



**Commissioner for Children and Young People**  
Western Australia

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2012-13**

# READING THE ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report can be accessed in several different formats.

## Online

This Annual Report is available as a PDF download from [www.ccyp.wa.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au) as a full report or in its individual sections:

- From the Commissioner (Executive summary)
- Overview of the agency, including the Performance Management Framework
- Agency performance
- Significant issues impacting the agency
- Disclosures and legal compliance, including financial statements

Hyperlinks are included throughout the report and are [highlighted in blue and underlined](#).

## Hard copy

Printed copies of the report can be viewed at the:

Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Ground floor  
1 Alvan Street  
SUBIACO WA

State Library of Western Australia  
Alexander Library Building  
Perth Cultural Centre  
NORTHBRIDGE WA

## Alternative formats

On request, large print or copies of the Annual Report in an alternate format can be obtained from the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Additionally, the 2012–13 Report to the Community is available from the [publications section of the Commissioner's website](#).

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# LETTER TO PARLIAMENT

Hon. Barry House MLC  
President, Legislative Council

Hon. Michael Sutherland MLA  
Speaker, Legislative Assembly

## Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People 2012–13

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit to Parliament for information the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ending 30 June 2013.

This 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*.

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

16 August 2013



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# FROM THE COMMISSIONER

## Executive summary

I am pleased to present my sixth Annual Report to the Parliament of Western Australia as the Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia (the Commissioner).

I am required to discharge a broad range of responsibilities under the [Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006](#) (the Act).

As required under the Act, all aspects of my work in 2012–13 had a special regard to Aboriginal children and young people and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

### The views of children and young people

In addition to what research and evidence tells us about children and young people's wellbeing, the views of children and young people from all over WA help guide my work.

I have continued to work with my Advisory Committees of children and young people. My two 2011 and 2012 Advisory Committees submitted to me insightful 'Us and Our Community' reports and provided valuable advice and comment. In 2013, I appointed four new Advisory Committees.

Overall in 2012–13, I conducted 23 separate consultations with children and young people and began two consultation projects which will provide specific groups of children and young people with a stronger voice in the community. The Speaking Out About Disability project commenced this year involves partnerships with community organisations to hold face-to-face consultations with children and young people with disability, as well as an online survey. The consultation was guided by a reference group of organisations working with children and young people with disability, and young people with disability. The report will be published in late 2013.



Commissioner for Children and Young People Michelle Scott

The second consultation project involves partnering with Awesome Arts' 2013 Creative Challenge. This partnership will enable me to hear the views and concerns of children and young people living in regional and remote areas of WA.

My 2012 Commissioner for a Day Challenge asked how media and advertising affected young people's lives. More than 60 young people took part, identifying issues such as unrealistic body images for girls and boys, celebrity endorsement and the excessive promotion of unhealthy products. Thirteen year-old Ciara from Kenwick was selected as the Commissioner for a Day. Her day as Commissioner included meeting the Minister for Youth at Parliament House and working with an advertising agency to create an advert containing positive messages for young people.



Commissioner for a Day Ciara at Parliament House with her mum and the Commissioner

### Wellbeing monitoring framework

Since commencing as the State's first independent Commissioner for Children and Young People in December 2007, my approach has been to focus on what the best available evidence and research says about the wellbeing of our children and young people.

In February 2012 I tabled in the Western Australian Parliament the first edition of the two key reports that comprise the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework: *The State of Western Australia's Children and Young People* and *Building Blocks – Best practice programs that improve the wellbeing of children and young people*.

These reports provided, for the first time, a single source of data and research by which policies, programs and services for children, young people and families can be improved.

I worked closely with government and non-government organisations throughout 2012–13 to promote the use of these reports and the importance of evidence-based decision making.

In 2012–13 my office commenced work to develop the second edition of these reports to provide further useful data and help to identify and respond to trends in children and young people's wellbeing.

It is anticipated the second edition of these reports will be tabled in the Parliament in the first half of 2014.

### Mental health

Throughout 2012–13 I worked closely with the Mental Health Commission and other agencies to promote and monitor the implementation of the 54 recommendations of my *Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia*, which was tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia in May 2011.

Progress has been made in many areas, including implementation of the State Government's initial 10 Child and Parent Centres and the announcement for a further six centres; continued progress on youth mental health facilities and services; the commencement of the pilot Mental Health Diversion and Support program located at the Perth Children's Court; and the State Government's commitment to implementing the recommendations of Professor Stokes' review of WA's mental health services and facilities.

In addition to this work, I continued my broader advocacy regarding mental health. A number of submissions relating to mental health were made in 2012–13, including submissions on three significant pieces of Western Australian mental health legislation to ensure that the specific interests, needs and rights of children and young people are fully considered in these areas of legislative reform: the green Mental Health Bill 2012, the Review of the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996 (WA)* and the Declared Places (Mentally Impaired Accused) Bill 2013.



Arising from my mental health Inquiry report, I published a further five policy briefs highlighting specific areas of need, including *Children of parents with mental illness; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people; Children and young people in regional and remote areas; Transition to adulthood; and Children and young people with disability.*

In August 2012, in partnership with the Mental Health Commission, I hosted a seminar for professionals featuring Professor Michael Chandler, renowned for his research into youth suicide among Canada's Indigenous people.

### Youth justice

My mental health Inquiry report found that between 50 and 75 per cent of young people in detention have a serious mental health problem. This year I welcomed the commencement of the pilot mental health diversion and support program located at the Children's Court. However, I highlighted the need to further support the mental health of young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system through significant improvements in assessment and treatment services and the establishment of a dedicated forensic mental health facility for children and young people.

My updated *Youth Justice* issues paper released in May 2013 called for a shift in justice services to provide an increased focus on and investment in evidence-based programs and effective services aimed at reducing offending. This includes a focus on prevention, early intervention and diversion programs in the community, and support and therapeutic services for young people in detention.

Following the serious incident at Banksia Hill Detention Centre in January 2013, I made representations to the Department of Corrective Services, the Inspector of Custodial Services and the WA Ombudsman.

I advocated for a comprehensive plan and clear timeframe for the return of young people in detention at the adult Hakea Prison to Banksia Hill. I made a submission to the Inspector of Custodial Services' 'Review into incident at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre on 20 January 2013.'

### Early childhood

The number of children and young people in WA continues to rapidly increase. There were 32,259 births registered in Western Australia in 2011, a 34.4 per cent increase since 2001 when 24,002 births were registered. Of the entire population of Aboriginal people, almost 40 per cent are children and young people under 18 years. In comparison, less than one-quarter of the non-Aboriginal population are children and young people.

Support for parents, families and young children's healthy development is important. In 2012–13 I have encouraged an increased focus and level of service to provide the strongest possible foundation to our children's lives, for their immediate and long-term health and wellbeing. This involves effective planning to meet the needs of an increasing population and birth rate.

In April 2013 I released my updated *Early Childhood* issues paper.

### Supporting parents

Supporting parents of children and young people was a particular focus of my office in 2012–13. In my discussions with parents all over the State they report that parenting is now more challenging, complex and stressful than ever before and traditional family structures and lives are changing.

I released my *Supporting Parents* issues paper in May 2013 which identified the need for the role of the Department of Local Government and Communities to be enhanced as the lead government agency responsible for coordinating the planning, provision and funding of all parenting services and programs across the State.

The issues paper also advocates for increased investment to ensure universal parent support is available to all WA parents at any stage of their child's development, integrated with targeted programs for those needing greater support.

### Other key policy areas

In August 2012 I released the report of the 2012 Thinker in Residence Dr Stuart Shanker, which focused on how children and young people's self-regulation can be strengthened in WA.

Dr Shanker reported that he was impressed with many of the programs and initiatives he saw during his residency, including the work undertaken by Roseworth Primary School in Girrawheen, but the lack of a systematic, coordinated approach was limiting the benefits to children's wellbeing. To assist the development of a more integrated approach, Dr Shanker has offered the use of Canadian resources and data developed over many years.

Working collaboratively with key organisations, such as the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth and the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), I called for the community and government to adopt a multi-faceted approach to reducing alcohol-related harm. I provided a submission to the Review of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* and released two publications on different aspects of alcohol-related harm – an issues paper *Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)* and a policy brief *Young people speak out about alcohol and sport*.

Following the publication of resources relating to the sexualisation of children in 2011–12, I promoted the need for increased debate and research into this area. As part of this work I hosted two seminars in November 2012 which featured keynote addresses by the President of the Australian Council on Children and the Media Professor Elizabeth Handsley. These seminars, one for professionals working with children and young people and the other for parents, were attended by over 300 people.

The Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People requested that I make recommendations as to any specific actions required to be taken by the government of Western Australia in relation to the Committee's referred matters concerning the sexualisation of children and young people. I provided a response to this referral to the Committee on 11 January 2013.

In 2012–13 I updated two of my guidelines – *Are You Listening? Guidelines for making complaints process accessible and responsive to children and young people* and *Improving Legislation and Policy for Children and Young People*. These two publications and *Involving Children and Young People – Participation guidelines* are valuable tools for government and non-government agencies working to strengthen the wellbeing of children and young people.

Overall, I hosted five seminars and three webinars for stakeholders in regional WA to support the use of the guidelines to improve laws, policies, services and programs for children and young people and their families.

### Review of Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006

Section 64 of the Act requires the Minister to review the operation and effectiveness of the Act as soon as practicable after five years of operation. At the request of the Attorney General, the Public Sector Commissioner announced in January 2013 the statutory review of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

I joined the seven-member reference group, chaired by the Public Sector Commissioner Mal Wauchope, established to guide the review. Submissions from the community were open until 1 March 2013 and I made a formal submission through this process.

My office also assisted the Public Sector Commission's consultation with children and young people which ensured children and young people's views were considered in the review.



## Working together

A strong focus of all of my work is developing partnerships with government, non-government and private sector organisations to increase understanding of the contemporary challenges facing children and young people and their families, and to promote change that will better support their wellbeing.

A significant project launched in October 2012 to foster this aim is the Ambassadors for Children and Young People. At a ceremony during Children's Week, 15 eminent individuals were named as WA Ambassadors. I will work with the Ambassadors over their two-year tenure to highlight to the community the wellbeing needs of our youngest citizens.

I was pleased to continue to support awards programs in 2012–13. Paulo Velho from Mount Pleasant was the recipient of my 2013 Participate! Award, part of the WA Youth Awards, and The Carers Association of WA was the 2012 recipient of the Dr Mark Rooney Award for Improved Outcomes in Child and Youth Mental Health for their program, 'Young Carers'.

In 2012–13 my partnership with the Perth International Arts Festival, which aims to highlight the benefits of children and young people's participation in the arts, involved sponsoring the 'House of Dreaming', part of the Festival's 2013 children's program. More than 1,200 children visited the House of Dreaming. As part of this partnership, I hosted a seminar 'Children, young people and the arts' to showcase and promote arts-based experiences for children and young people and the benefits this provides to their long-term wellbeing.

My other partnerships including supporting the Youth Affairs Council of WA's 'Home is Where My Heart Is' photographic exhibition involving 12 young homeless people, and the 'As Eye See It' exhibition in which photographs and views of 34 young people in out-of-home care arrangements were exhibited at the WA Museum.

Again in 2012–13 I travelled throughout WA to speak to children, young people and members of their families. I have always appreciated the willingness of people in these communities to give their time and speak openly about their lives and views concerning how we can better support our youngest citizens.

I am continuously impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of people I meet who are working to support children and their families, and I look forward to working with the WA community in the forthcoming year to celebrate our children and young people and strengthen their wellbeing.



**Michelle Scott**

Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia

# OVERVIEW OF THE AGENCY

## Operational structure

### Who is the Commissioner?

The Commissioner for Children and Young People WA is an independent advocate for the 560,000 children and young people under the age of 18 years living in Western Australia.

Operating under the [Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006](#) and working collaboratively with all sections of the community, the Commissioner aims to build a future for children and young people in Western Australia where they are heard, healthy, safe, able to reach their potential and are welcomed as valued members of the community.

The first Commissioner for Children and Young People – Michelle Scott – was appointed in December 2007. Young people were part of the panel that selected Ms Scott, who was appointed by the Governor of Western Australia for a term of five years.

In December 2012 the Commissioner accepted a 12-month extension to her tenure.

Ms Scott has a degree in social work and has spent a large part of her working life in government (local, state and federal) and the non-government sector. Much of her work has been with community organisations that advocate for improved supports and programs for families.

From 2002 to 2007, Ms Scott was the WA Public Advocate, protecting and promoting the rights of people with decision-making disabilities. She has also been a member of the Mental Health Review Board and senior member of both the Immigration Review Tribunal and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

## What does the Commissioner do?

### Mission

To improve the wellbeing of children and young people by working with them, their families, community and government in Western Australia.

### Vision

All children and young people in Western Australia are heard, healthy, safe and able to reach their potential and welcomed as valued members of the community.

### Functions and principles

All of the Commissioner's work is underpinned by the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act).

The Act outlines the guiding principles, powers and functions of the office. In accordance with statutory obligations, the Commissioner:

- advocates for children and young people – children and young people are entitled to live in a caring and nurturing environment, to be protected from harm and exploitation, and encouraged to reach their goals
- promotes strategies and outcomes that enhance the wellbeing of children and young people
- monitors the wellbeing of children and young people generally in the community
- recognises parents, guardians, families and communities have the main role to protect children and young people and promote their wellbeing, and advocates that they should be supported in carrying out this role

- promotes the participation of children and young people in decision making that affects their lives and encourages government and non-government agencies to include children and young people in decision making
- promotes and encourages the views of children and young people as valuable and that they should be seriously considered when decisions are made on matters that affect them
- promotes awareness and understanding in the community about the wellbeing of children and young people
- consults with children and young people and their families in their communities
- considers and makes recommendations on laws, policies, programs and services affecting children and young people
- inquires into any matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Act requires the Commissioner to give priority and have a special regard to the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Under the Act, the Commissioner is not able to deal with complaints made by, or on behalf of, individuals, however she may respond to issues that identify possible systemic matters which negatively affect the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Commissioner has legislated powers to conduct a special inquiry and to report to Parliament on any matter affecting the wellbeing of children and young people.

Schedule 1 clause 3 of the Act, which relates to 'Working with Children Checks', was not proclaimed as at 30 June 2013.

### **Who does the Commissioner report to?**

The Commissioner is directly responsible to the Parliament of Western Australia. The Parliament establishes a Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People to regularly consult with the Commissioner and monitor, review and report to Parliament on the Commissioner's functions and reporting.

The Commissioner met with the Committee four times in 2012–13. Ms Andrea Mitchell MLA was Chairman of the Committee up to 16 August 2012. The Hon. Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA was Chairman from 22 August 2012.

At 30 June 2013 the Committee was chaired by Ms Lisa Baker MLA.

More information about the Committee is available from the [Parliament of Western Australia](#).

### **The Commissioner's team**

The office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People is divided into three main functions:

- policy and research
- communication and participation
- corporate support.

## Staff profile

At 30 June 2013, the Commissioner for Children and Young People employed 18 staff – the equivalent of 16.0 full-time employees.

Table 1: Staff summary at 30 June 2013

Staff type	Number of staff	FTE	Gender	
			Male	Female
Full-time permanent	6	6	2	4
Full-time contract	3	3	1	2
Part-time permanent	6	4.2	-	6
Part-time contract <sup>1</sup>	3	2.8	-	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>

<sup>1</sup> All part-time contract employees have been seconded from other State Government agencies.

