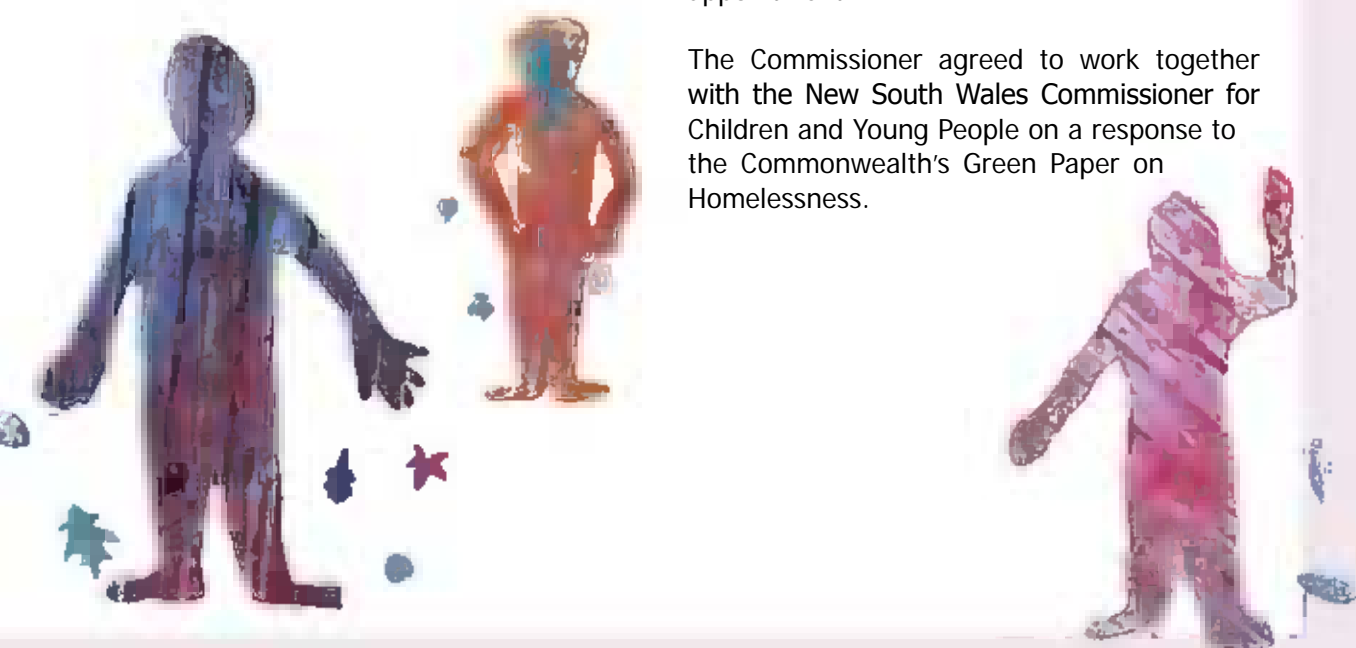
Delegates also met senior Commonwealth Government ministers.

Among the topics under discussion were proposals for national commissioner for children legislation, discussion on proposals for the Australian Youth Forum, paid parental leave, early childhood and educational outcomes.

Influencing

The Commissioner updated the association on legislation in Western Australia and on her appointment.

The Commissioner agreed to work together with the New South Wales Commissioner for Children and Young People on a response to the Commonwealth's Green Paper on Homelessness.



Influencing public policy

Conducted research and gathered information in the area of children's and young people's health

Listening and Engaging

Significant research and evidence suggests that the first years of life are the key to children's growth, development and future life.

Staff of the Office met key researchers in the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research, the Kulunga Research Network, the Child and Youth Health Advisory Network, the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, the Child and Adolescent Health Service and the Child Health Promotion Research Unit.

Preliminary discussions were held in relation to future research which the Commissioner may conduct, coordinate or sponsor, or in which she may participate.

The Commissioner also consulted a range of government and non-government stakeholders in the preparation of a submission to the WA Standing Committee on Health and Education's Inquiry into the General Health Screening of Children at Pre-Primary and Primary School Level.

Influencing

The Commissioner's submission recommended the establishment of a State-wide system for monitoring, promoting and servicing children's health and wellbeing from birth to school entry.

This would require an integrated system and staffing for to ensure families are engaged with the health system from birth.

She recommended a comprehensive early childhood strategy be developed for Western Australia which would include:

- provision of adequate numbers of child health and school health nurses to meet increasing population demand
- early intervention, collaborative approaches and joined-up solutions across sectors, disciplines and government and non-government sectors
- provision of early childhood centres or hubs, initially in areas of high disadvantage
- mapping of early years' services to track demographic changes
- engagement of and contribution from local communities in the design, delivery and governance of programs
- strong leadership through a dedicated department or office – a Ministerial portfolio for children or early childhood.

Submission to the Inquiry into Collaborative Approaches in Government

Listening and Engaging

One of the Commissioner's primary goals is to encourage collaboration between government, non-government organisations, industry and community organisations on particular issues relevant to children and young people.

Influencing

In her submission to an inquiry by the WA Parliament Standing Committee on Community Development and Justice into Collaborative Approaches in Government, the Commissioner argued that achieving effective collaboration in government would be assisted by:

- dissolving the boundaries that exist between traditional government functions to enable coordinated delivery of services
- encouraging and giving preference to innovative and joint budget applications
- requiring departments to provide combined reports/updates on collaborative projects to strengthen cross-government ownership issues

- promoting collaboration as a quality to be measured in performance agreements at senior levels
- requiring best practice in collaboration by government agencies
- encouraging governments to engage more with citizens, especially children and young people.

Submission on the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

Listening and Engaging

In May 2008 the Federal Government announced it would provide \$2.6 million over 3 years to develop a national framework for protecting Australia's children against abuse and neglect.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs released a discussion paper, 'Australia's Children: Safe and Well – a National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children'.

In June 2008 the Commissioner invited local agencies Uniting Care West, Parkerville, Mercy Care, Djooraminda, CREATE, Ngala, Wanslea, Yorganup, Anglicare and the Aboriginal Legal Service to a roundtable discussion on the child protection framework.

