

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



# Letter of transmittal to President and Speaker of houses of Parliament

## Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania Annual Report 2021-22

Author: Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania

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### Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Commissioner acknowledges and pays her respects to the palawa people of lutruwita as the original and ongoing custodians of this land and for the more than 40,000 years they have cared for their country and their children.



10 November 2022

President  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

Speaker of the House  
House of Assembly  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr President  
Dear Mr Speaker

#### Annual Report for 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Annual Report is presented to Parliament in accordance with the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016*, section 19(2).

Yours sincerely

**Leanne McLean**  
Commissioner for Children and Young People

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# Message from the Commissioner

This past year has marked the beginning of what I hope will be a step change in the way we value and protect the wellbeing and the safety of children and young people in Tasmania.

The year saw Tasmanian children and young people take centre stage of government policy and decision-making with the release of the first Tasmanian whole-of-government Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – *It Takes a Tasmanian Village*. I recommended the development of this strategy in 2020. I am so pleased that the first iteration of the strategy was informed by the views of so many Tasmanian children and young people and those who support them in their communities.

This past year has also been intense and difficult for many Tasmanians. The work of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's

Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings has progressed and included public hearings. Victim survivors have bravely and fearlessly shared their stories. We must now overhaul our systems to keep children safe from abuse and to respond appropriately if it does occur. I have been very focused on monitoring and supporting the work of the Commission, as well as monitoring and influencing the raft of new policies and legislation that are now flowing as a result.

One example is the Tasmanian Government's commitment to develop a comprehensive child and youth safe organisations framework. This will go a long way to ensuring the safety of children and young people in their daily interactions with organisations. Another example is the end of routine strip-searching of children and young people in custody.



Spending time with and listening to children and young people has again been a highlight of this past year. CCYP Ambassadors from around the state have again worked with me to express their views on matters that are important to them, and to drive change. I am in awe of them and their passion for Tasmania.

In particular, this past year has seen my ability to listen to the views of children and young people in detention significantly increase with the welcome addition of funding to enable the employment in the CCYP office of a new Advocate for Young People in Detention. I have also focused more efforts towards hearing the voices of children with a care experience, including capturing their voices in a new book – *OK, so a nest is a home*.

It would not be possible to discuss 2021-22 without also mentioning the ongoing effects of the pandemic on young Tasmanians and their incredible resilience and adaptability. 2021 saw our children and young people, like all Tasmanians, continuing for their second year separated from mainland Australia and the rest of

the world – with all the social, cultural and developmental challenges that the border closure and associated public health measures posed. By mid-December the decision to open our state's borders was made, and by January 2022, decision-makers were debating school opening dates and appropriate health measures to be adopted. I took a strong stance during this debate to urge all parties to take a child-centred approach to decision-making. This requires adults to always place children and young people's interests as a paramount consideration in the decision-making process.

A child-centred approach is a guiding principle behind all my work as Commissioner. We must place the rights and interests of children and young people at the centre of our decision-making and empower them to have a say. This will in turn enable us to create truly safe, nurturing places for our youngest citizens to thrive.

**Leanne McLean**  
Commissioner for Children  
and Young People

# The year at a glance

21   
Submissions made

63   
Formal consultations  
across the state

45   
Visits to Ashley Youth  
Detention Centre

5   
Reports and publications  
written

22   
Group memberships

144   
Number of CCYP  
Ambassadors

20   
Media releases and opinion  
pieces written

44   
Talks given

226   
Approximate number of  
children, young people and  
carers consulted with

40   
Media interviews  
given

191   
Public enquiries  
responded to

\$1.369m   
Core budget for 2021-22

# Role of the Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (the Commissioner) is an independent, impartial statutory officer established under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016* (CCYP Act). The functions of the Commissioner are to:

1. advocate for all Tasmanian children and young people
2. act as an advocate for youth detainees under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*
3. research, investigate and influence policy development in areas relating to children and young people
4. promote, monitor, and review the wellbeing of children and young people
5. promote and empower children and young people to participate in the making of decisions, and to express opinions about matters, that affect their lives
6. help ensure Tasmania meets its national and international obligations in respect of children and young people
7. encourage organisations to establish child-friendly mechanisms to assist children and young people to participate in matters that affect them.

The Commissioner's role is systemic in nature, which means the Commissioner does not look into specific decisions made in respect of an individual case or specific circumstances unless formally requested to do so by the Minister for Education, Children and Youth. It also means the Commissioner has neither a complaint handling role nor an individual advocacy role, except in relation to young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.