## Corporate Executive Team as at 30 June 2013

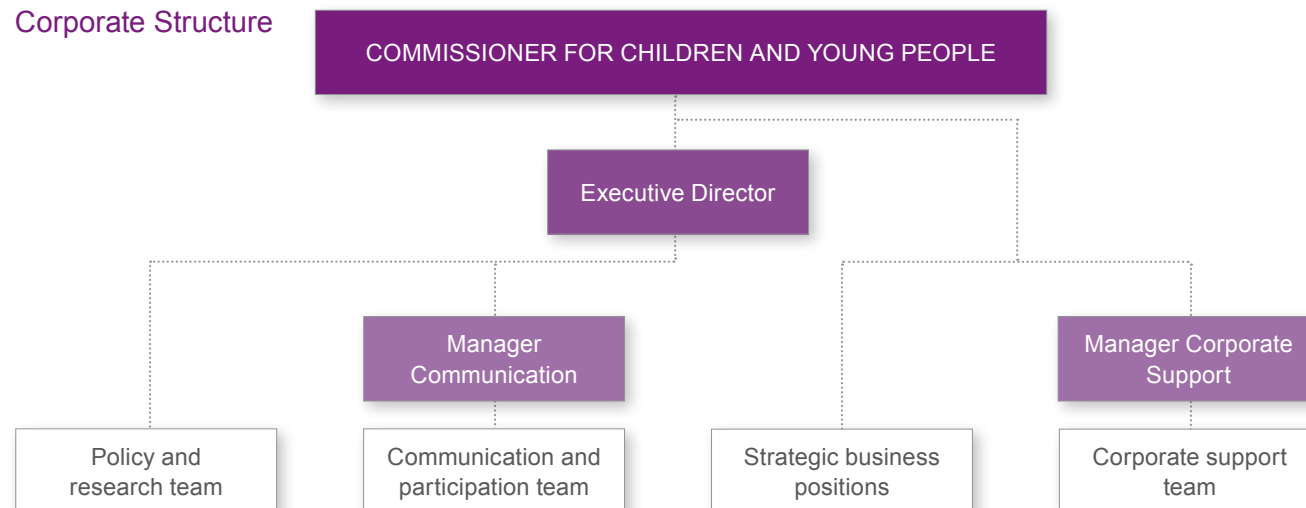
Executive Director  
Caron Irwin

Manager Communication  
Darren Gillespie

Manager Corporate Support  
John Aquino

Manager Research and Projects  
Philippa Gardener

## Corporate Structure



## Performance management framework

The strategic plan that outlines the work of the Commissioner is informed by her statutory obligations under the [Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006](#).

The activities undertaken by the Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2012–13 are reported in this section according to the Commissioner's [Strategic Directions 2013](#).

*Strategic Directions* incorporates all key aspects of the agency's strategic and operational planning including vision statements, goals, key themes, outputs and a 12-month business plan, which is updated annually. The three goals of *Strategic Directions* are:

1. Promote children and young people's participation
2. Influence – policy, services, attitudes and outcomes
3. Governance and capacity.

*Strategic Directions* links with the Commissioner's Outcome-Based Management Structure and Key Performance Indicators, and contributes to the State Government's goal of a 'greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians'.

### Commissioner for Children and Young People Approved Outcome-Based Management Structure

#### Government Goal

Outcome-based service delivery  
Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians

#### Agency Level Desired Outcome(s)

The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon

#### Key Effectiveness Indicators

- 1.1 The extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted
- 1.2 The extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research

#### Service

Consultation, research and promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people

#### Key Cost Efficiency Indicators

- 2.1 Average cost per consultation exercise with children and young people
- 2.2 Average cost of conducting research and consultation

# AGENCY PERFORMANCE

## Significant initiatives

### Report on the recommendations of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia.

In May 2011 the Commissioner tabled in the Western Australian Parliament the report of her first Inquiry conducted under Section 19 of the Act. The [\*Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people\*](#) (the Report) made 54 recommendations.

The extent of concern about the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people was evidenced by the wide range of individuals and organisations that provided 141 written submissions. The overwhelming evidence to the Inquiry was that the mental health needs of children and young people had not been given sufficient priority and there was an urgent need for reform in terms of both investment and focus. The Inquiry also found there was a general lack of understanding in the community that children (including infants and young children) and young people could experience mental health problems and disorders.

At the time of tabling the Report the Commissioner advised the Parliament that it was her intention to provide updates to the Parliament on the progress of the recommendations.

The 2011–12 Annual Report contained information regarding the progress of implementation and concluded *“significant progress has been achieved in relation to the 54 recommendations of the Inquiry since the report was tabled in the Parliament in May 2011.”*

In 2012–13 the Commissioner has worked with relevant organisations, including the Mental Health Commission, the President of the Children’s Court, the departments of Child Protection and Family Support, Education and Health, to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people and their families were given sufficient priority in the reform process.

The Commissioner made a detailed submission based on the work of her Inquiry to the ‘Review of the admission or referral to and the discharge and transfer practices of public mental health facilities and services in Western Australia’ undertaken by Professor Bryant Stokes.

Professor Stokes endorsed and supported all 12 recommendations submitted by the Commissioner to the review.

In April 2013 the Commissioner wrote to the Mental Health Commission advising of her intention to report on progress of the recommendations as part of her annual report and requesting an update on progress since June 2012.

The Mental Health Commission has provided a response outlining the significant work undertaken over the last year, with recent innovations in mental health support and services for infants, children and young people.

In addition to this response, the Commissioner’s reporting on the progress on the recommendations was informed by publicly available information and communication with stakeholders. In particular the Commissioner welcomes the following:

- The continued focus by government, both State and Federal, on children and young people as priority populations and on mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention as well as treatment; including the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsing the *Roadmap for National Mental Health Reform* and a Working Group on Mental Health Reform to oversee reform and the release of the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy*. (Recommendations 1 and 2)



- The State Government's commitment to implementing the recommendations of Professor Bryant Stokes' *Report of the review of admission or referral to and the discharge and transfer practices of public mental health services/facilities in Western Australia* including establishing an executive Implementation Partnership Group and commitment to a WA Mental Health Clinical Services Plan and a 10-year WA Mental Health Services Plan. (Recommendations 8, 9 and 17)
- Significant progress on implementation of the State Government's initial 10 Child and Parent Centres located on school sites and announcement of a further six. (Recommendation 4)
- Progress on youth mental health (16–24 years) including \$15.3 million funding for the Early Psychosis Youth Centre, opening the Youth Axis service and planning for 'a comprehensive youth mental health stream approach'. (Recommendation 8 and 47)
- A review of the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired accused) Act 1996* is underway and the green Mental Health Bill 2012 was tabled in Parliament and consultation undertaken. (Recommendation 15)
- The Perth Children's Court Mental Health Diversion and Support pilot program commenced in April 2013 and provides assessments, reports for the court, liaison with community services and individualised plans. (Recommendation 19)
- Substantial progress on infant mental health service and workforce planning. (Recommendation 36)
- The metropolitan-based 24 hour/7 day Acute Response Team service began in November 2012, which conducts mental health assessments of children and adolescents in emergency departments and other community settings. (Recommendation 40)
- The opening of the refurbished Bentley Adolescent Unit. (Recommendation 49)

Overall the Commissioner notes the progress and positive commitment of both State and Federal governments to address the mental health needs of children and young people. However, in reviewing progress on implementation of the recommendations the Commissioner also notes that there are recommendations where further progress is required.

This includes:

- The State's Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service requires adequate resourcing so it is able to provide comprehensive early intervention and treatment services, including in regional WA. (Recommendation 14)
- Children and young people living in regional and remote parts of Western Australia face particular and unique challenges in terms of mental health, especially around accessing services. The overwhelming evidence is that there is a lack of services and programs in regional and remote communities to address the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. In particular, there is an acute shortage of services and programs for children and young people who require early intervention and/or treatment services because they have a mental health illness. (Recommendation 18).
- The Commissioner has welcomed the Perth Children's Court Mental Health Diversion and Support pilot program, however, with estimates that between 50 and 75 per cent of children and young people who come in to contact with the criminal justice system have a serious mental health problem, a dedicated forensic mental health unit for children and young people remains a priority. (Recommendation 20).

These three areas require attention as do the following recommendations:

- A more coordinated and comprehensive approach is required to the funding and implementation of evidence-based programs that focus on the promotion of mental health and prevention of mental ill health of infants, children and young people throughout Western Australia. (Recommendation 9)
- Reliable data is needed to plan services and programs and ensure they are effective. (Recommendation 11)

### Wellbeing Monitoring Framework

The Commissioner has commenced work on the second edition of the Wellbeing Monitoring Framework which is anticipated to be tabled in the Parliament of Western Australian in the first half of 2014.

The first edition of the framework was tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia in February 2012.

The framework provides a picture of how WA children and young people are faring, including comparison with other Australian states and territories and internationally.

The framework provides information that can contribute to the effective planning and delivery of evidence-based services and programs by the government, non-government and private sectors to strengthen the wellbeing of children and young people in WA.

The framework comprises:

## The State of Western Australia's Children and Young People

This reports on 33 key wellbeing measures categorised under eight internationally recognised domains.

## Building Blocks

Best practice programs that improve the wellbeing of children and young people

This describes 82 best practice and promising programs from WA and other jurisdictions that are evidence-based.

## Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia

This provides socio-demographic information about children and young people in WA. This report was updated online in April 2013.

In 2012–13, the Commissioner hosted two seminars and one webinar to encourage the use of evidence and best practice in the development and planning of services and policies. The seminars were presented in collaboration with representatives from the David Wirrpanda Foundation and the WA State Library's Better Beginnings initiative, whose programs have been evaluated to be effective in strengthening children's wellbeing.

These events were attended by more than 100 professionals from a broad range of agencies, including 20 people from regional locations.



Evidence and best practice seminar presenters. (L–R) Leanne Pech and Marketa Dresler, Josie Janz from the David Wirrpanda Foundation and Nola Allen from Better Beginnings

*Table 2: Summary of feedback from the 'Using evidence and best practice programs to improve wellbeing' seminars held on 6 and 11 June 2013, and the webinar on 11 June 2013*

*There were 55 responses from the 105 participants*

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information provided to me was professional and informative.	25%	67%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Today's session provided me with information that is relevant to my work context.	22%	54%	22%	2%	0%	0%
The guest speakers provided relevant and practical information.	38%	43%	0%	5%	0%	0%
Overall, I was satisfied with the seminar.	31%	58%	6%	4%	0%	0%

In addition to the above, three qualitative questions were also asked – responses to these questions indicated that many seminar attendees intended to use the framework reports in their workplace.

### Children and young people with disability

The Commissioner consults widely with children and young people across Western Australia, many of whom raise with her issues relating to their health and wellbeing. Children and young people with disability are often represented through these consultations.

On 10 June 2013, the Commissioner announced a consultation specifically for Western Australian children and young people with disability to give them the opportunity to speak out about their views, concerns and hopes for the future.

The approach for the consultation was developed with the assistance of young people with disability and organisations who work with children and young people with disability and their families.

The consultation will capture the views of children and young people with disability, resulting in a report that will be used to advocate to decision and policy makers, and to promote public awareness of the views of children and young people with disability. The report will be released in 2013–14.



Lapel pin designer, 15 year-old Phoenix, with Ambassador for Children and Young People Jonathan Holloway

### Ambassadors for Children and Young People

In Children's Week 2012 the Commissioner appointed 15 eminent individuals as the State's inaugural Ambassadors for Children and Young People.

Professor Donna Cross	Hon. Barbara Scott
Mrs Annie Fogarty	Professor Fiona Stanley AC
Professor Colleen Hayward AM	Mr Sam Walsh AO
Mr Jonathan Holloway	Associate Professor Ted Wilkes
Mrs Tonya McCusker	Mr David Wirrpanda
Ms June Oscar AO	Mr Russell Woolf
Professor Trevor Parry AM	Winthrop Professor Stephen Zubrick
His Honour Judge Denis Reynolds	

The Commissioner established the Ambassador initiative to recognise and support the work many community leaders already do to turn the spotlight on the needs of children and young people across the State, and to encourage others in the community to consider what more they can do to support children and young people and their families.

The Children's Week event, held at Government House Ballroom on 25 October 2012, was supported by the Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon. Wayne Martin QC, who delivered the keynote address. The fifteen Ambassadors were presented with a lapel pin by the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker QC.

Year 12 Technology and Design students from Swan View Senior High School created unique design options for the Ambassador's lapel pin. Many of the students, including 15 year-old Phoenix whose design was selected as the official lapel pin, were guests at the Children's Week event.



Soon after the appointment of the Ambassadors for Children and Young People, *The West Australian* published a series of opinion pieces written by Ambassadors and the Commissioner which explored several of the 'big issues' that face children in the 21st century:

- 'Ambassadors will enhance our focus on children and young people' – Commissioner Michelle Scott, Thursday 15 November 2012
- 'Community input vital to giving kids best start' – Annie Fogarty, Tuesday 20 November 2012
- 'Children priority in bid to build community' – June Oscar, Tuesday 27 November 2012
- 'Parents need to switch on to social media risks' – Professor Donna Cross, Tuesday 4 December 2012
- 'Dreaming a path to greatness' – Jonathan Holloway, Tuesday 11 December 2012.



The Ambassadors for Children and Young People were acknowledged at an event held at Government House Ballroom during Children's Week 2012

### Review of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*

Section 64 of the [Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006](#) (the Act) requires the Minister to review the operation and effectiveness of the Act as soon as practicable after five years of operation. At the request of the Attorney General, the Public Sector Commissioner announced in January 2013 the statutory review of the Act.

A seven-member reference group, chaired by the Public Sector Commissioner Mal Wauchope, was established to guide the review. The Commissioner was a member of the Reference Group.

Submissions from the community were open until 1 March 2013 and the Commissioner made a formal submission through this process.

The Commissioner also facilitated the Public Sector Commissioner's consultation with children and young people which ensured children and young people's views were considered in the review.

The consultation involved 163 children and young people, of which 41 were from regional areas of the State, 34 were Aboriginal and 20 were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

## Goal 1 Promote children and young people's participation

### Overview

#### Objective

The work of the Commissioner is informed by the views of children and young people and the participation of children and young people is encouraged in activities and decision making about issues that affect their lives.

#### Strategies

- 1.1 Undertake consultations in regional, remote and metropolitan Western Australia
- 1.2 Establish Advisory Committees (one metropolitan and one regional)
- 1.3 Promote participation guidelines and tools
- 1.4 Monitor complaints made by children and young people
- 1.5 The Commissioner will report back to children and young people on what has happened
- 1.6 Promote positive stories and images about the achievements of children and young people

#### Key Performance Indicator 1.1 – Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted

Consultation will comprise a number of discrete projects, involving the Commissioner (or the staff of the office, or a contractor employed to act on the Commissioner's behalf) seeking the considered views of children and young people on a range of issues in various locations across the State of Western Australia.

### Summary of participation activities

Table 3: Consultations conducted in this reporting period

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	Target 2012–13	Actual 2012–13
Regional	11	9	18	8	8
Metropolitan	18	16	25	17	15
<b>Total number of consultations</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>

For more detailed information about Key Performance Indicators, see [page 87](#).

Table 4: Number of children consulted under the age of 18 years in this reporting period

2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
550	412	960	708	410



The Commissioner's consultation with children and young people in 2012–13 included:

- The Commissioner and/or her staff visited five regional towns to meet with children and young people and their families, community members and service providers.
- The Commissioner and/or her staff visited 16 schools and spoke with students.
- The Commissioner's two 2011 and 2012 Advisory Committees delivered their Us and Our Community reports and met with the Commissioner and her staff.
- The Commissioner and her staff met with her four 2012–13 Advisory Committees.
- The Commissioner assisted with consultations with 11 groups of children and young people as part of the Public Sector Commission's review of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, and consulted two other groups of children and young people with disability as part of the Speaking Out About Disability project.
- Young people from the Y2Y Advisory Committee and from ICEA (Indigenous Communities Education & Awareness) Foundation briefed the Commissioner's staff on their work.

### Regional consultation visits

The Commissioner regularly visits regional and remote communities across Western Australia. She meets with and listens to children and young people, their families and people who work with them.