The discussion included a stronger prevention focus; better collaborating, improving responses to children in care and young people leaving care, improving responses to the needs of Aboriginal people and attracting and retaining the right child protection workforce.

Influencing

The Commissioner completed her submission in June 2008.

She recommended:

- a robust system of statutory protection for children and young people who are being abused or who are at risk
- a clear focus on provision of services that have been evaluated to prevent child abuse
- a nationally directed focus on early childhood education and care, and community recognition of the value of children and young people as a way of preventing problems before they arise
- the highest standard of care for children and young people in out-of-home care
- an integrated plan at government level for child protection based on the public health model which recognises that a system is more than statutory provision and needs to incorporate education, prevention and the wellbeing of children as a whole.

Early childhood, COAG and Closing the Gap

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner strongly endorses the integration of services and coordinated planning between the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments as a significant commitment and unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and their families, especially the most disadvantaged.

The Commissioner welcomed the Commonwealth Government initiative to 'close the gap' between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in Australia.

In February 2008 the Commissioner met the newly-appointed Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Child Care.

Throughout the first half of 2008, the Commissioner and her staff participated in discussions related to the Council of Australian Governments' focus on early childhood policy development and indigenous reform.

Influencing

The Commissioner outlined her response to the Commonwealth's initiative formally in a letter to the Parliamentary Secretary in April 2008.

Submission on paid Maternity, paternity and parental leave

Listening and Engaging

The establishment of a paid parental leave system in Australia is critical to the health and development of children and ultimately to the nation's prosperity and social wellbeing.

In April 2008 the Commissioner welcomed the announcement that the Productivity Commission would inquire into improved support for parents with newborn children. The report of the inquiry is expected in the second half of 2008.

In preparation for her submission, the Commissioner and her staff met representatives of the Smith Family, Early Childhood Australia, National Investment for the Early Years, Ngala, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), Resource Unit for Children with Special Needs, Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation, Playgroups WA, Early Childhood Intervention Australia, Wanslea Family Services and Anglicare; and also held discussions with staff of the departments of Health, Education and Training, Premier and Cabinet and Communities.

Influencing

The Commissioner's submission in June 2008 recommended:

- a model of paid parental leave for at least 6 months duration and the inclusion of paid paternity/partner leave
- extension of paid parental leave to cover employees who adopt a child under five years of age
- access to a paid parental leave scheme should be available to men and women in the paid workforce, with families not in the paid workforce provided sufficient support through family support payments.

Sexualisation of children

Listening and Engaging

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child imposes an obligation on Australia to consider whether the best interests of the child are central to its culture.

In March 2008, the Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications and the Arts called for submissions to its inquiry into the sexualisation of children in the contemporary media environment.

Influencing

In her submission to the inquiry the Commissioner noted that children and young people were increasingly being targeted as consumers.

The Commissioner submitted media standards be regularised and closely monitored to ensure society promoted the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

She recommended parents, legislators, marketers, advertisers, the media and children and young people work together to develop a set of Australian standards in line with the Convention and the ARACY Commitment to Young Australians.

In its final report in June 2008, the committee recommended a review of the advertising and marketing industry's self-regulatory code in 2010.

Submission on Australia's Draft Fourth Report to the United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Listening and Engaging

The regular review of the major programs and policies relating to children (held every 5 years), provides a good opportunity for critical assessment of the implementation and status of child rights in Australia.

The Commissioner's submission to Australia's Draft Fourth Report to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child recommended greater participation by children and young people in the reporting process.

Influencing

The Commissioner submitted the Commonwealth Government implement a robust and extensive consultation process over the next 5 years, particularly with children and young people.

Submission to the Commonwealth Government on the issue of homelessness

Listening and Engaging

Of great concern to the Commissioner is the large representation of children and young people who experience homelessness.

Children and young people who have experienced homelessness are more likely to become homeless as adults thus repeating a cycle of disadvantage that has enormous social and economic costs to the individual and the

community as a whole.

The Commonwealth Government released a Green Paper on Homelessness in May 2008.

The Commissioner partnered with the New South Wales Commissioner for Children and Young People to respond to the Green Paper.

At the request of the Commissioner, key stakeholders with knowledge of homelessness were contacted for their perspectives on the Green Paper and for information about children and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Western Australia. Several key reports and publications were also reviewed.

Influencing

The Commissioners' joint submission was delivered in June 2008 and made several recommendations. They include:

- Develop service models that accommodate families immediately in long term housing
- Provide a sense of security and control to enable children and young people to maintain normal activities
- Respond to children and young people's expressed needs as individuals within the family context
- Adopt models of support that aim to build trusting relationships that can move with the child, or young person, minimising the number of support workers over time
- Provide children and young people with information to enable their voices be heard.

Review of legislation

Listening and Engaging

The Commissioner monitored and reviewed written laws, draft laws, policies, practices, and services affecting the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Commissioner wrote to directors general and WA Parliamentary committees advising of her function to review laws and other matters relating to children and young people and requesting she be consulted on development of laws affecting children and young people in Western Australia.

The Commissioner monitored Hansard, Acts in force and associated amendments and Parliamentary Bills throughout 2007-2008.

Influencing

In June 2008 the Commissioner wrote to the Minister for Child Protection on the issue of multiple placements of Aboriginal children, aged 0 to 5 years in June 2008 after the matter was raised in the WA Parliament.

The Commissioner met legal counsel for the Department for Child Protection to discuss proposed amendments to facilitate a secure welfare service for child protection.

In May 2008, following the passage of the *Bail Amendment Act 2008 Act* (to be proclaimed), the Commissioner began examining processes around the care of children when a parent or caregiver is detained in custody.

Staff of the Commissioner held discussions with Outcare, Ruah and Ngala about issues and impacts on children and young people whose mothers are in prison.



