



## Position Description

# Commissioner for Children and Young People

### Organisation overview

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Commissioner) is an independent statutory office established under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006* (the Act) to advocate for all Western Australian children and young people under the age of 18.

The Commissioner's primary focus is to improve the wellbeing of children and young people, giving priority to the interests and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

The Commissioner oversees the activities of State and local government agencies as they affect children and young people. The Commissioner can require agencies to provide information about their policies and practices and has a right of access to information held by government agencies. The Commissioner is required to consult and act in cooperation with other agencies.

The Commissioner reports directly to the Western Australian Parliament. The Attorney General is the Minister responsible for administration of the Act. A Joint Standing Committee for the Commissioner for Children and Young People is established with its powers and functions determined by agreement between the two Houses of Parliament.

### Key responsibilities of the role

The Commissioner's functions are specified in section 19 of the Act. Key responsibilities include:

- advocating and promoting policies, laws, programs and services that enhance the wellbeing of all children and young people under 18 years of age in Western Australia
- upholding and having regard for the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** and acting on the principle that parents, families and communities have the primary role in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of their children and young people and should be supported in carrying out their role
- acting as an agent for systemic change, the Commissioner seeks to maintain a proactive role in promoting the participation of children and young people by giving them a voice in decision-making processes to enable good practices across the public and private sectors
- producing and publishing reports, holding general inquiries and undertaking research to promote awareness of any matters affecting the wellbeing of children and young people
- enhancing the collaboration between the federal and state governments by providing input and recommendations to the development of federal and state-based policies and strategies to ensure that children and young people have access to the full continuum of services and programs they require
- participating as a member of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG), which seeks to promote and protect the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people in Australia and New Zealand
- performing any functions conferred on the Commissioner by or under the Act or any other written law.

## Significant issues and trends

There are a number of significant issues and trends which the Commissioner is expected to focus on going forward, these include:

- monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- promoting child safe and friendly environments by encouraging organisations to embed a child safe culture across all activities and services through *Child Safe Organisations WA*
- supporting Aboriginal-led solutions by enhancing the long-term capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to design, plan, develop, implement and evaluate programs and services in communities
- addressing the significant inequalities in health, education, justice and child protection outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, and those children and young people who are vulnerable including an emphasis on those who are disadvantaged in regional and remote areas
- empowering and promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people as future leaders for Western Australia
- developing a comprehensive and integrated whole-of-government Child Wellbeing Strategy for Western Australia
- following on from the success of the Speaking Out Survey 2019, which captured a pre-pandemic snapshot of the views of WA children and young people on their health and wellbeing, undertake a follow-up 'Speaking Out Survey' and providing a report to Parliament on the outcomes of the survey
- promoting the *Wellbeing Monitoring Framework* and *Indicators of Wellbeing* model (across the three domains of learning and participating; healthy and connected; safe and supported), with government, non-government organisations, advocacy groups and the general community which focuses on the long-term vision "that all children and young people are heard, are healthy and safe, reach their potential and are welcomed as valued members of the community and in doing so we build a brighter future for the whole community"
- developing a strategic direction to address child poverty and mental health of children and young people in Western Australia
- working collaboratively and effectively with the National Children's Commissioner and the federal government to achieve the shared vision and strategic priorities of national frameworks, such as the *National Action Plan for Children's Health: 2020-2030*, to optimise the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia
- consulting, supporting and guiding children and young people through the Covid-19 pandemic, with particular emphasis on the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people

## **Selection Criteria**

### **Essential criteria**

#### **High level strategic skills**

- High level strategic, analytical and conceptual skills
- Ability to analyse complex issues objectively and arrive at impartial conclusions which are supported by relevant and evidence-based research.

#### **Leadership skills**

- A record of successful leadership of a statutory or complex organisation

#### **Management skills**

- A record of achieving organisational objectives and the successful delivery of policy outcomes, products, services, programs or other organisational outputs.

#### **Interpersonal skills, personal qualities and communication skills**

- Outstanding relationship building skills, with a demonstrated capacity to develop and maintain effective consultative and collaborative working relationships and networks.
- Superior communication skills.
- Demonstrate significant personal integrity, honesty and exemplary ethical standards and resilience.

#### **Qualifications and experience**

- Professional qualifications and experience in matters affecting children.

#### **Integrity**

- Personal integrity, honesty and ethical standards of the highest order.

### **Desirable criteria**

- Understanding of ethics, public administration and current issues affecting the needs of children and young people.

## **Further information**

Additional information regarding the Commissioner for Children and Young People can be accessed from the Commission's website [www.ccyp.wa.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au).

## **Employment Conditions**

### **Term of Appointment**

In accordance with the Act, an appointment of up to five years will be negotiated.

### **Remuneration**

Remuneration is determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

As a guide only, a salary of \$235,539 may be applicable, employer contribution to superannuation, together with the provision of a fully maintained motor vehicle for private use or the provision of a motor vehicle allowance in lieu of a vehicle.

### **Leave and Conditions of Service**

Leave and Conditions of Service are determined by the Governor. The office holder would ordinarily have similar arrangements to those enjoyed by a permanent public service officer in accordance with the provisions of the [Public Service Award 1992](#) and the [Public Sector CSA Agreement 2019](#).