[Summary reports](#) of the Commissioner's regional visits are available on her website. They include information about the population of children and young people in the region and birth rates; a snapshot of who the Commissioner met with; a summary of what the community told the Commissioner about children and young people; the views of children and young people who met with the Commissioner; and the Commissioner's comments about her visit.



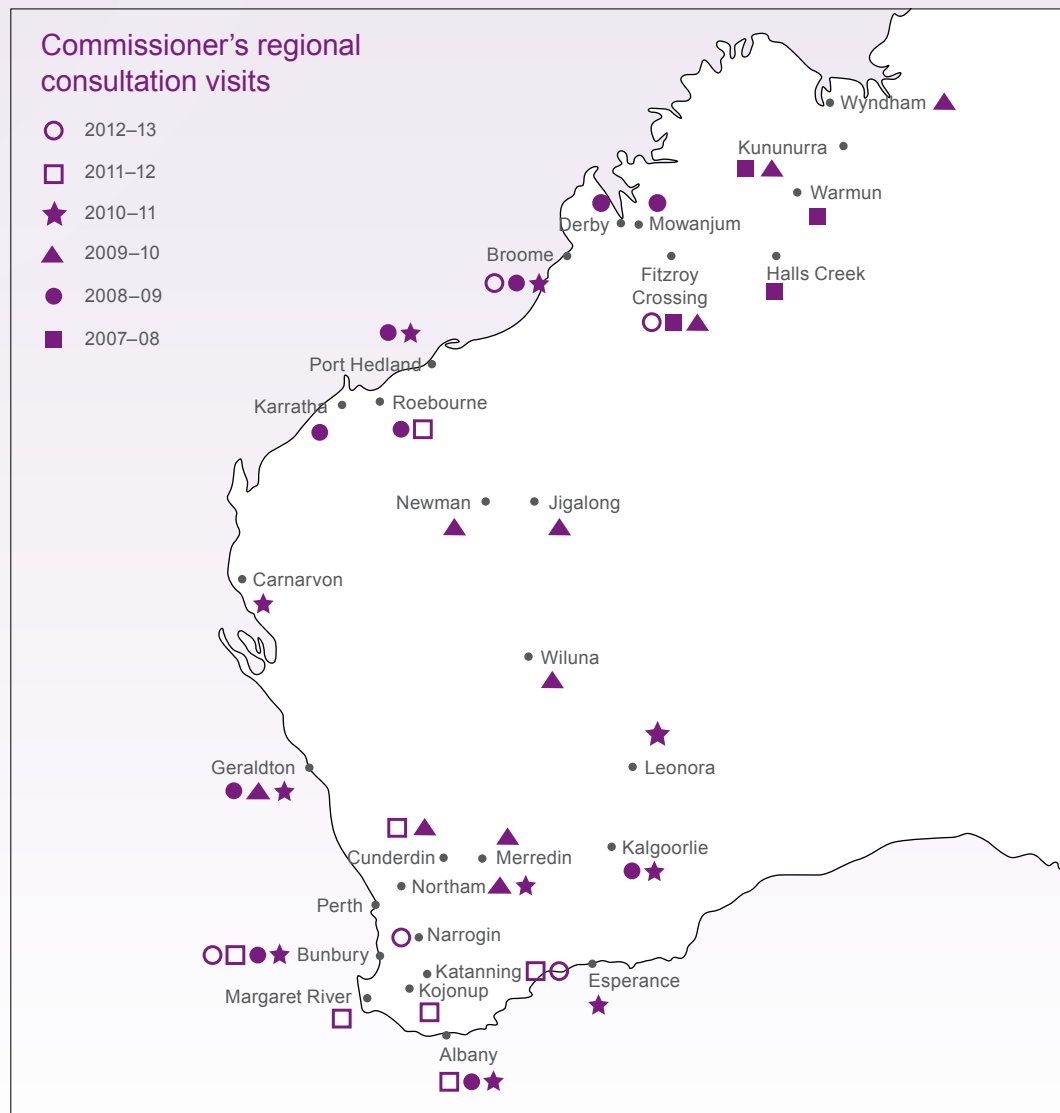
The Commissioner met with June Oscar (R) and Bree Wagner (L) during her visit to Fitzroy Crossing in November 2012

### Regional travel 2012–13

- 28–29 September 2012 Narrogin
- 26–28 November 2012 Broome and Fitzroy Crossing
- 26 February 2013 Bunbury
- 1 March and 17 April 2013 Katanning

### School visits 2012–13

- Durham Road School
- Sacred Heart Primary School, Thornlie
- Katanning Primary School
- Katanning Senior High School
- Fitzroy Valley District High School
- Narrogin Primary School
- Narrogin Senior High School
- CY O'Connor College of TAFE
- Narrogin Campus
- Swan View Senior High School
- Embleton Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School, Queens Park
- Sevenoaks Academy, Cannington
- Gilmore College, Orelia
- Southwell Primary School, Hamilton Hill
- Clontarf Girls Academy, Waterford



## Report on Goal 1 strategies

### Advisory Committees

The Commissioner's Advisory Committees provide children and young people with the opportunity to have their views heard and to talk directly to the Commissioner and her staff.

The information and advice provided by the Advisory Committees assists in guiding the work the Commissioner undertakes and the recommendations she makes to the State's decision makers. The Commissioner has metropolitan and regional advisory committees.

In December 2012 the Commissioner concluded work with her 2011 and 2012 Advisory Committees, the Wheatbelt Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) Team and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC). The Commissioner acknowledges the work of each committee over their two-year term, in particular the time taken to complete their Us and Our Community report which informs the Commissioner of issues that affect, and are important to, children and young people.

The WYLD team reported on the views of young people from the Wheatbelt which were expressed at their 'informal yet innovative brainstorming session', Dream Tank. The report outlined young people's views on a range of issues including access to technology, their mental health, bullying and the activities they enjoy. Participants also described the aspects of the community they liked and the services and facilities they felt would make their community a better place.

The MMRC held an event titled 'Migrants United' to inform their report to the Commissioner. The event featured a photographic exhibition, a video presentation, speeches by participants and a shared lunch of international foods. The final report reflected the desire of participants to have their cultural backgrounds better acknowledged and understood in the broader community.

The Commissioner has appointed four Advisory Committees for 2013:

- Y2Y (Youth to Youth), supported by Wanslea
- City of Rockingham Youth Advisory Council and Junior Council
- Sacred Heart Primary School, Thornlie – Year 6 group
- Katanning Senior High School Student Leadership team.

The 2013 Advisory Committees, as in previous years, are undertaking projects that will highlight the views of young people in their community through the Us and Our Community project and they will also provide feedback and comment on some of the Commissioner's projects throughout the year.

In the first half of 2013 the committees have been involved in consultations as part of the review of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* and the review of the Commissioner's website. Later in 2013, Advisory Committees will meet with the National Children's Commissioner as part of her national Big Banter consultation.

In February 2013, youth ambassadors from the Y2Y Advisory Committee met with the Commissioner's staff to talk about their work to support children of parents with mental illness and destigmatise mental illness in the community.

### Guidelines resources

In 2012–13 the Commissioner updated two of her guidelines publications. This work was undertaken in response to feedback and consultation gathered from government and non-government agencies.

#### [Improving legislation and policy for children and young people](#)

The Commissioner released the updated version of these guidelines in February 2013. The new publication provides greater detail and more complex examples in a step-by-step process by which policy and legislation can be assessed and, if required, amended based on the needs and interests of our youngest citizens.

A seminar was held on 25 February 2013 for key State Government and non-government organisations to provide a briefing and discuss the process outlined in the updated guidelines.

In June 2013 the Legal Practice Board of WA approved the Commissioner's seminar 'Improving legislation and policy for children and young people' for inclusion in the accredited list of Continuing Professional Development courses. This recognition will result in the seminar contributing to the mandatory annual professional development requirements for legal professionals. Further seminars are planned for 2013–14.

*Table 5: Summary of feedback from the 'Legislation guidelines seminar' on 25 February 2013*

*There were 22 responses from the 24 people who attended.*

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information provided at the seminar was professional and informative.	59%	41%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The case studies provided relevant and practical examples.	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The presenters were knowledgeable and provided information at an appropriate level and detail.	55%	45%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The guidelines document is useful and practical.	55%	41%	0%	0%	0%	4%
I plan to use the guidelines document in my workplace to assess legislation and/or policy.	24%	68%	4%	0%	0%	4%
Overall I was satisfied with the seminar.	55%	45%	0%	0%	0%	0%

### *Are You Listening? – Guidelines for making complaints processes accessible and responsive for children and young people*

The Commissioner released an updated version of these guidelines in June 2013. The guidelines were promoted to all relevant government departments and many non-government organisations. Work to promote use of the complaints guidelines will continue, including seminars to be held in 2013–14 and the publishing of case studies which showcase good practice examples of child-friendly complaints systems developed by WA agencies.



Over 100 people took part in the Commissioner's complaints seminars and webinar in 2012–13

*Table 6: Summary of feedback from the 'Making complaints systems child friendly' seminars and webinar on 18 September 2012, 9 October 2012 and 26 March 2013*

*There were 70 responses from the 108 people who attended.*

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information provided at the seminar was professional and informative.	33%	66%	1%	0%	0%	0%
It was useful to hear about the Commissioner's Complaints Guidelines.	36%	58%	6%	0%	0%	0%
It was beneficial to hear about the role of the Commissioner for Children and Young People in complaints monitoring.	46%	51%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Overall, I was satisfied with the seminar.	31%	63%	6%	0%	0%	0%



Throughout 2012–13, the Commissioner continued to promote all three guidelines resources (the two noted above and [Involving children and young people – Participation guidelines](#)) to assist government and non-government agencies to better meet the needs and interests of children and young people.

Overall, the Commissioner hosted five seminars and three webinars for stakeholders in regional WA to support the use of the three guidelines resources.

The seminars were presented in collaboration with other agencies that provided guest speakers to show-case the application of the guidelines in different settings. Further seminars are planned for 2013–14.

Also, eight more examples of best practice in participation were published to inform agencies wanting to undertake effective participation activities with children and young people.

*Table 7: Summary of feedback from the ‘Involving children and young people – Participation guidelines seminar’ on 9 April 2013*

*There were 35 responses from the 40 people who attended*

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information provided at the seminar was professional and informative.	46%	54%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The seminar increased my understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA.	31%	57%	9%	0%	3%	0%
The seminar increased my understanding of the Commissioner’s participation guidelines and the processes used to effectively engage and involve children and young people.	29%	64%	6%	0%	1%	0%
I will access and use the Commissioner’s participation guidelines in any future work that requires the involvement of children and young people.	57%	13%	0%	0%	0%	6%
The guest speakers provided relevant and practical examples of involving children 12 years and under in their work and projects.	63%	34%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Overall, I was satisfied with the seminar.	49%	48%	0%	0%	3%	0%



### Participate! Commissioner for Children and Young People Award

In 2012–13 the Commissioner sponsored the Participate! Commissioner for Children and Young People Award for a fourth consecutive year. The award is part of the WA Youth Awards program, run by the former Department for Communities' Office for Youth. It recognises a young person aged 12 to 17 years who has shown outstanding dedication to make a positive change in their community and who has inspired other young people to get involved.

Paulo Velho from Mount Pleasant was the recipient of the 2013 Participate! Award presented by the Commissioner at the 2013 WA Youth Awards ceremony on 13 April 2013.

The Commissioner was impressed by the breadth of Paulo's contributions to the community including volunteering his services to support homeless people, environmental causes, youth engagement, companionship to the elderly and student mentoring.



The Commissioner presents Paulo Velho with the 2013 Participate! Award

Heather Barrett was highly commended and Rebecca Ffoulkes and Trevor Franklin were finalists in the award category and acknowledged for their various contributions and achievements.

### Commissioner for a Day

For the Commissioner for a Day Challenge in 2012 the Commissioner asked young people aged 10 to 15 years of age to tell her what they thought about media and advertising and the effect it had on their lives.

More than 60 young people took part and submitted entries in a range of formats including posters, music and video. The issues identified by young people included unrealistic body images for girls and boys, celebrity endorsement and the excessive promotion of unhealthy products.

Participants came up with a range of proposals to address the issues such as restricting the times that advertising of certain products could take place, teaching children and young people how the advertising and media industries work, and for advertisers to show a wider range of cultures in their advertisements.

Thirteen year-old Ciara from Kenwick was selected as the Commissioner for a Day. In her entry, Ciara spoke about the value of childhood and resisting the pressure of growing up too fast.

Ciara's day as Commissioner included briefing staff, meeting with the then Minister for Youth Robyn McSweeney at Parliament House, and working with an advertising agency to create a positive advertising message for young people.

Ciara's work as Commissioner, and the entries and views of the young people who entered the Commissioner for a Day Challenge, are published on the Commissioner's website.

### 2013 Creative Challenge – AWESOME Arts partnership

In 2013 the Commissioner is working in partnership with AWESOME Arts to consult children and young people living in regional and remote WA about their communities and their hopes and concerns for the future.

The 2013 Creative Challenge, run annually by AWESOME, involves a team of artists undertaking two-week art residencies in ten communities throughout WA, working with approximately 450 children.

The partnership involves working with the artists to record the views, comments and ideas of children and young people expressed as part of the artistic process and will result in a publication capturing children and young people's views to be released at a showcase of the 2013 Creative Challenge at the AWESOME Festival in October.

Communities taking part in the Creative Challenge include Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Wickham, Mount Magnet, Punmu, Burringurrah, Gascoyne Junction, Kalgoorlie, Leonora, and Coolgardie. In 2012–13 two consultations were conducted, with the remainder to be conducted in 2013–14.



The Commissioner visited the 'House of Dreaming' with students from St Lawrence Primary School and their teacher Anna Brenkley

### Perth International Arts Festival partnership

The Commissioner sponsored Arena Theatre Company's production 'The House of Dreaming', part of the children's program of the 2013 Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF).

Research has shown that the arts and creativity have a beneficial effect on children and young people's development and wellbeing. The 2013 PIAF sponsorship was part of the Commissioner's work to promote and expand the opportunities children and young people have to participate in the arts.

The 'House of Dreaming' provided children with a unique experience. In groups of three, visitors were able to explore nine interconnected rooms and interact with live performers and automated sound and lighting experiences. The Commissioner joined students from St Lawrence Primary School to explore the House.

More than 1,200 children visited the House of Dreaming, with around 300 providing their thoughts and feedback from their experiences which were displayed at the studio of ABC 720 Perth, the location of the production.

As part of the partnership with the PIAF and the WA Museum, the Commissioner hosted a seminar 'Children, young people and the arts'.

The purpose of the seminar was to showcase and promote arts-based experiences for children and young people and the benefits this provides to their long-term wellbeing.

The seminar featured keynote presentations from the artistic director of the Arena Theatre Company, Christian Leavesley and leading New Zealand artist Michel Tuffery, and was attended by 85 representatives from government and non-government organisations.

Table 8: Summary of feedback from the 'Children, young people and the arts' seminar on 26 February 2013

There were 38 responses from the 85 people who attended

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information provided at the seminar was professional and informative.	55%	42%	3%	0%	0%	0%
The projects discussed at the seminar were good examples of innovative projects that have engaged children and young people.	61%	39%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The seminar increased my knowledge about how partnerships between agencies and arts companies can be used to hold effective consultations with children and young people.	16%	50%	23%	8%	0%	3%
As a result of this seminar, I will explore options to undertake an arts project for children and young people.	29%	29%	36%	3%	0%	3%
Overall, I was satisfied with the seminar.	45%	50%	5%	0%	0%	0%

### As Eye See It

'As Eye See It' is a unique photographic project that provides young people who live in out-of-home care the opportunity to showcase the things that are important in their lives.

The Commissioner worked with the former Department for Child Protection, the Children, Youth and Family Agencies Association, CREATE WA and the Western Australian Museum to deliver the project for the first time in Western Australia.