Consultation on accessibility and design aspects of a permanent office was undertaken with children and young people between March and May 2008.

listening

Best practice culture and operating environment

Established the Commissioner's office and recruited staff

Commenced work on developing a 5 year strategic plan for the Office of the Commissioner

Listening and Engaging

The Western Australian Government in 2004 undertook a Statewide consultation with children and young people to help frame the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

Listening and Engaging

In June 2008 work began on developing the strategic aims, outcomes and effectiveness measures of the Office to 2012.

Children aged between 9 and 12 years raised health, wellbeing and safety, both in and outside their homes as issues a Commissioner should focus on.

Influencing

The strategic plan will be delivered through consulting directly with children and young people, giving a voice to their concerns as well as to their positive contribution, influencing public policy and by developing a best practice culture and operating environment.

Children and young adults aged 12 to 25 years viewed the Commissioner as an advocate who should provide a positive voice for children and young people.

The strategic plan will assist the development of key performance measures in 2008-2009.

The Commissioner opened an office in December 2007 in temporary premises under an service agreement with the Department of the Attorney General.

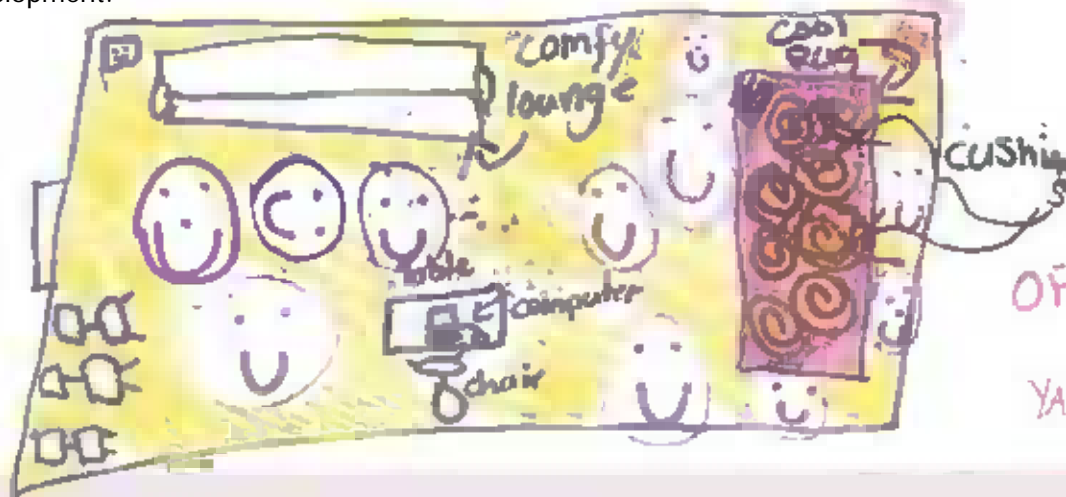
The Commissioner expects to open a permanent office, accessible to children and young people, in the second half of 2008-2009.

Influencing

The Commissioner recruits staff who are innovative, passionate and collaborative. There is a commitment to ongoing training and staff development.



Performance review



Began developing a policy for the handling of complaints made to the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Listening and Engaging

As part of her commitment to ensuring that her Office's complaints handling processes are effective and efficient, the Commissioner began developing a complaints handling policy which will apply to her Office and aims to:

- promote professional responses to complaints and suggestions
- ensure complaints are dealt with fairly and consistently
- create opportunities for complaints to inform continual improvement of the Office's services and processes
- strengthen public confidence in the Office's administrative processes.

The information and input provided by children and young people during complaints consultation undertaken in May 2008 will ensure that the policy is accessible and responsive to children and young people.

Influencing

Formal recording of complaints began in January 2008.

As at 30 June 2008, no complaints about the Commissioner for Children and Young People or her Office had been received.

Developed a corporate identity for the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Listening and Engaging

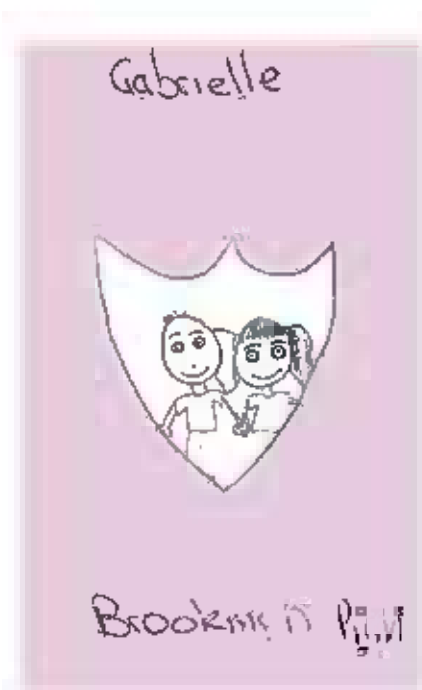
The Millennium Kids consultation with 270 children and young people conducted between March and May 2008 on behalf of the Commissioner also became the brief for the design of the Commissioner's logo.

Influencing

The consultation will guide future campaigns to support and encourage children and young people to participate in the decision-making process. It will also inform the design and layout of the permanent office accommodation, incorporating a meeting space for children and young people.

The consistent themes across this aspect of the consultation were "bright and colourful", "something that stands out" and "inviting and friendly".

thinking



What are the things the Commissioner could do to make life better for you and the other children and young people in WA?

Designing



- Needs to listen to our recommendations - listen to our voice
- Needs to respond in a variety of ways - be flexible
- Needs to advocate on behalf of children and young people - be strong.

Commissioner's Consultation with Millennium Kids 2008.

Disclosures and Legal Compliance

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General Information

This financial report covers the Commissioner for Children and Young People (the Commissioner).

The Commissioner is an independent statutory body proclaimed under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006 (WA)*.

The office and principal place of business of the Commissioner is:

Level 22
Forrest Centre
221 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

For information about the Commission's financial report please call 08 6213 2297 or 1800 072 444 (country freecall), email info@ccyp.wa.gov.au go to www.ccyp.wa.gov.au

Certification of Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

The accompanying financial statements of the Commissioner for Children and Young People have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2008 and the financial position as at 30 June 2008.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Philippa Gardener
Chief Finance Officer
22 August 2008



Michelle Scott
Accountable Authority
22 August 2008

Auditor's opinion letter



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

I have audited the accounts, financial statements and controls of the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

Commissioner's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Commissioner is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

Summary of my Role

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements and controls based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer "<http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/Audit-Practice-Statement.pdf>".