Four photography workshops were held involving 46 young people. Following the training, the young people were given two weeks to photograph things that are important to them.

Each young person selected five final photos, a close up of their right eye and words to explain what they were trying to say in their photographs or to talk more generally about what was important in their world.

From these resources, the work of 34 young people was exhibited at the Museum from 29 September to 14 October 2012. Almost 15,000 people viewed the exhibition which was formally opened by the Minister for Child Protection Robyn McSweeney and the Commissioner.

## Home is Where My Heart Is

In 2012–13 the Commissioner sponsored the 'Home Is Where My Heart Is' photographic exhibition coordinated by the Youth Affairs Council of WA and Propel Youth Arts.

This project involves homeless young people being partnered with an emerging young photographer to produce a series of images on the theme 'home'.

The aim of the project is to give these vulnerable young people a voice and to increase awareness of the many WA young people who do not have a permanent, safe and secure home.

Twelve young people took part in 2012, each undertaking a three-month mentorship with a photographer.

The young people's photos were displayed in an exhibition launched during National Homeless Persons Week on 9 August 2012, and was attended by about 300 people from the youth sector, arts sector and general public.

## Young people in the media

In 2012–13 work commenced with a number of media outlets to promote the views of young people under 18 years of age being heard in the mainstream media.



Photo taken by Staci, mentored by Natalie Blom, Home Is Where My Heart Is 2013

## Goal 2 Influencing – policy, services, attitudes and outcomes

### Overview

#### Objective

The Commissioner works to influence policy by engaging with government, non-government and private sector organisations to improve policies, laws and services that impact on the wellbeing of children and young people.

#### Strategies

- 2.1 Research issues affecting children and young people's wellbeing
- 2.2 Work collaboratively and cooperatively to improve policies, laws and services for children and young people
- 2.3 Research and consultation with a view to making a range of representations on policies, laws, services and programs to improve children and young people's wellbeing

#### Key Performance Indicator 1.2 – Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research

The Commissioner's role includes analysis and interpretation of information collected through consultation and research processes to identify issues and trends affecting children and young people. The Commissioner is responsible for making representations and developing submissions that explore the impact of these issues and make recommendations to address them.

Table 9: Number of representations in this reporting period

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	Target 2012–13	Actual 2012–13
<b>Representations</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>143</b>

For more detailed information about Key Performance Indicators, see [page 87](#).

Table 10: Breakdown of representations in this reporting period

Representation type	Number
Submissions ( <i>including 12 comments on legislation</i> )	65
Evidence to Parliamentary Committees & Inquiries	6
Issues papers	4
Publications ( <i>including policy briefs</i> )	11
Speeches	19
Presentations	6
Opinion pieces	12
Forums and seminars	16
Support for research proposals	0
Community consultations	4
<b>Total representations</b>	<b>143</b>



## Report on Goal 2 strategies

### Mental health

The Commissioner continued to support the development of programs and services to meet the mental health needs of WA's children and young people, including of young children.

Throughout 2012–13 the Commissioner monitored the implementation of the recommendations of her *Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia* which was tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia in May 2011 (see [page 14](#) for more detail).

A further five policy briefs highlighting the Inquiry's findings and recommendations for specific groups of children and young people were published:

- *Children of parents with mental illness*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people*
- *Children and young people in regional and remote areas*
- *Transition to adulthood*
- *Children and young people with disability.*

Submissions were made on significant national mental health policy including:

- The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy
- The Roadmap for National Mental Health Reform
- A National Contributing Life survey development and methodology — this submission highlighted the importance of hearing the views of children and young people in the development of the annual survey for the National Mental Health Commission, A National Contributing Life, and of hearing from them in the survey itself.

The Commissioner made submissions on three significant pieces of Western Australian mental health legislation to ensure that the specific interests, needs and rights of children and young people were properly considered in these areas of legislative reform:

- Green Mental Health Bill 2012
- Review of the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996 (WA)*
- Declared Places (Mentally Impaired Accused) Bill 2013

These submissions highlighted the mental health needs of children and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Key recommendations of these submissions included the urgent need for a forensic mental health facility for children and young people and increased early intervention and therapeutic mental health services for children and young people who come into contact with the police.

The Commissioner made speeches focusing on children and young people's mental health on five occasions including as a keynote speaker at the 'Seventh World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders'.

In August 2012 the Commissioner, in partnership with the Mental Health Commission, hosted a seminar featuring Professor Michael Chandler, renowned for his research into youth suicide among Canada's Aboriginal people, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

The Commissioner's advocacy in mental health also included publication of opinion pieces published in *The West Australian* including, 'Laying a strong foundation for positive mental health'.



Table 11: Summary of feedback from the presentation by Professor Michael Chandler on 13 August 2012

There were 24 responses from the 32 people who attended

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The information provided at the seminar was professional and informative.	66%	34%	0%	0%	0%	0%
It was useful to hear an international perspective on preventing youth Indigenous suicide.	58%	42%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The seminar added to local knowledge about how cultural connection can act as a preventative factor in Aboriginal youth suicide.	50%	42%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Overall, I was satisfied with the seminar	54%	42%	4%	0%	0%	0%

### Youth justice

The Commissioner's work on youth justice throughout 2012–13 has included reiterating a call for evidence-based prevention and diversion programs to reduce offending behaviour by children and young people.

In August 2012, along with other Australian Commissioners, the Commissioner delivered a presentation to the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration on 'Creating Better Futures' that included a call for improved diversion and therapeutic services for children and young people.

Following the serious incident at Banksia Hill Detention Centre in January 2013 and the subsequent transfer of young people to the adult Hakea Prison the Commissioner made representations to the Department of Corrective Services, the Inspector of Custodial Services and the WA Ombudsman.



(L–R) Vickie Hovane, Glenn Pearson (TICHR) and Vicki Caulfield (UWA) at the Chandler Seminar

The Commissioner's submission to the Inquiry into the Banksia Hill Incident conducted by the Inspector for Custodial Services called for changes to youth justice, in particular in prevention, diversion, mental health treatment and care continuing following release.

A submission was also developed for the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee's Inquiry into the value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia, focusing on how a realignment of justice services could provide better services for children and young people in or at risk of entering the justice system.

The Commissioner released an updated *Youth Justice* issues paper in May 2013 which called for a shift in justice services to provide an increased focus on and investment in evidence-based programs and effective services aimed at reducing offending. This includes a focus on prevention, early intervention and diversion programs in the community, and support and therapeutic services for young people in detention.

The Commissioner's youth justice opinion piece, 'What really works in youth justice', was published in *The West Australian* in May 2013.

### Early childhood

The Commissioner continued her advocacy for improved focus and investment in the earliest years of a child's life in 2012–13. With WA's population increasing rapidly (largely as a result of an increasing birth rate – 32,000 births in 2011 and 33,920 births in 2012) and with unequivocal evidence about the importance of early brain development, this is an area of high priority.

In April 2013 the Commissioner released the updated *Early Childhood* issues paper. This reiterated the Commissioner's previous calls for an early childhood plan to provide a framework for the provision of early childhood services throughout the State.

The Commissioner also called for:

- improved governance through a Council for Early Childhood to ensure a coordinated approach to the planning and provision of early childhood services and programs
- establishment of a research centre which brings together researchers, service providers and policy makers to ensure the latest research informs policies, programs and services
- universal provision of services and programs to all young children and their families with targeted services for those with additional needs
- improved support for parents through increased provision of evidence-based universal and targeted parenting programs.

The Commissioner provided a submission to the Paid Parental Leave Scheme review on the importance of paid parental leave in supporting all parents in their crucial role of promoting the development and wellbeing of their young children.

Early childhood was the focus of several of the Commissioner's presentations including at the Early Childhood Services Forum in Katanning and the 2013 WA Primary Principals' Association conference.



The Commissioner spoke about early childhood in her keynote address to the WA Primary Principals' Association conference in June 2013

In October 2013, the Commissioner will host a seminar and a round table featuring Canadian early childhood education researcher Professor Charles Pascal.

In June 2009, Professor Pascal released his seminal report *With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario* that is informing policy and practice within and outside of Canada.

His visit represents an important opportunity for WA early childhood education to be guided by the latest international research.

## Supporting parents

Parents have arguably the most crucial role in children and young people's development from birth through the transition to adulthood. There is general agreement that parenting is now more challenging, stressful and complex than ever before. Parents are reporting that they lack confidence and they are unsure of where to go for quality information.

The Commissioner released the *Supporting Parents* issues paper in May 2013 which recommended:

- the role of the Department for Local Government and Communities is enhanced to be the lead government agency for coordinating the planning, provision and funding of all parenting services and programs across the State
- increased investment to ensure universal parent support is available to all WA parents at any stage of their child's development, integrated with targeted programs for those needing greater support.

In May 2013, the Commissioner spoke about this matter to 160 parenting support professionals at the 'Talking up our Strengths — Inaugural WA Parenting Sector Support conference', organised jointly by Linkwest and CLAN WA.

The Commissioner's advocacy also included three opinion pieces published in *The West Australian* including, 'Laying a strong foundation for positive mental health'; 'Parents need help to let teens find their feet'; 'Time with family comes first in complex world'.

### Alcohol-related harm

Reducing alcohol-related harm to children and young people remained a priority issue for the Commissioner in 2012–13.

Working collaboratively with key organisations, such as the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth and the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), the Commissioner advocated for a multi-faceted approach to reducing alcohol-related harm including the introduction of secondary supply legislation, compulsory alcohol education in schools and banning alcohol sponsorship of sporting events and teams.

The Commissioner provided a submission to the Review of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* advocating that the Act prioritises the minimisation of alcohol-related harm and ill-health as a key objective. The submission also recommended other changes to better protect children and young people from the harm caused by alcohol including amendments to prohibit the supply of alcohol to children and young people on private premises without parental consent (secondary supply).

Two publications released by the Commissioner in 2012–13 focused on different aspects of alcohol-related harm – an issues paper *Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)* and a policy brief *Young people speak out about alcohol and sport*.

Young people's views about effective strategies to reduce alcohol-related harm have been promoted by the Commissioner at a number of conference presentations for key stakeholders and decision makers in WA.

The Commissioner is also working with the NDRI to support the Young Australians Alcohol Reporting System research project which is investigating the effectiveness of a monitoring system focused on risky drinking practices amongst 16 to 19 year-olds.

### Aboriginal children and young people

All major projects initiated by the Commissioner in 2012–13 included, as a priority, the needs of Aboriginal children and young people. The Commissioner has continued to highlight areas of achievement and particular need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

The Wellbeing Monitoring Framework includes a focus on the wellbeing needs of Aboriginal children and young people. *The Profile of Children and Young People in Western Australia* was updated in April 2013 and provides specific socio-demographic data concerning Aboriginal children and young people.



A young boy from Punmu participates in the 2013 Creative Challenge. The Commissioner is partnering with Awesome Arts on this project. Picture: Jarrad Seng



The Commissioner's advocacy relating to how the reports of the framework can be used as an evidence base for the development and planning of services and programs has highlighted both the current gaps in Aboriginal children and young people's wellbeing and the programs that are proven to make a positive difference.

The two seminars and a webinar run by the Commissioner on the framework in 2012–13 included sections specifically allocated to discussing data and research about Aboriginal children and young people's wellbeing.

Several submissions and publications released by the Commissioner in 2012–13 identified issues that affected Aboriginal children and young people, including:

- a submission to the former Department for Child Protection for the Review of the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*
- a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs for the Inquiry into the contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring
- a submission to the Mental Health Commission WA on the green Mental Health Bill 2012
- a submission to the Inquiry into the Banksia Hill Incident
- two policy briefs based on the *Report on the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and Children and young people in regional and remote areas*
- the *Youth Justice* issues paper
- a speech to the Alliance for Children at Risk annual general meeting about the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the child protection system

- feedback and comment to the former Department for Indigenous Affairs on the Draft Aboriginal Youth 2020: Directions Paper – March 2013
- a submission to the Inquiry into the value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia.

The Commissioner has also met with Aboriginal children and young people in visits to metropolitan and regional communities in 2012–13, including:

- Katanning Senior High School Leadership Team
- Sevenoaks Academy
- Gilmore College
- Southwell Primary
- Clontarf Girls Academy
- Embleton Primary.

### Child protection and safety

The Commissioner has an ongoing role in monitoring and commenting on legislation, policy and practice in relation to preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect.

In 2012–13, this work included providing a submission to the *Review of the Children and Community Services Act 2004* which made more than 30 recommendations for consideration in the review process.

The Commissioner also made a submission to the Special Inquiry into the St Andrew's Hostel, Katanning recommending five key changes to provide better protection for children and young people residing in WA Country High Schools Hostels.

Working collaboratively with government and non-government agencies, the Commissioner was pleased to support the first 'As Eye See It' project in WA. This project culminated in an exhibition at the Western Australian Museum of photographs taken by young people in out-of-home care, expressing their views on life and what is important to them. The Commissioner consults regularly with children and young people in out-of-home care, and their advocates, to ensure that their views are considered in all aspects of her work.

The Commissioner also:

- made submissions to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes regarding the Inquiry into the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Amendment Bill 2012
- provided comment on the draft Evidence (Visual recording of interviews with children) Amendment Regulations 2012
- wrote to the Department of Housing and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support regarding the implications of the Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy for children and young people
- gave a speech to the Alliance for Children at Risk on the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the child protection system
- wrote letters to key decision makers supporting the provision of safe houses in regional and remote locations
- continued to monitor the development of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's Kath French Secure Care Centre
- advocated for greater support for the positive mental health of infants, children and young people in care.

## Sexualisation of children

Parents are increasingly voicing concerns in Australia and elsewhere that western culture generally has become inappropriately sexualised and that children are often exposed to media and marketing directed at older teenagers and adults.

There is sufficient research to support the claim that children as young as seven experience body image dissatisfaction and that, therefore, the potential harms caused by sexualised media and advertising on children should not be ignored.

In November 2012, the Commissioner co-hosted two seminars titled 'Children's wellbeing in a sexualised society'. The seminars, hosted in partnership with the former Department for Communities, aimed to re-focus the discussion about the sexualisation of children, in particular the impact of media and advertising on children and young people's wellbeing.

More than 200 professionals attended the seminar to hear from expert commentators in this field – President of the Australian Council on Children and Media Professor Elizabeth Handsley and columnist, broadcaster and regular presenter on ABC TV's *The Gruen Transfer* Jane Caro.

In January 2013 the Commissioner formally responded to the matter referred to her by the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People regarding the sexualisation of children and young people.

The Joint Standing Committee requested that the Commissioner make recommendations as to any specific actions required to be taken by the government of Western Australia in relation to these matters in order to better secure the wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia.



*Table 12: Summary of feedback from ‘Children’s wellbeing in a sexualised society seminar’*

*There were 90 responses from the 200 participants. Please note – totals may not add up to 100 per cent as some respondents did not complete all questions*

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The guest speakers presented relevant and useful information.	56%	37%	4%	2%	0%	0%
The seminar increased my knowledge and understanding of the sexualisation of children and young people.	33%	50%	11%	3%	1%	0%
The seminar allowed me to network and make professional contacts.	11%	26%	48%	9%	2%	2%
The seminar was held at a convenient venue.	38%	47%	10%	2%	0%	1%
The seminar was held at a convenient day and time.	40%	50%	5%	0%	1%	1%
I was satisfied with the seminar.	42%	50%	5%	0%	1%	0%

*Table 13: Summary of feedback from the ‘Parenting matters seminar’*

*There were 74 responses from the 127 participants*

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The guest speakers presented relevant and useful information.	38%	58%	4%	0%	0%	0%
The seminar increased my knowledge and understanding of the sexualisation of children and young people.	38%	53%	8%	1%	0%	0%
The seminar was held at a convenient venue.	58%	36%	4%	1%	0%	0%
The seminar was held at a convenient day and time.	54%	45%	0%	0%	1%	0%
I was satisfied with the seminar.	41%	49%	9%	1%	0%	0%

### Children and young people in immigration detention

The Commissioner made two submissions to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to promote the recognition of issues for children and young people held in immigration detention in Australia. The submissions commented on the Migration Amendment (Health Care for Asylum Seekers) Bill 2012 and the Migration Amendment (Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals and Other Measures) Bill 2012.