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Commissioner for Children and Young People at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions; and
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Commissioner provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

Handwritten signature of Colin Murphy in black ink.

COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
18 September 2008

Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$
COST OF SERVICES		
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	7	486,453
Supplies and services	8	269,317
Depreciation and amortisation expense	9	6,673
Other expenses	10	3,167
Total cost of services		<u>765,610</u>
Income		
NET COST OF SERVICES		<u>765,610</u>
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT		
Service Appropriation	11	1,365,000
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer		-
Asset assumed/(transferred)	11	12,996
Resources received free of charge		-
Total income from State Government		<u>1,377,996</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD		<u>612,386</u>

Disclosures
and Legal
Compliance

The income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	20	780,287
Receivables	13	112,177
Total Current Assets		<u>892,464</u>
Non-Current Assets		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	12,20	8,043
Property, plant and equipment	14	52,048
Intangible assets	15	14,248
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>74,339</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>966,803</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	17	244,510
Provisions	18	89,770
Total Current Liabilities		<u>334,280</u>
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	18	20,137
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>20,137</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>354,417</u>
Net Assets		<u>612,386</u>
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus/(deficiency)	19	612,386
Total Equity		<u>612,386</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u>966,803</u>

The income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$
Balance of equity at start of period		
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	19	
Balance at start of period		-
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors		-
Restated balance at start of period		-
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		612,386
Gain/(losses) recognised directly in equity		-
Balance at end of period		612,386
Balance of equity at end of period		612,386
Total income and expense for the period		-

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$
CASH FLOW FROM STATE GOVERNMENT		
Service appropriations		1,365,000
Capital contributions		-
Holding account drawdowns		-
Non-retained revenue distributed to owner		-
Net Cash provided by State Government		1,365,000
Utilised as follows:		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Employee benefits		(372,986)
Supplies and services		(143,999)
Finance costs		-
Grants and subsidies		-
GST payments on purchases		(18,421)
GST payments to taxation authority		-
Other payments		(2,658)
Receipts		
Sale of goods and services		-
User charges and fees		-
Commonwealth grants and contributions		-
Interest received		-
GST receipts on sales		-
GST receipts from taxation authority		-
Other Receipts		-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	(538,064)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		-
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(38,606)
Net Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(38,606)

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$
Net Cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		788,330
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		-
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	20	788,330

The Cash Flow Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

1. Mission and funding

The mission of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) is "To work with children, families, community and government to enhance the well being of all children and young people in Western Australia."

CCYP is mainly funded by Parliamentary appropriation. The financial statements encompass all funds through which CCYP controls resources to carry on its functions.

2. Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

General

CCYP's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

In preparing these financial statements CCYP has adopted, where relevant to its operations, new and revised Standards and Interpretations from their operative dates as issued by the AASB and formerly the Urgent Issues Group (UIG).

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The Financial Management Act and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standard AAS 29 "Financial Reporting by Government Departments" on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of land, buildings and infrastructure which have been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

The judgements that have been made in the process of applying CCYP's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are disclosed at note 4 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies'.

The key assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed at note 5 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty'.

(c) **Reporting Entity**

The reporting entity comprises CCYP.

(d) **Contributed Equity**

UIG Interpretations 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners by Treasurer's Instruction (TI) 955 "Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities" and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal. See note 19 'Equity'.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

(e) **Income**

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Rendering of Services

Revenue is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Service Appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues in the period in which CCYP gains control of the appropriated funds. CCYP gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into CCYPs bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury. See note 11 "Income from State Government" for further detail.

Net Appropriation Determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of CCYP. CCYP retained \$0 in 2008.

Gains

Gains may be realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

(f) **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Income Statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Initial recognition and measurement

All items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.

For items of property, plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

After recognition as an asset, CCYP uses the cost model for all other property, plant and equipment. All items of property, plant and equipment are carried at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

De-recognition

Upon disposal or de-recognition of an item of property, plant and equipment, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation reserve.

Depreciation

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation on assets is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Computer hardware	3 years
Office equipment	5 years

(g) **Intangible Assets**

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 and more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$50,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful life. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Income Statement.

All acquired and internally developed intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation for intangible assets with finite useful lives is calculated for the period of the expected benefit (estimated useful life) on the straight line basis using rates which are reviewed annually. All intangible assets controlled by CCYP have a finite useful life and zero residual value. The expected useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Software	3 years
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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

Computer Software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$5,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

(h) **Impairment of Assets**

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets are tested for any indication of impairment at each balance sheet date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As CCYP is a not-for-profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at each balance sheet date irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at each balance sheet date.

(i) **Leases**

CCYP holds operating leases for its office building and motor vehicles where the lessor effectively retains all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the items held under the operating leases. Equal installments of the lease payments are charged to the Income Statement over the lease term as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property and motor vehicles.

(j) **Financial Instruments**

In addition to cash, CCYP has two categories of financial instrument:

- * Receivables; and
- * Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.

These have been disaggregated into the following classes:

Financial Assets

- * Cash and cash equivalents
- * Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- * Receivables

Financial Liabilities

- * Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

(k) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents includes restricted cash and cash equivalents. These are comprised of cash on hand.

(l) **Accrued Salaries**

The accrued salaries suspense account (see note 12 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

Accrued salaries (refer note 17 'Payables') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. CCYP considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

(m) **Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)**

CCYP receives appropriation funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (Holding Account Receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover items such as leave entitlements and asset replacement.

As at June 30, 2008 CCYP had no funds retained as a Holding Account Receivable.

(n) **Receivables**

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the allowances account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that CCYP will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See note 3(j) 'Financial Instruments and note 13 'Receivables'.

(o) **Payables**

Payables are recognised when CCYP becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days. See note 3(j) 'Financial Instruments and note 17 'Payables'.