The Commissioner also made comment on the draft National Settlement Framework that aims to address the planning and delivery of services to humanitarian entrants to Australia.

The Commissioner gave evidence to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Reference Committee's Inquiry into the Detention of Indonesian Minors in Australia.

### Youth health

During 2012–13 a number of stakeholders raised concerns with the Commissioner that there were gaps in youth-specific health services and a lack of coordination in the delivery of available services.

The Commissioner's preliminary research and consultation with stakeholders has revealed that Western Australia does not have a cohesive approach to young people's health and there are inconsistencies in youth health service delivery.

As a result the Commissioner plans to consult young people across Western Australian in late 2013. Researchers have been appointed to provide young Western Australians aged 13 to 18 years the opportunity to share their experiences of accessing health services in WA and seek their views on what the health system currently does well for them and where service delivery can be improved.

In addition the researchers will provide advice on research on best practice in health service delivery for young people.

### Report of the 2012 Thinker in Residence – Dr Stuart Shanker

In August 2012 the Commissioner released the report of the 2012 Thinker in Residence Dr Stuart Shanker, a leading Canadian child development researcher.

The Commissioner established the Thinker in Residence initiative in 2010 to focus on important public policy issues that affect the wellbeing of children and young people, and to generate new ideas and inspire lasting change.

In 2011–12, Dr Shanker participated in a two-week residency that involved 35 separate events and more than 2,000 participants.

The theme of the residency, and Dr Shanker's area of expertise, was self-regulation – the capacity of a person to monitor and modify their emotions and behaviour.

The report outlined how integrating the concept of self-regulation into all aspects of children and young people's care, particularly in early childhood, can significantly improve their lifelong health and wellbeing.

Dr Shanker reported that he was impressed with many of the programs and initiatives he saw during his residency, including the work undertaken by Roseworth Primary School in Girrawheen, but the lack of a systematic, coordinated approach was limiting the benefits to children's wellbeing.

To assist the development of a more integrated approach, Dr Shanker has offered the use of Canadian resources and data developed over many years.

The Commissioner released the report to partner organisations, including the departments of Education and Health and the former Department for Communities, the Mental Health Commission and non-government organisations, and to the general community.

Dr Shanker's opinion piece, 'Umbutu test shows WA children need help', was published in *The West Australian* on the release of his residency report in August 2012. This followed a series of opinion pieces by prominent Western Australians during Dr Shanker's residency.

The Commissioner is continuing to work with partner agencies in response to the report's recommendations.

### Children's Week 2013

The Commissioner has commenced planning for Children's Week 2013 which will involve public presentations by Canadian researcher Dr Michael Ungar.

Dr Michael Ungar is a Killam Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. He is currently the Network Director of the Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts Network and Co-Chair of the Nova Scotia Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Advisory Committee.

Dr Ungar is the founder and Co-Director of the Resilience Research Centre (RRC), an international research organisation on resilience in children and young people.

Dr Ungar's explanation of resilience shifts our understanding of resilience from an individual concept, to a more culturally-embedded understanding of wellbeing.

During 2013 Children's Week, Dr Ungar will speak to parents and professionals to provide an overview of resilience and the types of practical services, supports and resources that are shown to strengthen resilience in children and young people.

### Mental Health Commission's Good Outcomes Award

The Commissioner was pleased to sponsor the 'Dr Mark Rooney Award for Improved Outcomes in Child and Youth Mental Health' in 2012. The Award is part of the Mental Health Commission's Good Outcomes Awards which recognise the high standard of those involved in mental health programs at a local, regional or state-wide level in Western Australia.

Dr Mark Rooney (1959–2007) was a consultant psychiatrist specialising in child and adolescent psychiatry who made a significant contribution to shaping and establishing mental health services for young people in WA.

The Carers Association of WA was the 2012 award recipient for their program, 'Young Carers'.

Other finalists, including Princess Margaret Hospital and Arafmi, were also recognised at the awards ceremony on 9 October 2012 for their excellent programs.

The Commissioner has committed to sponsoring this award again in 2013.

## Goal 3 Governance and Capacity

### Overview

#### Objective

The Commissioner for Children and Young People will foster a professional working environment which values staff, sound research, evaluation and collaboration. Our work will be underpinned by a Governance Framework that ensures a work environment that is open, accountable and professional, incorporating compliance requirements and family-friendly work practices.

#### Strategies

- 3.1 Develop a workplace that is open and accessible to children and young people.
- 3.2 Work within our Governance Framework to support human, physical, financial and information technology resources.
- 3.3 Further develop policies, procedures and systems to meet governance requirements and support open, accountable and professional work practices (as detailed in the Governance Framework).

### Report on Goal 3 strategies

#### Transition out of Office of Shared Services

A major project for 2012–13 was the successful transition of the Commissioner's finance and payroll services from the Office of Shared Services to a stand-alone environment including the revision of the accounting manual and associated policies and practices.

The Commissioner formally implemented the MYOB finance system on 2 October 2012 and entered into a cluster arrangement with four other public sector agencies to implement the Talent2 payroll system on 27 September 2012. Full transition was achieved in late October 2012, with the transfer of all remaining Office of Shared Services held records to the Commissioner. Formal project sign off was provided by the Commissioner's Corporate Executive in December 2012.

An audit conducted throughout the transition period provided the Commissioner with assurance that the transition and resulting newly implemented finance and payroll functions were compliant with requirements of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and associated Treasurer's Instructions.

### Use of Our Space rooms

The Commissioner is required under the Act to encourage government and non-government agencies to seek the participation of children and young people appropriate to their age and maturity.

One of the ways the Commissioner facilitates this is to ensure that the Commissioner's offices at 1 Alvan Street, Subiaco are accessible and inviting to children and young people.

As part of the fit-out of the offices the Commissioner created the [Our Space meeting rooms](#) which are available for use seven days and evenings a week by children and young people and those organisations working with children and young people.

Table 14: Use of Our Space meeting rooms

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
<b>Number of Our Space meeting room bookings</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>230</b>

### Internal audit

In July 2012 a new contractual arrangement was entered into with Braxford Consulting to provide internal audit services for a minimum two-year period. The Commissioner's Corporate Executive formally endorsed the Strategic Audit Plan 2012–13 to 2014–15 in December 2012. The plan has been developed to reflect the Commissioner for Children and Young People's risk profile, the recent transition from the Office of Shared Services and previous feedback from the Office of the Auditor General.

### Risk management

Management of risk and risk mitigation strategies remained a focus of the Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2012–13. This work included implementation of a formal review of identified corporate risks incorporated into the monthly Corporate Executive meeting agenda and an update of the Business Continuity Plan. This ensures Corporate Executive maintains a focus on risks at an agency, project and employee level. The agency risk profile was also updated to reflect the changed operating environment following the transition out of the Office of Shared Services.

### School-based trainee program

For the second time the Commissioner participated in the Public Sector Commission's School-Based Traineeship program. This two-year program was completed in September 2012.

Table 15: Formal submissions 2012–13

Submissions can be viewed on the [Commissioner's website](#).

This is a list of some of the submissions in 2012–13 and does not indicate all submissions or representations made by the Commissioner during 2012–13.

Date	Title	Delivered to
11 July 2012	Review of the Children and <i>Community Services Act 2004</i>	Department for Child Protection, WA
11 July 2012	St Andrew's Hostel Special Inquiry: Comment on Draft Recommendations	Hon. Peter Blaxell, Special Inquirer
16 August 2012	Consultation on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy	National Suicide Consultation Team
13 September 2012	Evidence (Visual Recordings of Interviews with Children) Amendment Regulations 2012	Department of the Attorney General, WA
18 September 2012	Consultation on The Roadmap for National Mental Health Reform	Mental Health Commission (coordinating response for Federal Government)
04 October 2012	Inquiry into Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Amendment Bill 2012	Legislative Council Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review Committee (Parliament of Western Australia)
17 October 2012	Migration Amendment (Health Care for Asylum Seekers) Bill 2012 (Cth)	Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
22 October 2012	Inquiry into the contribution of sport to Indigenous wellbeing and mentoring	House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
30 October 2012	National Settlement Framework Consultation	Department of Local Government, WA
17 December 2012	Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals and Other Measures ) Bill 2012	Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
11 January 2013	Response to the referred matter of 25 October 2012 by the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People	Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Parliament of Western Australia)



Date	Title	Delivered to
15 February 2013	<i>Engaging Families in the Early Childhood Development Story: A toolkit for working with families</i> consultation	Office for Early Childhood Development, Department for Education and Child Development SA
25 February 2013	Review of the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i>	Liquor Control Act Review Committee
28 February 2013	Green Mental Health Bill 2012	Mental Health Commission WA
01 March 2013	Review of the <i>Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006</i>	Public Sector Commission
13 March 2013	Inquiry into the value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia	Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Reference Committee
14 March 2013	Inquiry into Banksia Hill Incident	Inspector of Custodial Services
10 May 2013	Review of mandatory sentencing under s.297 and 318 of the <i>Criminal Code</i>	Department of the Attorney General, WA
17 May 2013	Review of the <i>Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996</i> (WA)	Department of the Attorney General, WA
17 May 2013	Paid Parental Leave Scheme review	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
31 May 2013	A National Contributing Life survey development and methodology	National Contributing Life Project, National Mental Health Commission
25 June 2013	Declared Places (Mentally Impaired Accused) Bill 2013	Disability Services Commission, WA

#### Evidence to Parliamentary Committees

Date	Title	Delivered to
24 August 2012	Inquiry into Detention of Indonesian Minors in Australia	Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee
15 October 2012	Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Amendment Bill 2012	Legislative Council Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review Committee (Parliament of Western Australia)

# SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IMPACTING THE AGENCY

## Growing population of children and young people

Western Australia's increasing birth rate and population growth continue to escalate demand for programs and services that support children, young people and families.

There were 32,259 births registered in Western Australia in 2011 – an increase of 34.4 per cent since 2001 when 24,002 births were registered. The number of children and young people is projected to increase by 64 per cent to almost 900,000 by 2056.

Investment in services for the growing number of children and parents must match current demand and plan for future population trends.

## Early years

The early years (0 to eight years) of a child's life are critical to their wellbeing. In 2012 around 285,000 children of this age group lived in Western Australia, compared to 235,000 in 2002. Research shows a close relationship exists between a person's experiences during early childhood and their lifelong wellbeing. Factors such as the health of the mother during pregnancy, the child's early health and the quality of the childhood environment have a long-term influence on a person's health, competence and emotional wellbeing.

Research and data shows young children can have problems early in their lives. The Commissioner's Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia reported that more than one in ten (11.5%) two-year-olds and one in five (20%) five-year-olds have clinically significant behaviour problems. The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) reports that one in four WA children aged five years arrive at school developmentally vulnerable in at least one of five areas.

A comprehensive and coordinated approach is required to the investment of resources to support families with young children, including supports for parents.

## Aboriginal children and young people

Of the entire population of Aboriginal people, almost 40 per cent are children and young people under 18 years. In comparison, less than one-quarter of the non-Aboriginal population are children and young people.

The data in the Commissioner's report *The State of Western Australia's Children and Young People – Edition One* confirms the ongoing disadvantage of Aboriginal children and young people across a range of wellbeing indicators.

While there are some positive trends for Aboriginal children and young people, including some aspects of NAPLAN results and improving immunisation rates, the wellbeing gap between Aboriginal children and young people and non-Aboriginal children and young people is evident at every stage of their development. This is reflected in measures such as infant mortality rates, immunisation rates, overcrowded homes, preparedness for schooling, educational achievement, contact with the justice system and injury and hospitalisation.

Considerable improvement is needed to attain parity between the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people and non-Aboriginal children and young people. Targeted additional programs are required to assist Aboriginal children and young people and their families to ensure a stronger foundation can be laid for life-long health and wellbeing.

## Youth justice

In absolute terms, WA has one of the highest rates of youth detention in Australia. For the quarter March to June 2012 WA had a daily average of 168 young people 10 to 17 years old in detention, exceeded only by NSW with 266. Victoria, with more than double WA's population, had a daily average of less than half WA's, at 63.

Due to the profound impact the justice system can have on young people, and the vulnerability of those children and young people who are coming into contact with the criminal justice system, youth justice has been a priority area for the Commissioner since the establishment of the office in 2007.

# DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE



## Auditor General

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

#### COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

##### Report on the Financial Statements

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

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2013, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

##### 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 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and for such internal control as the Commissioner determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

##### Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commissioner's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Commissioner, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

##### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commissioner for Children and Young People at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.

##### Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People during the year ended 30 June 2013.

Controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People are those policies and procedures established by the Commissioner to ensure 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.

##### Commissioner's Responsibility for Controls

The Commissioner is responsible for maintaining an adequate system of internal control to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of public and other property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and other relevant written law.

##### Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the adequacy of controls to ensure that the Commissioner complies with the legislative provisions. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement and include an evaluation of the design and implementation of relevant controls.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

##### Opinion

In my opinion, the controls exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People are sufficiently adequate to 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 during the year ended 30 June 2013.

##### Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2013.

The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide information on outcome achievement and service provision.

##### Commissioner's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators

The Commissioner is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such controls as the Commissioner determines necessary to ensure that the key performance indicators fairly represent indicated performance.

##### Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the key performance indicators. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commissioner's preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and service provision.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commissioner for Children and Young People's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2013.

#### Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Auditor General Act 2006 and Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, and other relevant ethical requirements.

#### Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2013 included on the Commissioner's website. The Commissioner's management is responsible for the integrity of the Commissioner's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Commissioner's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements and key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators to confirm the information contained in this website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



GLEN CLARKE  
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL  
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia  
Perth, Western Australia  
14 August 2013

## Certification of Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2013

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 30 June 2013 and the financial position as at 30 June 2013.