(p) **Provisions**

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing and amount and are recognised where there is a present legal, equitable or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. See note 18 'Provisions'.

(i) **Provisions - Employee Benefits**

Annual Leave and Long Service Leave

The liability for annual and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the balance sheet date is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Annual and long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months after the end of the balance sheet date is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Leave liabilities are in respect of services provided by employees up to the balance sheet date.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions. In addition, the long service leave liability also considers the experience of employee departures and periods of service.

The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the balance sheet date on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

All annual leave and unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as CCYP does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers the following superannuation schemes.

Employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members. CCYP has no liabilities for superannuation charges under the Pension or the GSS Schemes as the liability has been assumed by the Treasurer.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who are not members of either the Pension or the GSS Schemes became non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS). Both of these schemes are accumulation schemes. CCYP makes concurrent contributions to GESB on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. These contributions extinguish the liability for superannuation charges in respect of the WSS and GESBS Schemes.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension and GSS Schemes, and is recouped by the Treasurer for the employer's share.

See also note 3(q) 'Superannuation expense'.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

ii) Provisions - Other

Employment On-costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of CCYP's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'. (See note 10 'Other expenses and note 18 'Provisions').

(q) Superannuation Expense

The following elements are included in calculating the superannuation expense in the Income Statement:

- (a) Defined benefit plans - Change in the unfunded employer's liability (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) assumed by the Treasurer in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS); and
- (b) Defined contribution plans - Employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS) and the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS).

Defined benefit plans - in order to reflect the true cost of services, the movements (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) in the liabilities in respect of the Pension Scheme and the GSS Scheme transfer benefits are recognised as expenses directly in the Income Statement. As these liabilities are assumed by the Treasurer (*refer note 3(p)(i)*), a revenue titled 'Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer' equivalent to the expense is recognised under Income from State Government in the Income Statement. See note 11 'Income from State Government'.

The superannuation expense does not include payment of pensions to retirees, as this does not constitute part of the cost of services provided in the current year.

Defined contribution plans - in order to reflect CCYP's true cost of services, CCYP is funded for the equivalent of employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme (excluding transfer benefits). These contributions were paid to the GESB during the year and placed in a trust account administered by the GESB on behalf of the Treasurer. The GESB subsequently paid these employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme to the Consolidated Fund.

The GSS Scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purpose of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, apart from the transfer benefit, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the agency to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

- (r) **Resources Received Free of Charge or for Nominal Cost**
Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income and as assets or expenses as appropriate at fair value.
- (s) **Comparative Figures**
Comparative figures are not provided in these financial statements as this is the first year of CCYP's operations.

4. Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies

The judgements that have been used in the process of applying accounting policies have had no material effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

5. Key sources of estimation uncertainty

There were no estimates or assumptions made concerning the future, or other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that are likely to have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

6. Disclosure of Accounting Policy and Estimates

Initial Application of an Australian Accounting Standard

CCYP has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2007 on CCYP:

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

1. AASB 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures' (including consequential amendments in AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'). This Standard requires new disclosures in relation to financial instruments and while there is no financial impact, the changes have resulted in increased disclosures, both quantitative and qualitative, of CCYPs exposure to risks, including enhanced disclosure regarding components of CCYPs financial position and performances and changes to the way of presenting certain items in the notes to the financial statements.

Voluntary Changes in Accounting Policy

There were no voluntary changes in CCYP's accounting policies during the 2007-08 financial year.

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

CCYP cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, CCYP has not applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective. These will be applied from their application date:

	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (September 2007). This Standard has been revised and will change the structure of the financial statements. These changes will require that owner changes in equity are presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. CCYP does not expect any financial impact when the Standard first applied.	1 January 2009

Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments' and 31 'Financial Reporting by Governments'. The AASB has made the following pronouncement from its short term review of AAS 27, AAS 29, and AAS 31:

AASB 1004 'Contribution' (December 2007)	1 July 2008
AASB 1050 'Administered Items' (December 2007)	1 July 2008
AASB 1051 'Land Under Roads' (December 2007)	1 July 2008
AASB 1052 'Disaggregated Disclosures' (December 2007)	1 July 2008
AASB 2007-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127 & AASB 137] (December 2007).'	1 July 2008
Interpretation 1038 'Contribution by Owners Made Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' (December 2007)	1 July 2008

The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and existing topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. The new and revised Standards make some modification to disclosure, otherwise there will be no financial impact.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$
7. Employee benefits expense	
Wages and salaries ^(a)	435,173
Superannuation - defined contribution plans ^(b)	27,881
Long service leave ^(c)	2,175
Annual leave ^(c)	14,689
Other related expenses	6,535
	<u>486,453</u>
(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefit tax component	
(b) Defined contribution plans include West State and Gold State and GESB Super Scheme (contributions paid).	
(c) Includes a superannuation contribution component.	
<i>Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 18 'Provisions'.</i>	
8. Supplies and Services	
Communications	8,553
Contractors	56,259
Consultants	44,669
Consumables	57,600
Travel	9,873
Lease, Rent and Hire Costs	60,223
Other	32,140
	<u>269,317</u>
9. Depreciation and amortisation expense	
Depreciation	
Computer equipment	5,139
Office equipment	696
Total Depreciation	<u>5,835</u>
Amortisation	
Intangible assets	838
Total amortisation	<u>838</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>6,673</u>

	2008
	\$
10. Other expenses	
Employment on-cost ^(a)	3,167
	<u>3,167</u>

(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 18 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

11. Income from State Government	
Appropriation received during the year:	
Service appropriations ^(a)	1,365,000
	<u>1,365,000</u>

The following assets have been assumed from/(transferred to) another state government agencies during the financial year: ^(b)

Office equipment	12,996
Total asset assumed/(transferred)	<u>12,996</u>
	<u>1,377,996</u>

(a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

(b) Where the Treasurer or other entity has assumed a liability, CCYP recognises revenues equivalent to the amount of the liability assumed and an expense relating to the nature of the event or events that initially gave rise to the liability. From 1 July 2002 non-discretionary non-reciprocal transfers of net assets (ie. restructuring of administrative arrangements) have been classified as Contributions by Owners (CBOs) under TI 955 and are taken directly to equity. Discretionary transfers of assets between State Government agencies are reported as assets assumed/(transferred) under Income from State Government.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008
	\$
12. Restricted cash and cash equivalents	
<i>Non-current</i>	
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(a)	8,043
	<u>8,043</u>
(a) Amount held in the suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years	
13. Receivables	
Current	
Receivables	-
Allowances for impairment of receivables	-
Accrued Revenue	92,064
GST Receivable	20,113
Total Current	<u>112,177</u>
Credit Risk	
Ageing of receivables past due but not impaired based on the information provided to senior management, at the balance sheet date:	
Not more than 3 months	20,113
More than 3 months but less than 6 months	-
More than 6 months but less than 1 year	-
More than 1 year	-
	<u>20,113</u>
14. Property, Plant and Equipment	
Plant and equipment	
At Cost	37,220
Accumulated depreciation	(5,139)
Accumulated impairment losses	-
	<u>32,081</u>

	2008
	\$
Office equipment	
At cost	20,663
Accumulated depreciation	(696)
Accumulated impairment losses	-
	<u>19,967</u>
	<u>52,048</u>

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below:

	Plant and equipment \$	Office equipment \$	Total \$
2008			
Carrying amount at start of last year	-	-	-
Additions	37,220	20,663	57,883
Depreciation	(5,139)	(696)	(5,835)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>32,081</u>	<u>19,967</u>	<u>52,048</u>

15. Intangible Assets

Computer software	
At cost	15,086
Accumulated amortisation	(838)
Accumulated impairment losses	-
	<u>14,248</u>

Computer Software

Carrying amount at start of year	-
Additions	15,086
Classified as held for sale	-
Revaluation increments	-
Impairment losses recognised in Income Statement	-
Impairment losses reversed in Income Statement	-
Amortisation expense	(838)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>14,248</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

16. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment, and intangible assets at 30 June 2008.

CCYP held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period and at balance sheet date there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

17. Payables

Current

Trade payables	18,567
Accrued Expenses	219,810
Accrued Salaries	6,133
Other	-
Total Current	244,510

See also note 3(o) 'Payables' and note 25 'Financial Instruments'.

18. Provisions

Current

Employee benefits provision	
Annual leave ^(a)	19,595
Long service leave ^(b)	69,760
	89,355

Other provisions

Employment on-costs ^(c)	415
	415
	89,770

Non-current

Employee benefits provision	
Long service leave ^(b)	20,043
Deferred salary scheme	-
	20,043

Other provisions	-
Employment on-costs ^(c)	94
	94
	20,137

- (a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of balance sheet date	19,595
More than 12 months after balance sheet date	-
	19,595

- (b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of balance sheet date	-
More than 12 months after balance sheet date	89,803
	89,803

- (c) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including worker's compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Movement in Other Provisions

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits are set out below.

Employment on-cost provision

Carrying amount at start of year	-
Additional provisions recognised	509
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	-

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

Unwinding of discount	-
Carrying amount at end of year	-
	509

19. Equity

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of CCYP. The Government holds the equity interest in CCYP on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.

Reserves

Accumulated surplus/(deficit)

Balance at the start of the year	-
Result for the period	612,386
Income and expense recognised directly to equity	-
Balance at the end of the year	612,386

20. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	780,287
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (refer to note 12)	8,043
	788,330

Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/ (used in) operating activities

Net cost of services	(765,610)
Non-cash items:	
Depreciation and amortisation expense	6,673
Doubtful debts expense	-
Superannuation expense	-
Resources received free of charge	-

Net (gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	-
<i>(Increase)/decrease in assets:</i>	
Current receivables ^(c)	(92,064)
Other current assets	-
Non-current receivables	-
<i>(Increase)/decrease in liabilities:</i>	
Current payables	223,143
Current provisions	89,770
Other current liabilities	-
Non-current provisions	20,137
Other non-current liabilities	-
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(a)	-
Change in GST in receivables/payables ^(b)	(20,113)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(538,064)

(a) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transaction.

(b) This reverses out the GST in receivables and payables.

(c) Note that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and the receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.

21. Resources provided free of charge

CCYP did not provide any resources to other agencies free of charge.

22. Commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases commitments	
Within 1 year	193,568
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	675,180
Later than 5 years	-
	868,748

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

The non-cancellable operating leases represent CCYP's property lease and leases on motor vehicles. The property lease is non-cancellable lease with a one year term with a further option to renew the lease for another two years. Rent is payable monthly. Contingent rent provisions within the lease agreement allow for the minimum lease payments to be reviewed and increased in line with movements in market rents.

The motor vehicle lease is a non-cancellable lease with a two year term, with lease payments monthly. New vehicle leases are negotiated at the end of this period, the number of vehicle leases being subject to CCYP's operational needs.

Other expenditure commitments for operational expenditure contracted at the balance sheet date but not recognised as liabilities, are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	12,798
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	
Later than 5 years	
	12,798

These commitments are all inclusive of GST.

23. Event occurring after the balance sheet date.

There were no events occurring after the reporting date that impact on the financial statements.

24. Explanatory Statement

This is the first year of CCYP's operations. CCYP has been funded in 2007/08 by way of a Section 25 of the *Financial Management Act (FMA)* Transfer of Appropriation. CCYP had not established its Mission, Desired Outcome or Services in 2007/08 and hence formal Parliamentary appropriation funding for its Services and Outcomes had not been established at June 30 2008. Therefore, the explanatory statement required under the FMA is focused on significant variances between CCYP's overall funding under the Section 25 transfer and overall expenditure against that appropriation. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$137,000. No comparatives are made to the prior year as this is the first year of CCYP's operations.

(i) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2008 -
Total appropriation to deliver services:

2008 Estimate \$	2008 Actual \$	Variation \$
1,365,000	765,610	599,390

The variance reflects that CCYP did not commence operations until 10 December 2007 and therefore was not operational for the full appropriation period. Difficulty in securing permanent accommodation and labour as a consequence of tightening availability of these resources contributed to the variation.