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



**John Aquino FCA**  
Chief Finance Officer

Commissioner for Children and  
Young People Western Australia

13 August 2013



**Michelle Scott**  
Accountable Authority

Commissioner for Children and  
Young People Western Australia

13 August 2013



## Financial Statements

### Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefit expense	6	1,880,289	2,008,244
Supplies and services	7	625,173	831,993
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	74,750	75,698
Accommodation expenses	9	399,139	389,836
Grants and subsidies	10	17,455	-
Other expenses	11	67,252	25,727
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>3,064,058</b>	<b>3,331,498</b>
<b>Income</b>			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Other revenue	12	1,794	65,052
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>1,794</b>	<b>65,052</b>
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>		<b>1,794</b>	<b>65,052</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>3,062,264</b>	<b>3,266,446</b>
<b>Income from State Government</b>	13		
Service appropriation		2,854,000	2,958,000
Services received free of charge		171,275	146,901
<b>Total income from State Government</b>		<b>3,025,275</b>	<b>3,104,901</b>
<b>DEFICIT FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>(36,989)</b>	<b>(161,545)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>(36,989)</b>	<b>(161,545)</b>

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	23	739,805	877,395
Receivables	15	43,184	55,435
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>782,989</b>	<b>932,830</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	14, 23	47,097	42,464
Amounts receivable for services	16	285,000	212,000
Property, plant and equipment	17	158,803	233,553
Intangible assets	18	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>490,900</b>	<b>488,017</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,273,889</b>	<b>1,420,847</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	20	108,492	154,073
Provisions	21	223,621	297,708
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>332,113</b>	<b>451,781</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	21	106,542	96,843
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>106,542</b>	<b>96,843</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>438,655</b>	<b>548,624</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	22	<b>835,234</b>	<b>872,223</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity		420,000	420,000
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		415,234	452,223
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>835,234</b>	<b>872,223</b>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

### Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	Contributed equity \$	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$	Total equity \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2011</b>	22	420,000	613,768	1,033,768
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(161,545)	(161,545)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2012</b>		<b>420,000</b>	<b>452,223</b>	<b>872,223</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2012</b>		420,000	452,223	872,223
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(36,989)	(36,989)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2013</b>		<b>420,000</b>	<b>415,234</b>	<b>835,234</b>

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

## Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Service appropriation		2,781,000	2,885,000
Holding account drawdown		-	61,000
<b>Net cash provided by State Government</b>		<b>2,781,000</b>	<b>2,946,000</b>
Utilised as follows:			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee benefits		(1,946,111)	(1,990,661)
Supplies and services		(498,047)	(699,370)
Accommodation		(399,139)	(389,836)
Grants and subsidies		(17,455)	-
GST payments on purchases		(97,979)	(119,235)
Other payments		(67,252)	(25,727)
<b>Receipts</b>			
GST receipts on sales		3,601	9,314
GST receipts from taxation authority		88,027	122,312
Other receipts		20,398	30,857
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	23	<b>(2,913,957)</b>	<b>(3,062,346)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		-	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(132,957)	(116,346)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		919,859	1,036,205
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>	23	<b>786,902</b>	<b>919,859</b>

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

## Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013 Estimate \$	2013 Actual \$	Variance \$	2013 Actual \$	2012 Actual \$	Variance \$
<b>Delivery of Services</b>						
Item 54 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	2,814,000	2,619,000	(195,000)	2,619,000	2,734,000	(115,000)
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes						
– <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	231,000	235,000	4,000	235,000	224,000	11,000
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>3,045,000</b>	<b>2,854,000</b>	<b>(191,000)</b>	<b>2,854,000</b>	<b>2,958,000</b>	<b>(104,000)</b>
<b>Capital</b>						
Capital Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,045,000</b>	<b>2,854,000</b>	<b>(191,000)</b>	<b>2,854,000</b>	<b>2,958,000</b>	<b>(104,000)</b>
<b>Details of Expenses by Services</b>						
Consultation, research and promotion	3,226,000	3,064,058	(161,942)	3,064,058	3,331,498	(267,440)
Total Cost of Services	3,226,000	3,064,058	(161,942)	3,064,058	3,331,498	(267,440)
Less total income	-	(1,794)	(1,794)	(1,794)	(65,052)	63,258
Net Cost of Services	3,226,000	3,062,264	(163,736)	3,062,264	3,266,446	(204,182)
Adjustments	(181,000)	(208,264)	(27,264)	(208,264)	(308,446)	100,182
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>3,045,000</b>	<b>2,854,000</b>	<b>(191,000)</b>	<b>2,854,000</b>	<b>2,958,000</b>	<b>(104,000)</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments for other funding sources	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Capital appropriations</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Adjustments comprise movements in cash balances and other accrual items such as receivables, payables and superannuation.

Note 27 'Explanatory statement' provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2013 and between the actual results for 2013 and 2012.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

### Note 1. Australian Accounting Standards

#### General

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's (hereafter CCYP for the purpose of the notes) financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

CCYP has adopted any applicable, new and revised Australian Accounting Standards from their operative dates.

#### Early adoption of standards

CCYP cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements*. There has been no early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by CCYP for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2013.

### Note 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) General statement

CCYP is a not-for-profit reporting entity that prepares general purpose financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB 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 impose legislative provisions that govern the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB.

Where modification is required and has had 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 on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention.

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.

Note 3. 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies' discloses judgements that have been made in process of applying CCYP's accounting policies resulting in the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Note 4. 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty' discloses key assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.



### (c) Reporting entity

The reporting entity comprises CCYP.

#### Mission

The mission of CCYP is to improve the well-being of children and young people by working with them, their families, community and government in Western Australia. CCYP is predominantly funded by Parliamentary appropriations.

#### Services

1. Consultation, Research and Promotion of the Wellbeing of Children and Young People.

As there is only one service provided by CCYP, the Schedule of Income and Expenses by service and Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by service have not been prepared.

### (d) Contributed equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, 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 appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 *Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* and have been credited directly to Contributed equity.

The transfers of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

### (e) Income

#### Revenue recognition

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

#### *Provision of services*

Revenue is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

#### *Interest*

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

#### *Service appropriations*

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues at fair value 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 to the bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at Treasury.

#### *Net Appropriation Determination*

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of CCYP. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2012–2013 Budget Statements, CCYP retained \$1,794 in 2013 (\$65,052 in 2012).

#### Gains

Realised or unrealised gains 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 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 plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

### Initial recognition and measurement

Plant and equipment is initially recognised at cost.

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

### Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition as an asset, historical cost is used for the measurement of plant and equipment. Items of plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. CCYP does not hold any land, buildings or infrastructure assets.

### Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of plant and equipment, any revaluation surplus relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation surplus.

### Depreciation

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

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

Office equipment	Computer hardware	Furniture fixtures and fittings
5 years	3 years	10 years

## (g) Intangible assets

### Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or 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 Statement of Comprehensive Income.

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 which is reviewed annually) on the straight line basis. 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:

<b>Software<sup>(a)</sup></b>
3 years

(a) Software that is not integral to the operation of any related hardware

#### Computer software

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

#### (h) Impairment of assets

Plant and equipment and intangible assets are tested for any indication of impairment at the end of each reporting period. 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. Where an asset measured at cost is written down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. 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 the 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 the end of each reporting period 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 the end of each reporting period.

#### (i) Leases

CCYP holds operating leases for its office building and motor vehicles. Operating leases are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents 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.

Financial instruments have been disaggregated into the following classes:

- Financial Assets
  - Cash and cash equivalents
  - Restricted cash and cash equivalents
  - Receivables
  - Amounts receivable for services
- 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 Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

### (l) Accrued salaries

Accrued salaries (see note 20 Payables) represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at 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.

The accrued salaries suspense account 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.

### (m) Amounts receivable for services (holding account)

CCYP receives funding on an accrual basis. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable). The accrued amount receivable is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

### (n) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at original invoice amount less an allowance for any 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 allowance 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.

### (o) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable 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 settlement is generally within 30 days.

### (p) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period.

#### Provisions – employee benefits

All annual leave and long service leave provisions are in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period.

#### *Annual leave*

The liability for annual leave that is expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Annual leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. The provision for annual leave is classified as current liability as CCYP does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

#### *Long service leave*

The liability for long service leave that is expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Long service leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

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 end of the reporting period. Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because CCYP has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

#### *Superannuation*

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees vary according to commencement and implementation dates.

Eligible employees contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme closed to new members since 1987, or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme closed to new members since 1995.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension Scheme or the GSS 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). From 30 March 2012, existing members of the WSS or GESBS and new employees have been able to choose their preferred superannuation fund provider. The Department makes contributions to GESB or other fund provider on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. Contributions to these accumulation schemes extinguish the Department's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

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

CCYP has no liabilities under the Pension Scheme or the GSS. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS transfer benefits attributable to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by CCYP to the GESB.

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



### 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'.

#### (q) Superannuation expense

The superannuation expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises of employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, and the GESBS. The employer contribution paid to the GESB in respect of the GSS is paid back into the Consolidated Account by the GESB.

#### (r) Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost

Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income at fair value. Where the resource received represents a service that CCYP would otherwise pay for. A corresponding expense is recognised. Receipts of assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

Assets or services received from other State Government agencies are separately disclosed under Income from State Government in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

#### (s) Comparative figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

### **Note 3. Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements about the application of accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. CCYP evaluates these judgements regularly.

#### **Operating lease commitments**

The Commission has entered into a lease for a building used for office accommodation. It has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, this lease has been classified as an operating lease.

### **Note 4. Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

#### **Long Service Leave**

Several estimations and assumptions used in calculating CCYP's long service leave provision include expected future salary rates, discount rates, employee retention rates and expected future payments. Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision.

## Note 5. Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

### Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

CCYP has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2012 that impacted on CCYP.

AASB 2011-9	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income [AASB 1, 5, 7, 101, 112, 120, 121, 132, 133, 134, 1039 &amp; 1049].</i></p> <p>This Standard requires to group items presented in other comprehensive income on the basis of whether they are potentially reclassifiable to profit or loss subsequently (reclassification adjustments). There is no financial impact.</p>
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### Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

CCYP cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements*. Consequently, CCYP has not applied early any of the following Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued that may impact CCYP. Where applicable, CCYP plans to apply these Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

		Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 9	<p><i>Financial Instruments</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>AASB 2012-6 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and Transition Disclosures</i> amended and mandatory application date of this Standard to 1 January 2015. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2015

AASB 10	<p><i>Consolidated Financial Statements</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements and Int 112 Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>AASB 2012-10 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Transition Guidance and Other Amendments</i> amends the mandatory application date of this Standard to 1 January 2014 for not-for-profit entities. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 11	<p><i>Joint Arrangements</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>AASB 2012-10 amends the mandatory application date of the Standard to 1 January 2014 for not-for-profit entities. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 12	<p><i>Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes disclosure requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i> and AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>.</p> <p>AASB 2012-10 amends the mandatory application date of the Standard to 1 January 2014 for not-for-profit entities. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 13	<p><i>Fair Value Measurement</i></p> <p>This Standard defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. CCYP has liaised with the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) to ensure that sufficient information will be provided to meet the disclosure requirements of this Standard. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 119	<p><i>Employee Benefits</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 119 (October 2010), making changes to the recognition, presentation and disclosure requirements. CCYP does not have any defined benefits plans, and therefore the financial impact will be limited to the effect of discounting annual leave and long service leave liabilities that were previously measured at the undiscounted amounts.</p>	1 Jan 2014
AASB 127	<p><i>Separate Financial Statements</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>AASB 2012-10 amends the mandatory application date of the Standard to 1 January 2014 for not-for-profit entities. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2014

AASB 128	<p><i>Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i></p> <p>This Standard supersedes AASB 128 <i>Investments in Associates</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments. AASB 2012-10 amends the mandatory application date of the Standard to 1 January 2014 for not-for-profit entities. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2014
AASB 1053	<p><i>Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>This Standard establishes a differential financial reporting framework consisting of two tiers of reporting requirements for preparing general purpose financial statements. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 1055	<p><i>Budgetary Reporting</i></p> <p>This Standard specifies the nature of budgetary disclosures, the circumstances in which they are to be included in the general purpose financial statements of not-for-profit entities within the GGS. The Authority will be required to disclose additional budgetary information and explanations of major variances between actual and budgeted amounts, though there is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2010-2	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 1050 &amp; 1052 and Int 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 127, 129 &amp; 1052].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations to introduce reduced disclosure requirements for certain types of entities. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2010-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 &amp; 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 &amp; 127].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010.</p> <p>AASB 2012-6 amended the mandatory application date of the Standard to 1 January 2015 for not-for-profit entities. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2015
AASB 2011-2	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 101 &amp; 1054].</i></p> <p>This Standard removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards for reduced disclosure reporting. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013

AASB 2011-6	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Relief from Consolidation, the Equity Method and Proportionate Consolidation – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 127, 128 &amp; 131].</i></p> <p>This Standard extends the relief from consolidation, the equity method and proportionate consolidation by removing the requirement for the consolidated financial statements prepared by the ultimate or any intermediate parent entity to be IFRS compliant, provided that the parent entity, investor or venturer and the ultimate or intermediate parent entity comply with Australian Accounting Standards or Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2011-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 101, 107, 112, 118, 121, 124, 132, 133, 136, 138, 139, 1023 &amp; 1038 and Int 5, 9, 16 &amp; 17].</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issuance of AASB 10, AASB 11, AASB 127 <i>Separate Financial Statements</i> and AASB 128 <i>Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i>. For not-for-profit entities it applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2011-8	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 [AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 101, 102, 108, 110, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1004, 1023 &amp; 1038 and Int 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 131 &amp; 132].</i></p> <p>This Standard replaces the existing definition and fair value guidance in other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as the result of issuing AASB 13 in September 2011. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2011-10	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (September 2011) [AASB 1, 8, 101, 124, 134, 1049 &amp; 2011-8 and Int 14].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 119 <i>Employee Benefits</i> in September 2011. There is limited financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2011-11	<p><i>Amendments to AASB 119 (September 2011) arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements.</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements for AASB 119 (September 2011). There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2012-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 3, 7, 13, 140 &amp; 141].</i></p> <p>This Standard establishes and amends reduced disclosure requirements for additional and amended disclosures arising from AASB 13 and the consequential amendments implemented through AASB 2011-8. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2012-2	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 7 &amp; 132].</i></p> <p>This Standard amends the required disclosures in AASB 7 to include information that will enable users of an entity's financial statements to evaluate the effect or potential effect of netting arrangements, including rights of set-off associated with the entity's recognised financial assets and recognised financial liabilities, on the entity's financial position. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013

AASB 2012-3	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132].</i></p> <p>This Standard adds application guidance to AASB 132 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria, including clarifying the meaning of “currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off” and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2014
AASB 2012-5	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Annual Improvements 2009-11 Cycle [AASB 1, 101, 116, 132 &amp; 134 and Int 2].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a consequence of the annual improvements process. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2012-6	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and Transition Disclosures [AASB 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 2011-7 &amp; 2011-8].</i></p> <p>This Standard amends the mandatory effective date of AASB 9 Financial Instruments to 1 January 2015. Further amendments are also made to consequential amendments arising from AASB 9 that will now apply from 1 January 2015 and to consequential amendments arising out of the Standards that will still apply from 1 January 2013. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2012-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 7, 12, 101 &amp; 127].</i></p> <p>This Standard adds to or amends the Australian Accounting Standards to provide further information regarding the differential reporting framework and the two tiers of reporting requirements for preparing general financial statement. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013
AASB 2012-10	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Transition Guidance and Other Amendments [AASB 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 119, 127, 128, 132, 133, 134, 137, 1023, 1038, 1039, 1049, &amp; 2011-7 and Int 12].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to AASB 10 and related Standards to revise the transition guidance relevant to the initial application of those Standards, and to clarify the circumstances in which adjustments to an entity’s previous accounting for its involvement with other entities are required and the timing of such adjustments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in December 2012. CCYP has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2013
AASB 2012-11	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Other Amendments [AASB 1, 2, 8, 10, 107, 128, 133, 134 &amp; 2011-4].</i></p> <p>This Standard makes various editorial corrections to Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (Tier 2). These corrections ensure that the Standards reflect decisions of the AASB regarding the Tier 2 requirements.</p> <p>This Standard also extends the relief from consolidation and the equity method (in the new Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards) to entities complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jul 2013



**Note 6. Employee benefits expense**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Wages and salaries <sup>(a)</sup>	1,679,432	1,841,325
Superannuation – defined contribution plans <sup>(b)</sup>	195,849	158,725
Other related expenses	5,008	8,194
	<b>1,880,289</b>	<b>2,008,244</b>

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component, leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component.

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB Super Scheme and other eligible funds.  
Employment on-costs expenses such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 11 'Other expenses'.  
Employment on-costs liability is included at note 21 'Provisions'.

**Note 7. Supplies and Services**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Communications	31,566	33,079
Contractors and consultants	383,896	491,703
Computer equipment	-	9,684
Consumables	96,931	102,762
Travel	12,511	44,762
Lease, rent and hire costs	41,174	36,448
Licence, fee and registration	15,090	14,628
Promotional	1,314	15,093
Publication	14,858	57,064
Advertisement	3,857	2,201
Donation	22,719	22,193
Other	1,257	2,376
	<b>625,173</b>	<b>831,993</b>

**Note 8. Depreciation and amortisation expense**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Furniture fixtures and fittings	71,314	71,565
Office equipment	3,436	4,133
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>74,750</b>	<b>75,698</b>
<b>Amortisation</b>		
Intangible assets	-	-
<b>Total amortisation</b>	-	-
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>74,750</b>	<b>75,698</b>

**Note 9. Accommodation expenses**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Lease rentals	380,805	377,184
Repairs and maintenance	7,018	1,358
Cleaning	11,316	11,294
	<b>399,139</b>	<b>389,836</b>

**Note 10. Grants and subsidies**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Recurrent</b>		
Grants and subsidies	17,455	-
	<b>17,455</b>	-

**Note 11. Other expenses**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Employment on-cost <sup>(a)</sup>	-	3,634
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	67,252	22,093
	<b>67,252</b>	<b>25,727</b>

(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 21 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

(b) Includes audit fee. See Note 30.

**Note 12. Other revenue**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Sponsorship	-	60,000
Refunds	1,794	5,052
	<b>1,794</b>	<b>65,052</b>

**Note 13. Income from State Government**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriations <sup>(a)</sup>	2,854,000	2,958,000
	<b>2,854,000</b>	<b>2,958,000</b>
Services received free of charge <sup>(b)</sup>		
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of the Attorney General – Corporate Services	164,719	142,049
Department of Treasury and Finance – Building Management and Works	6,556	4,852
	<b>171,275</b>	<b>146,901</b>
	<b>3,025,275</b>	<b>3,104,901</b>

(a) Service appropriations fund the net cost of services delivered. 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) Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost are recognised as revenue at fair value of the assets and/or services that can be reliably measured and which would have been purchased if they were not donated. Contribution of assets or services in the nature of contributions by owners are recognised direct to equity.

**Note 14. Restricted cash and cash equivalents**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Accrued salaries suspense account <sup>(a)</sup>	47,097	42,464
	<b>47,097</b>	<b>42,464</b>

(a) Fund held in the suspense account used only for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

**Note 15. Receivables**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Receivables	16,623	35,227
GST Receivable	26,561	20,208
<b>Total current receivable</b>	<b>43,184</b>	<b>55,435</b>

**Note 16. Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>	-	-
<b>Non-current</b>	285,000	212,000
	<b>285,000</b>	<b>212,000</b>

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

**Note 17. Plant and equipment**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Computer hardware</b>		
At cost	13,865	13,865
Accumulated depreciation	(13,865)	(13,865)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	-	-
<b>Office equipment</b>		
At cost	20,663	20,663
Accumulated depreciation	(18,608)	(15,172)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	2,055	5,491
<b>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>		
At cost	457,823	457,824
Accumulated depreciation	(301,075)	(229,762)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<b>156,748</b>	<b>228,062</b>
	<b>158,803</b>	<b>233,553</b>

## Reconciliation

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

	Computer hardware	Office equipment	Furniture fixtures and fittings	Total
<b>2013</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at start of year	-	5,491	228,063	233,554
Depreciation	-	(3,436)	(71,314)	(74,750)
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	-	<b>2,055</b>	<b>156,749</b>	<b>158,804</b>
<b>2012</b>				
Carrying amount at start of year	-	9,624	299,627	309,251
Depreciation	-	(4,133)	(71,565)	(75,698)
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	-	<b>5,491</b>	<b>228,062</b>	<b>233,553</b>

## Note 18. Intangible assets

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Computer software</b>		
At cost	15,086	15,086
Accumulated amortisation	(15,086)	(15,086)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	-	-
<b>Computer software</b>		
Carrying amount at start of period	-	-
Additions	-	-
Classified as held for sale	-	-
Revaluation increments	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in Income Statement	-	-
Impairment losses reversed in Income Statement	-	-
Amortisation expense	-	-
<b>Carrying amount at end of period</b>	-	-

### Note 19. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to plant and equipment or intangible assets at 30 June 2013.

CCYP held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period. At the end of the reporting period there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2013 have either been classified as assets held for sale or written-off.

### Note 20. Payables

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade payables	12,309	53,000
Accrued expenses	54,748	58,204
Accrued salaries	37,927	39,011
Accrued superannuation	3,508	3,858
<b>Total current payable</b>	<b>108,492</b>	<b>154,073</b>

### Note 21. Provisions

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Annual leave <sup>(a)</sup>	95,897	110,809
Long service leave <sup>(b)</sup>	126,767	185,535
	222,664	296,344
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs <sup>(c)</sup>	957	1,364
	957	1,364
	<b>223,621</b>	<b>297,708</b>



**Note 21. Provisions**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Non-current</b>		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Long service leave <sup>(b)</sup>	106,062	96,400
Purchased leave scheme	-	-
	<b>106,062</b>	<b>96,400</b>
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs <sup>(c)</sup>	480	443
	<b>106,542</b>	<b>96,843</b>

(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	88,831	92,524
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	7,445	18,793
	<b>96,276</b>	<b>111,317</b>

(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 the end of reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	64,305	44,540
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	169,583	238,694
	<b>233,888</b>	<b>283,234</b>

- (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.

### Movements in other provisions

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

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Employment on-cost provision</b>		
Carrying amount at start of period	1,807	2,760
Additional provisions recognised	(370)	(953)
<b>Carrying amount at end of period</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,807</b>

### Note 22. Equity

The Government holds the equity interest in CCYP on behalf of the community.

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of CCYP.

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Contributed equity</b>		
Balance at start of period	420,000	420,000
<b>Contributions by owners</b>		
Capital appropriation	-	-
<b>Total contributions by owners</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus/(deficit)</b>		
Balance at start of period	452,223	613,768
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors	-	-
Result for the period	(36,989)	(161,545)
Income and expense recognised directly to equity	-	-
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>415,234</b>	<b>452,223</b>
<b>Total equity at end of period</b>	<b>835,234</b>	<b>872,223</b>

## Note 23. Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

### Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	739,805	877,395
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	47,097	42,464
	<b>786,902</b>	<b>919,859</b>

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

Net cost of services	(3,062,264)	(3,266,446)
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#### Non-cash items:

Depreciation and amortisation expense	74,750	75,698
Resources received free of charge	171,275	146,901

#### (Increase)/decrease in assets:

Current receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	18,604	(34,195)
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#### Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:

Current payables	(45,581)	(54,128)
Current provisions	(74,087)	61,822
Non-current provisions	9,699	(4,392)

Net GST receipts/(payments) <sup>(b)</sup>	(6,351)	12,391
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Change in GST in receivables/payables <sup>(c)</sup>	(2)	3
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<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(2,913,957)</b>	<b>(3,062,346)</b>
--	--------------------	--------------------

(a) 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.

(b) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

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

**Note 24. Commitments**

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

**Non cancellable operating lease commitments**

2013  
\$

2012  
\$

Commitments for minimum lease payment are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	445,582	341,074
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	187,133	480,064
	<b>632,715</b>	<b>821,138</b>

The non cancellable operating leases represent CCYP's property lease and leases on its motor vehicles. The property lease is a non-cancellable lease with a term expiring November 2014 with a further option to renew the lease for another five years. There is a fixed 3% increase in rent rates at the end of each lease year.

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.

**Note 25. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets****Contingent liabilities**

The CCYP has no contingent liabilities for the financial year 2012–13.

**Contingent assets**

The CCYP has no contingent assets for the financial year 2012–13.

**Note 26. Event occurring after the end of the reporting period**

There were no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that impact on the financial statements.

## Note 27. Explanatory statement

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expenses as presented in the Financial Statement titled 'Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below: Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 5% or \$100,000.

### Total appropriations provided to deliver services

#### Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2013

There was significant variance in the total appropriation received against budget:

	2013 Budget \$	2012 Actual \$	Variance \$
Appropriations provided to deliver services <sup>(a)</sup>	3,045,000	2,854,000	(191,000)

(a) The variance in the appropriation provided to deliver services is the result of two principal adjustments to the published 2012–13 budget estimates. CCYP was advised by Treasury that its approved FTE establishment was reduced by 2 and its funding for salaries would be reduced by \$225,000. CCYP was also advised of a Section 25 adjustment whereby its funding base was increased by \$30,000 to assume corporate support functions previously provided by the OSS.

#### Significant variances between actual results for 2013 and 2012

	2013 \$	2012 \$	Variance \$
Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the period	2,854,000	2,958,000	(104,000)
Total income	1,794	65,052	(63,258)

The decrease in the actual appropriation in the 2012–13 as compared with 2011–12 is principally the result of the reduction of the FTE establishment of the agency from 18 FTE to 16 FTE.

The decrease in total income is due to a reduction in sponsorship revenue from the "Thinkers in Residence" initiative which did not take place in 2013.

**Service Expenditure**

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2013

	2013 Budget	2012 Actual	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Consultation, research and promotion <sup>(a)</sup>	3,226,000	3,064,058	(161,942)

Significant variances between actual results for 2013 and 2012

	2013	2012	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Consultation, research and promotion <sup>(a)</sup>	3,064,058	3,331,498	(267,440)

(a) Consultation, research and promotion represents the total operating cost of CCYP. The principal reason for the variance is due to reduction of \$225,000 in the allocation for salaries expense as the FTE was reduced from 18 to 16.



## Note 28. Financial instruments

### (a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial Instruments held by CCYP are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. 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.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any allowance for impairment, as shown in the table at note 28(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 15 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with CCYP's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, CCYP trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. CCYP has policies in place to ensure that services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that CCYP's exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.

#### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when CCYP is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

CCYP is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

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

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will effect CCYP's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. CCYP does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. 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 financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	739,805	877,395
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	47,097	42,464
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	301,623	247,227
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
Payables	108,492	154,073

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

### (c) Financial instrument disclosures

#### Credit risk

The following table details CCYP's maximum exposure to credit risk and the ageing analysis of financial assets. CCYP's maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of the financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of the financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of CCYP.

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

### Aged analysis of financial assets

#### Past due but not impaired

	Carrying Amount \$	Not past due and not impaired \$	Up to 1 month \$	1-3 months \$	3 months to 1 year \$	1-5 years \$	More than 5 years \$	Impaired financial assets \$
<b>2013</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	739,805	739,805	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	47,097	47,097	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	16,623	16,623	16,496	-	-	126	-	-
Amount receivable for services	285,000	285,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>1,088,525</b>	<b>1,088,525</b>	<b>16,496</b>	-	-	<b>126</b>	-	-
<b>2012</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	877,395	877,395	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	42,464	42,464	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	35,227	32,874	-	2,353	-	-	-	-
Amount receivable for services	212,000	212,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>1,167,086</b>	<b>1,164,733</b>	-	<b>2,353</b>	-	-	-	-

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

#### Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure

The following table details CCYP's interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

### Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

	Interest rate exposure					Maturity Dates					
	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-Interest Bearing \$	Nominal Amount \$	Up to 1 month \$	1-3 months \$	3 months to 1 year \$	1-5 years \$	More than 5 years \$
<b>2013</b>											
<b>Financial Assets:</b>											
Cash and cash equivalents	-	739,805	-	-	739,805	739,805	739,805	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	-	47,097	-	-	47,097	47,097	47,097	-	-	-	-
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	-	16,623	-	-	16,623	16,623	16,497	-	-	126	-
Amount receivable for services	-	285,000	-	-	285,000	285,000	-	-	-	-	285,000
	-	<b>1,088,525</b>	-	-	<b>1,088,525</b>	<b>1,088,525</b>	<b>803,399</b>	-	-	<b>126</b>	<b>285,000</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities:</b>											
Payables	-	108,492	-	-	108,492	108,492	108,492	-	-	-	-
	-	<b>108,492</b>	-	-	<b>108,492</b>	<b>108,492</b>	<b>108,492</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>2012</b>											
<b>Financial Assets:</b>											
Cash and cash equivalents	-	877,395	-	-	877,395	877,395	877,395	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalent	-	42,464	-	-	42,464	42,464	42,464	-	-	-	-
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	-	35,227	-	-	35,227	35,227	32,874	2,353	-	-	-
Amount receivable for services	-	212,000	-	-	212,000	212,000	-	-	-	-	212,000
	-	<b>1,167,086</b>	-	-	<b>1,167,086</b>	<b>1,167,086</b>	<b>952,733</b>	<b>2,353</b>	-	-	<b>212,000</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities:</b>											
Payables	-	154,073	-	-	154,073	154,073	154,073	-	-	-	-
	-	<b>154,073</b>	-	-	<b>154,073</b>	<b>154,073</b>	<b>154,073</b>	-	-	-	-

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

### Interest rate sensitivity analysis

None of CCYP's financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period are sensitive to movements in interest rates. Movements in interest rates would therefore have no impact on CCYP's surplus or equity.

### Fair values

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

### **Note 29. Remuneration of senior officers**

The number of senior officers, other than senior officers reported as members of the accountable authority, whose total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year fall within the following bands are:

\$	2012	2011
0-10,000	1	-
30,001-40,000	1	-
70,001-80,000	-	2
80,001-90,000	1	-
100,001-110,000	1	-
120,001-130,000	-	1
150,001-160,000	-	1
160,001-170,000	1	-
170,001-180,000	-	1
180,001-190,000	1	-
250,001+	1	1

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Cash remuneration received	746,217	788,365
Annual leave and long service leave accruals	85,798	23,508
Other benefits	46,350	47,581
<b>Total remuneration of senior officers</b>	<b>878,365</b>	<b>859,454</b>

The prior period has been restated to account for payments on an accrual basis as is required in TI 952. An accrual for Annual and Long Service leave due to each officer has been recognised in the above statement. The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by CCYP in respect of each senior officer.

**Note 30. Remuneration of the auditor**

Remuneration payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and key performance indicators	20,000	19,100

The expense is included at Note 11 'Other expenses'

**Note 31. Related Bodies**

CCYP has reported no related bodies for the financial year 2012–13.

**Note 32. Affiliated Bodies**

CCYP has reported no affiliated bodies for the financial year 2012–13.





### **Certification of Key Performance Indicators**

I hereby certify that the Key Performance Indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Commissioner for Children and Young People's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the financial year ended 30 June 2013.

**Michelle Scott**  
Accountable Authority

13 August 2013

## Detailed key performance indicators information

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's Key Performance Indicators were approved by the Government's Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009.

Commissioner for Children and Young People Approved outcome-based management structure	
<b>Government Goal</b>	Results based service delivery. Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians.
<b>Agency Level Desired Outcome(s)</b>	The views and issues of children and young people are heard and acted upon.
<b>Key Effectiveness Indicators</b>	<p>1.1 The extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted.</p> <p>1.2 The extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research.</p>
<b>Service</b>	Consultation, research and promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people.
<b>Key Cost Efficiency Indicators</b>	<p>2.1 Average cost per consultation exercise with children and young people.</p> <p>2.2 Average cost of conducting research and consultation.</p>

### Key Effectiveness Indicator 1 – Extent to which children and young people in various regions of the State are consulted.

It is a responsibility of the Commissioner to consult with children and young people and the scope and goals for this are set out in the Act and the Strategic Plan.

Consultation will comprise a number of discrete projects, involving the Commissioner (or the staff of the office, or a consultant/contractor employed to act on the Commissioner's behalf) seeking the considered views of children and young people on a range of issues in various locations across the State of Western Australia.

Table 16: Consultations conducted in this reporting period

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	Target 2012–13	Actual 2012–13
Regional	11	9	18	8	8
Metropolitan	18	16	25	17	15
<b>Total number of consultations</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>

Note 1 – This is the fourth year of reporting on the KPI determined by the Government's Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009. In the first three years of reporting, and while the scope and range of the Commissioner's work was being established, the Corporate Executive annually reviewed the KPI definitions to ensure that the KPI is a transparent measure of the entire work of the office.

Note 2 – The variance in the actual number of consultations undertaken this reporting period compared to the target is attributed to the planning work being undertaken for consultations with children and young people with disability, in regional areas, and on youth health that will occur in 2013-14.