25. Financial Instruments

(a) Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Financial Instruments held by CCYP are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents and receivables and payables. All of CCYP's cash is held in the public bank account (non-interest bearing) apart from restricted cash held in a special purpose account. CCYP has limited exposure to financial risks. CCYP's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of CCYP's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to CCYP. CCYP measures credit risk on a fair value basis and monitors risk on regular basis.

The maximum credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment, as shown in the table at Note 25(c).

Credit risk associated with CCYP's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is amounts owing from other government agencies. For receivables other than government, CCYP trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on a ongoing basis with the result that CCYP's exposure to bad debts is minimal. There are no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Provision for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on past experience, and current and expected changes in client credit ratings. For financial assets that are either past due or impaired, refer to Note 13 'Receivables'.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

Liquidity Risk

CCYP is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. Liquidity risk arises when CCYP is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

CCYP has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Market Risk

CCYP does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 25(c), CCYP is not exposed to interest rate risk because all other cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing, and CCYP has no borrowings.

(b) Categories of Financial Instruments

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows

	2008 \$
Financial Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	780,287
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	8,043
Receivables ^(a)	92,064
Financial Liabilities	
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	244,510

^(a) The amount of receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(c) Financial Instrument disclosures

Credit Risk, Liquidity Risk and Interest Rate Risk Exposure

The following table details the exposure to liquidity risk and interest rate risk as at the balance sheet date. CCYP's maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of the financial assets as shown on the following table. The table is based on information provided to senior management of CCYP. The contractual maturity amounts in the table are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. An adjustment for discounting has been made where material.

CCYP does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

CCYP does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.

	Weighted average effective interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non- Interest Bearing	Contractual Maturity Dates:						Adjustment for Discounting	Carrying Amount
				Within 1 Year	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	More than 5 Years		
2008	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Financial assets</u>											
Cash and cash equivalents	-	780,287	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	780,287
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	-	8,043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,043
Receivables ^(a)	-	92,064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,064
	0	880,394	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	880,394
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>											
Payables	-	244,510	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	244,510
	0	244,510	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	244,510

(a) the amount of receivables exclude GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable). The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted Cash Flows of each class of Financial Liabilities.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

Interest rate Sensitivity analysis

None of CCYP's financial assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are sensitive to movements in interest rates, hence movements in interest rates have no bottom line impact on CCYP's surplus or equity.

Fair values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the balance sheet, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

		2008 \$
26. Remuneration of senior officers		
<i>Remuneration</i>		
The number of senior officers whose total of fees, salaries superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits received, or due and receivable, for the financial year, who fall within the following bands are:		
	\$	
	10,001 - 20,000	
	20,001 - 30,000	
	30,001 - 40,000	1
	40,001 - 50,000	1
	50,001 - 60,000	
	60,001 - 70,000	
	70,001 - 80,000	
	80,001 - 90,000	
	90,001 - 100,000	
	100,001 - 110,000	1
The total remuneration of senior officers is:		183,165

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by CCYP in respect of senior officers.

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

27. **Remuneration of Auditor**

Remuneration payable to the Auditor General for the financial year is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators

\$ 8,300

Statement towards performance indicators

At 30 June 2008 the Commissioner was developing the key performance indicators appropriate to assess and monitor the effective and efficient operation of her office.

These will be implemented in 2008-2009 in consultation with the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance. Reporting will commence in 2008-2009.



Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People
18 September 2008

Ministerial directives

Except as provided in Section 26 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006, the Commissioner is not subject to direction by the Minister, or any other person in the performance of her functions.

There were no directions under Section 26 of the Act in 2007-2008.

The Commissioner is accountable to the Western Australian Parliament Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The Committee had not met at 30 June 2008.

Other Financial Disclosures

Pricing Policies of services provided

The Commissioner's services are provided free of charge.

Capital Works

There were no capital works to 30 June 2008.

Employment and Industrial Relations

Staff profile at 30 June 2008

Full-time permanent	5
Full-time contract	3
Part-time measured on a FTE basis	2.4
On secondment	2
TOTAL	12.4

Staff Development

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is committed to the development of a professional and ethical culture, practice and infrastructure in her office.

Employees are innovative, passionate and collaborative. They are valued as people as well as workers and are encouraged to achieve high standards in a family-friendly workplace. The Commissioner for Children and Young People became a Corporate Member of the Institute of Public Administration Australia (WA).

Members of the Commissioner's staff attended a number of courses, seminars and presentations in 2008.

Workers Compensation

There were no claims for workers compensation to 30 June 2008.

Governance Disclosures

Contracts with Senior Officers

At 30 June 2008, other than normal contracts of employment of service, no senior officers, or firms of which senior officers are members, or entities in which senior officers have substantial interests, had any interest in existing or proposed contracts with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and senior officers.

Other Legal Requirements

Advertising

In compliance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Office is required to report on expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

Details are as follows:

Expenditure with Advertising Agencies

Market Force Australia	\$2,968
Expenditure with Market Research Agencies	\$0
Tattoo Creative	\$9,801
Expenditure with Polling Agencies	\$0
Expenditure with Direct Mail Agencies	\$0
Expenditure with Media Advertising Agencies	\$0

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **\$12,769**

Disability Access and Inclusion

The *Disability Services Act 1993* was amended in December 2004, creating a requirement for public authorities to develop and implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).

Under that Act, public authorities required to develop a DAIP must include in their Annual Report details of progress in meeting the six desired outcomes of the DAIP.

The DAIP for the Commissioner for Children and Young People is under development and will be submitted to the Disability Services Commission in 2008-2009.

When approved, the draft DAIP will be posted on the Commissioner's website, and will be made available, upon request, in alternative formats.

The public will be asked to identify any problems using the services of the Commissioner, accessing information, making complaints, physically accessing the Office and meeting spaces, and generally dealing with staff.

Any barriers to access and inclusion identified from the public consultation will be incorporated in the DAIP.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is committed to ensuring that:

- people with disabilities, their families and carers, have equal opportunity to access the services of the Commissioner and any events organised by the Commissioner
- people with disabilities have equality of access to buildings and other facilities occupied by the Commissioner

- people with disabilities receive information from the Commissioner in a format that enables them to access the information as readily as others
- people with disabilities, their families and carers, receive the same level and quality of service from the Commissioner's staff as others
- people with disabilities have equal opportunity to make complaints to the Commissioner
- when the Commissioner conducts public consultation, that people with disabilities have the same opportunity to participate as others

Compliance with s 31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*

In the administration of the Office, I have complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and the Conduct Guide published by the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner. All employees are briefed on the Code of Ethics and Conduct Guide as part of their induction on commencement. Fortnightly staff meetings are held where any matters relevant to Public Sector Standards are raised and discussed.

I have put in place procedures designed to ensure such compliance and conducted appropriate internal assessments to satisfy myself that the statement above is correct.

The applications made for breach of standards review and the corresponding outcomes for the reporting period are:

Number lodged:	nil
Number of breaches found, including details of multiple breaches per application:	nil
Number still under review:	nil



Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People
18 September 2008

Other Legal Requirements

Recordkeeping Plan

The Commissioner's Recordkeeping Plan was submitted within six months of her appointment in accordance with Section 61 of the *State Records Act 2000*, and accepted by the State Records Commission in accordance with Standard 2 Principle 6.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the plan will be evaluated in 2008-2009. Training in the office's Total Records and Information Management (TRIM) electronic system of record-keeping is provided to all staff and will be reviewed in 2008-2009.

Every member of the Commissioner's staff is responsible for ensuring that they are aware of and comply with the Commissioner's record keeping standards. Information is provided to all new employees on induction.

Government Policy Requirements

Corruption Prevention

Any complaint to the Commissioner for Children and Young People concerning corruption or misconduct is referred directly to the Commissioner.

In April 2008 the Commissioner endorsed a complaints handling policy which applies to all staff and aims to:

- promote professional responses to complaints and suggestions
- ensure complaints are dealt with fairly and consistently
- create opportunities for complaints to inform continual improvement of the Commissioner's services and processes and
- strengthen public confidence in the Commissioner's administrative processes.

The Commissioner's complaints handling policy was informed by the Australian Standard for Complaints Handling¹², the WA Ombudsman, the WA Corruption and Crime Commission and the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner.

The policy addresses the procedures for handling complaints which make any allegation of misconduct against a staff member.

All staff are informed of the complaints policy and procedures on induction.

There were no complaints alleging misconduct or corruption to 30 June 2008.

Sustainability

The Commissioner is yet to develop a Sustainability Action Plan. However, in 2007-2008, the Commissioner met her commitments under the Sustainability Code of Practice of Government Agencies by:

- commencing development of a Strategic Plan which reflects the State Sustainability Strategy and where outcomes are aligned with relevant government goals
- consulting citizens, especially children and young people and people in regional Western Australia, on policy and decision-making
- complying with State Supply Commission policies and guidelines
- working collaboratively to ensure whole of government approaches to planning, decision-making and resource allocation
- adopting a paperless recordkeeping system and introducing paper recycling and other waste management practices in the Commissioner's Office
- minimising vehicle use and maximising fuel efficiency
- complying with Department of Housing and Works office accommodation policies
- inducting new staff in occupational safety and health measures in the workplace and managing safety and health risks.

¹² Australian Standard, *Customer Satisfaction – Guidelines for Complaints Handling in Organisations (ISO10002:2004, MOD)*, Standards Australia, 2006, p.2.

Occupational Safety and Health

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is committed to occupational safety and health and injury management. The Commissioner is yet to finalise an Occupational Safety and Health Strategy.

All employees are briefed on emergency evacuation procedures on commencement as part of their induction.

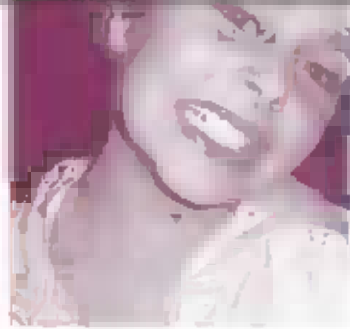
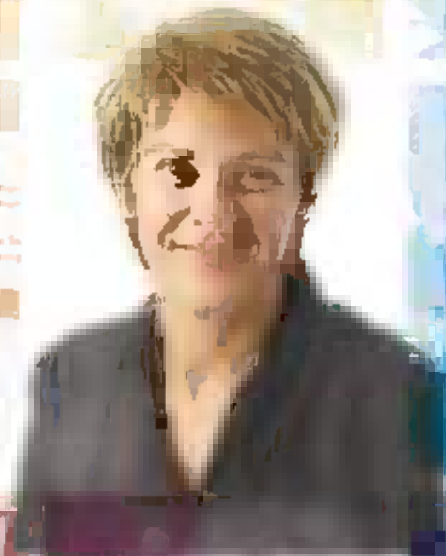
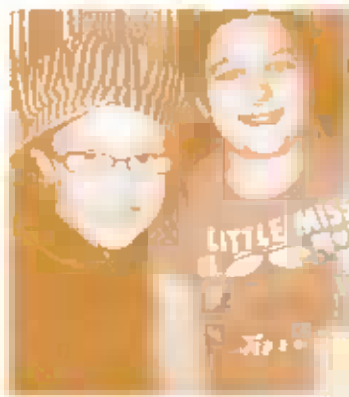
Occupational Safety and Health is a standing item on the agenda of regular staff meetings.

- In the administration of the Office, I have complied with the injury management requirements of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.
- I have put in place procedures designed to ensure such compliance and conducted appropriate internal assessments to satisfy myself that the statement above is correct.
- A summary of occupational safety and health incidents in 2007-2008 is below:

Number of fatalities:	nil
Lost time injury/diseases incidence rate:	nil
Lost time injury severity rate:	nil



Michelle Scott
Commissioner for Children and Young People
18 September 2008



Disclosures
and Legal
Compliance