Note 3 – The variance in the number of consultations conducted in 2011–12 compared to other reporting periods is due to the number of consultations conducted during the 2011 Thinker in Residence program and a large consultation project conducted with multiple groups of young people as part of the reducing alcohol related harm project being conducted in one reporting period. It is expected that this was a one off variation.

Note 4 – It is prescribed in the Act Section 19(n) that the Commissioner will consult with children and young people from a broad range of socio economic backgrounds and age groups throughout Western Australia each year. These consultations assist the Commissioner to ensure the views and opinions of children and young people are heard and acted upon.

Note 5 – The Commissioner uses the information from consultations to inform her work – to advocate for children and young people (Section 19(a)) and to promote and monitor the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(c)). This is achieved by including the views of children and young people in representations and submissions and by promoting public awareness and understanding of matters that impact on the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(h)).

Note 6 – Within the resources of this office it is achievable to undertake 25 consultations annually and, over time, the extent to which children and young people across the State are consulted will aggregate.

### **Key Effectiveness Indicator 2 – Extent to which issues impacting upon children and young people are identified through consultation and research.**

The Commissioner's role includes analysis and interpretation of information collected through consultation and research processes to identify issues and trends affecting children and young people. The Commissioner is responsible for making representations and developing submissions that explore the impact of these issues and make recommendations to address them.

*Table 17: Number of representations in this reporting period*

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	Target 2012–13	Actual 2012–13
Representations <sup>1</sup>	98	94	228	90	143

<sup>1</sup> Representations include submissions; reports; responses to Government inquiries and initiatives, Parliamentary committees and reviews; appearance before Parliamentary inquiries and committees; submissions on draft or proposed legislation; presentations; and published issue papers and reports.

Note 1 – This is the fourth year of reporting on the KPI determined by the Government's Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009. In the first three years of reporting and while the scope and range of the Commissioner's work was being established, the Corporate Executive annually reviewed the KPI definitions to ensure that the KPI is a transparent measure of the entire work of the office.

As a result of this review in 2012 the definition was amended by Corporate Executive to include all representations made by the office. This explains some of the variance in the number of representations (above the target set in 2010–11).

- Note 2 – The variance in the actual number of representations compared to the target is attributable to the number of submissions and the number of forums and seminars developed in this reporting period.
- Note 3 – The variance in the actual number of representations in 2011–12 compared to other years was attributed to two Thinker in Residence projects being conducted in one reporting period (usually only one Thinker in Residence project would occur) and the higher than usual number of Government-initiated inquiries and legislation being reviewed. It is expected that this is a one-off variation.
- Note 4 – The Commissioner uses information from consultations, meetings, research and reports to inform her work i.e. to advocate for children and young people (Section 19(a)) and to promote and monitor the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(c)). This is done by including the views of children and young people, their families and other key stakeholders and the results of research and reports in representations/submissions and by promoting public awareness and understanding of matters that impact on the wellbeing of children and young people (Section 19(h)).
- Note 5 – Section 19 of the Act contains a number of functions that require the Commissioner to allocate resources to make representations and prepare submissions (Section 19(d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (k), (l)).

Note 6 – The Table above does not include the many strategic meetings that are conducted by the Commissioner and/or the staff of the office. Strategic meetings are held with ministers, directors general, senior officer working groups, community leaders and major stakeholders. Strategic meetings are often used to fulfil the functions as outlined in the Act.

Table 18: Breakdown of representations in this reporting period

	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
Submissions	64	26	69	65
<i>Comments on legislation</i> <sup>1</sup>	- <sup>2</sup>	5	11	12
Evidence to Parliamentary Committees and Inquiries	10	5	3	6
Issues papers	3	13	3	4
Publications (including policy briefs)	3	7	23	11
Speeches	14	9	25	19
Presentations	-	26	8	6
Opinion pieces	4	8	15	12
Forums and seminars	-	-	74	16
Support for research proposals	-	-	3	0
Community consultation	-	-	5	4
<b>Total representations</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>143</b>

- 1 Comments on legislation are provided by submission or in evidence to Parliamentary Committees and Inquiries, and are therefore not counted in the totals for representations.
- 2 Representation types listed with a dash were not counted in 2009–10 and 2010–11.

## Key Cost Efficiency Indicators

Consultation, research and the promotion of the wellbeing of children and young people are a responsibility of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the scope and goals for this are prescribed in the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*.

Table 19: Efficiency indicators in this reporting period

Efficient Indicators	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	Target 2012–13	Actual 2012–13
2.1 Average cost per consulting exercise with children and young people	\$29,235	\$37,330	\$24,501	\$40,808	\$37,395
2.2 Average cost of conducting research and consultation	\$19,866	\$22,430	\$9,991	\$24,509	\$15,412

## Notes

Note 1 – This is the fourth year of reporting on the KPI determined by the Government's Outcome Structure Review Group on 7 April 2009. In the first three years of reporting and while the scope and range of the Commissioner's work was being established the Corporate Executive annually reviewed the KPI definitions to ensure that the KPI is a transparent measure of the entire work of the office.

As a result of this review in 2012 the definition was amended to include all representations made by the office. The increase in the number of representations impacts the efficiency indicator and this explains some of the variance in the efficiency indicator 2.2 (above the target).

Note 2 – The variance in the efficiency indicator 2.1 in 2012–13 compared to the target is due to the variance in the actual number of consultations undertaken in this reporting period compared to the target. This is a lower number of consultations than usual due to the planning work being undertaken for consultations with children and young people with disability, in regional areas, and on youth health that will occur in 2013–14.

Note 3 – The variance in the efficiency indicator 2.1 in 2012–13 compared with 2011–12 is due to the larger than usual number of consultations conducted in 2011–12 compared to other reporting periods. This was due to the number of consultations conducted during the 2011 Thinker in Residence program and a large consultation conducted with multiple groups of young people as part of the reducing alcohol related harm project being conducted in one reporting period. It is expected that this was a one off variation.

Note 4 – The variance in the efficiency indicator 2.2 in 2012–13 compared with 2011–12 is due to the larger than usual number of representations conducted in 2011–12 compared to other reporting periods. This higher number was due to two Thinker in Residence projects being conducted in one reporting period and the higher than usual number of government initiated inquiries and legislation being reviewed. It is expected that this was a one off variation.

## Ministerial directives

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

There were no directions under Section 26 of the Act in 2012–13.

## Other financial disclosures

The Commissioner for Children and Young People had no capital expenditure in 2012–13.

At 30 June 2013, the Commissioner for Children and Young People employed 18 staff – the equivalent of 16.0 full-time employees.

Table 20: Staff summary at 30 June 2013

Staff type	Number of staff (FTE)		2012–13 Gender	
	2011–12	2012–13	Male	Female
Full-time permanent	7.0	6.0	2	4
Full-time contract	6.0	3.0	1	2
Part-time permanent	3.0	4.2	-	6
Part-time contract	-	2.8 <sup>1</sup>	-	3
On secondment	1.0 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-
Vacancies	2.0	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>

<sup>1</sup> All part-time contract employees have been seconded from other State Government agencies

<sup>2</sup> Not reflected in totals

## Staffing policies

Throughout 2012–13 the Commissioner has undertaken a number of human resource policy reviews aimed at continuing to support strategies identified within the Public Sector Commission's *Strategic Directions for the Public Sector Workforce 2009-2014* and the Commissioner for Children and Young People's workforce plan.

Policies which have been reviewed and endorsed include the Staff Attendance Policy, Purchased Leave Policy, Employee Assistance Program, Planning for Professional Development and Learning and Performance Appraisal and Development System (PADS). The Commissioner also implemented a revised approach for managing and tracking how staff participation in PADS is progressing.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People was selected to participate in the Public Sector Commission's Review of How agencies Conduct Employee Performance Management. Following this review, and on the recommendation of the Public Sector Commission, a new policy was developed and endorsed by Corporate Executive, Managing for Sub-standard Performance.

## Injury and illness

There were no workers compensation claims in 2012–13. The Commissioner's injury management policy was reviewed and approved by Corporate Executive in 2012–13 and complies with the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

This policy and associated procedures have been communicated to all current employees, is included in the induction pack for new employees and available through the office's TRIM document management system. It will be provided directly to staff should they suffer a work-related injury and a return to work program will be developed for each work-related injury case, as required under the Act.



In February 2013 a Hazard Identification Checklist and quarterly inspections program were implemented. The results of quarterly inspections are reported to Commissioner for Children and Young People Corporate Executive with any issues raised monitored to ensure they are addressed.

## Governance disclosures

The Commissioner has no disclosures to make in this section.

## Other legal requirements

### Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail

In accordance with Section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Commissioner for Children and Young People incurred the following expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail:

Total expenditure for 2012–13 was \$2223.

Table 21: Detail of advertising expenditure in 2012–13

	Total Expenditure	Organisation	Amount
Advertising agencies	\$2223	Adcorp	\$2223
Market research organisations	Nil		Nil
Polling organisations	Nil		Nil
Direct mail organisations	Nil		Nil
Media advertising organisations	Nil		Nil

## Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2013–2016* was approved by the Corporate Executive in May 2013, after providing an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the draft over the period December 2012 until 28 February 2013.

The comprehensive plan addresses requirements of public authorities under the *Disability Services Act 1993*, as well as access and inclusion requirements under the *WA Equal Opportunity Act 1984* and the *Federal Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA).

The *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2013–2016* is available to all staff. It forms part of the Commissioner's standard induction information and is available in the records management system of the Commissioner's office and on the website.

The Commissioner's website [www.cryp.wa.gov.au](http://www.cryp.wa.gov.au) complies with e-Government disability standards.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People notes the Government's six desired outcomes for people with disabilities and is committed to ensuring these are incorporated and addressed in all our operations.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These six desired outcomes are listed in Schedule 3 of the Disability Services Regulations 2004

The office's outcomes for children and young people with disabilities are as follows:

- The services of, and any events organised by, the Commissioner for Children and Young People identify children and young people with disabilities as a priority group, consult with them and seek their active participation.
- Access to the buildings and other facilities of the Commissioner for Children and Young People is designed to meet the special needs of children and young people with disabilities.
- Children and young people with disabilities have access to information from the Commissioner for Children and Young People in a suitable format.
- Children and young people with disabilities receive equal service from the staff of Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- Children and young people with disabilities have equal opportunity to make complaints to the Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- Children and young people with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in any public consultation by the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

### **Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes**

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has a strong commitment to promoting integrity in official conduct and is committed to achieving high standards of monitoring and ensuring compliance with the *Public Sector Standards*, *The Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics* and the office's *Code of Conduct*. The Corporate Executive, which includes the Commissioner, leads and promotes these standards within the office.

The office has policies, procedures and processes that support the application of:

- the WA Public Sector Code of Ethics
- the WA Public Sector Standards in Human Resources Management
- the Commissioner's Code of Conduct and Management of Conflict of Interest Policy
- a family friendly workplace.

In the reporting period, the office has:

- incorporated all key public sector and CCYP documents in staff induction kits and induction programs, with all new staff are required to attend ethics and accountability training
- continued to promote the Code of Conduct with all staff, including forming part of the CCYP induction package for new staff
- held regular staff meetings where any matters relevant to Public Sector Standards could be raised and discussed
- reviewed and endorsed the CCYP Disciplinary Policy to more clearly identify responsibilities and actions to be taken in the event of a disciplinary matter occurring
- implemented a Managing Substandard Performance Policy, which was made available to all staff
- reviewed and endorsed several policies to ensure they remain current promote the principles contained within the Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes, including Gifts, Benefits and Rewards, Management of Conflict of Interest, Grievance, Staff Attendance, Delegations.

### **Compliance with Public Sector Standards**

The Commissioner has established procedures to ensure compliance with Section 31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and has conducted appropriate internal assessments of recruitment practices and processes.

In 2012–13, there were no applications made for breach of standards.

### **Compliance with Western Australia Public Sector Code of Ethics**

There has been no evidence of non-compliance with Public Sector Code of Ethics.

### **Compliance with the Commissioner for Children and Young People Code of Conduct**

There has been no evidence of non-compliance with the Commissioner's Code of Conduct. There were no public interest disclosures about the activities of the Commissioner's office.

### **Recordkeeping Plan**

The Commissioner's Recordkeeping Plan and its supporting documents (including the functional Retention & Disposal Schedule, Business Classification Scheme and Recordkeeping Policies and Procedures) were developed in accordance with Section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000* and approved by the State Records Office on 4 December 2009. The Recordkeeping plan was scheduled for review in November 2012, however as a result of work associated with the rollout of the Office of Shared Services and the requirement to review a number of associated corporate support practices and policies, this has been deferred until November 2013.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People operates an electronic document records management system, with very limited storage of hard copy documents since the commencement of operations in 2007–08.

Every member of the Commissioner's staff is responsible for ensuring they are aware of, and comply with, the recordkeeping standards outlined in the *State Records Act 2000*.

All staff are provided with self-paced online training modules in both recordkeeping standards and in the electronic document records management system. Both modules are modelled on the *State Records Act 2000*. The online training is mandatory for all staff. New staff are provided access to the training at induction and also meet with the Records Management Administrator to learn their recordkeeping responsibilities as a government officer. Recordkeeping information and procedures are also included in induction packs.

## Government policy requirements

### Substantive equality

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is not represented on the Strategic Management Council but supports the intent and substance of the *Policy Framework for Substantive Equality*.

### Reconciliation Action Plan

The Commissioner for Children and Young People's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–2015*, was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia in September 2012. The Plan contains strategies and actions to deliver realistic, achievable and measurable actions that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

All work undertaken by the Commissioner for Children and Young People is underpinned by her legislative requirement to have special regard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, which ensures the principles identified within the Reconciliation Action Plan are integrated into all office procedures and practices. This included:

- acknowledgement of traditional ownership in all speeches by the Commissioner in 2012–13
- staff awareness training integrated into the Performance Appraisal and Development System
- all submissions to Corporate Executive are reviewed to consider and identify any implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- continued implementation of the Aboriginal Terminology Policy and Cultural Awareness protocols

- any consultations conducted by or on behalf of the Commissioner for Children and Young People must include young Aboriginal people or their representatives
- from time to time organisations which represent or work with Aboriginal children and young people are invited to speak to the Commissioner's staff to promote a greater understanding of issues
- display of art by young Aboriginal people in the Commissioner's office.

For more information on how the Commissioner has worked to acknowledge and address the needs of Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities, see the statement on [page 36](#).

### Occupational Safety, Health and Injury Management

In the administration of this office, the Commissioner and her Executive have a strong commitment to occupational safety and health and injury management. Occupational safety and health is a standing agenda item at monthly Corporate Executive meetings, where any issues are documented and monitored to ensure resolution.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has an *Occupational Safety and Health Policy*, including incident and accident reporting forms, which are stored electronically and available to staff. An assessment of the Occupational Health and Safety and Injury Management systems was undertaken in May 2012. All issues raised have been completed.

Three staff members completed first aid training in 2012–13.

## Communication and consultation

The Commissioner prioritises communication and consultation with employees in relation to safety and health matters. Open communication and working together aligns with the values of the Commissioner's office and serves to promote the effective resolution of hazards and risks.

The Commissioner adopts a number of informal and formal strategies when communicating and consulting with employees. These include:

- issuing staff with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) policy and procedures during induction process
- making OSH policy and procedures easily accessible in the TRIM document management system.
- discussing health and safety at office meetings as issues arise
- providing written information via email and circulars on matters affecting the Commissioner.
- displaying information clearly within the office as issues arise or to highlight whole-of-government OSH initiatives as relevant.

## Performance

Table 22: Occupational safety and health data in this reporting period

Indicator	2010–11	2011–12	Target 2012–13	Actual 2012–13
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0
Lost time injury/disease (LTI/D) incidence rate	0	0	0	0
Lost time injury severity rate	0	0	0	0
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 28 days	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	75	83	100	80



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

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