The Commissioner publishes reports, provides advice to ministers and government agencies, and makes submissions to inquiries and reviews. The Commissioner may also comment on draft legislation and on proposed policies, including on national issues where the matter in question has the capacity to affect children and young people in Tasmania.

The Commissioner regularly speaks with, and hears from, members of the Tasmanian community, including children and young people, about a range of issues concerning young Tasmanians. Information received in this way is used to inform the Commissioner's systemic advocacy work on behalf of children and young people.



# Guiding principles

In carrying out her functions, the Commissioner must always put the wellbeing and best interests of children and young people first and must always act independently, impartially and in the public interest. She must also uphold and encourage others to follow the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## **The Commissioner performs her work according to the following principles:**

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

# Major achievements



Extensive advocacy and advice by the Commissioner led to important reforms that will create a safer environment for children and young people in custodial settings. These included investment by the Tasmanian Government in body scanning technology as an alternative to personal searches in prison facilities and the Ashley Youth Detention Centre, and the passing of legislation preventing the routine strip-searching of children and young people in custody.

The fixed-term position of Advocate for Young People in Detention was established in the office of the Commissioner. This position has significantly bolstered the Commissioner's capacity to advocate for, and on behalf of, children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*, including at Ashley Youth Detention Centre.



The views of children and young people with experience of out-of-home care were given centre stage with the launch of the picture book, *OK, so a nest is a home*. Featuring artwork and quotes from the young contributors exploring the theme of 'Being Loved and Safe', this widely distributed book provides insights into the lives of young Tasmanians in care and their suggestions for improving the system.



Following ongoing advocacy by the Commissioner, the Tasmanian Government committed to developing a comprehensive Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework (CYSOF) for Tasmania, overseen by an independent body to be established in 2023. The CYSOF will support compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, which aim to drive a child safe culture across all sectors that provide services to children and young people.



The Government released Tasmania's first ever Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, 'It Takes a Tasmanian Village'. The strategy reflects significant input by the Commissioner, drawing upon extensive consultation with children and young people across the state. Through the strategy, more than \$100 million over four years will fund 65 initiatives that support the wellbeing of 0 to 25-year-olds, with a particular focus on the first 1,000 days of life.

The Commissioner worked with members of the CCYP Ambassadors Program to co-design the 2022 CCYP Ambassador statewide event, which will be held in October 2022. At in-person and online meetings around the state, Ambassadors took the lead in identifying the key topics for the event, themes for the workshops, preferred speakers and invitees, and booth holders.



# Organisational structure of the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Commissioner for Children and Young People



# Delivery against the 2021-22 priorities



Each year, the Commissioner publishes an annual plan outlining her proposed program of work and activities for the following financial year. This annual report provides details of initiatives and activities undertaken during the reporting period in pursuit of the five priorities outlined in the Commissioner for Children and Young People Annual Plan 2021-2022:

1. Listening to and promoting the voice of children and young people
2. Promoting and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people
3. Independent monitoring of Tasmania's out-of-home care system
4. Advice and advocacy on matters affecting children and young people
5. Advocacy for children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.



## Listening to and promoting the voice of children and young people

One of the Commissioner's key functions is to promote the right of children and young people to participate in decision-making and to voice their opinions about matters that affect their lives. An important part of this work is to encourage organisations to establish child-centred mechanisms that enable the participation of children and young people.

By listening to children and young people, we show them that what they have to say is important. They also learn the skills to become engaged and active citizens. Being able to participate in, and to influence, decision-making processes on issues that affect them makes a powerful contribution to improving the wellbeing of children and young people. Society as a whole also benefits. Decisions informed by the unique perspectives and lived experiences of children and young people are better decisions and result in increased trust and better buy-in.



## CCYP Ambassador Program

The CCYP Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for children and young people from around Tasmania to have their voices heard on how things could be improved for young Tasmanians. It fulfils the requirement established in the CCYP Act to establish a consultative council for children and young people.

CCYP Ambassadors range in age from 9<sup>1</sup> to 17, and come from all regions in Tasmania (including Cape Barren Island and King Island) and from varied backgrounds. During the reporting period, approximately 144 children and young people were Ambassadors. Further information about the Ambassador Program is available on the [CCYP website](#).

Note that in 2021-22, the Ambassador Program was redesigned. The outcomes of this redesign are described under the next priority area.

During the reporting period, Ambassadors had the opportunity to share their views during specific activities and at meetings with the Commissioner. These included regular regional meetings in Burnie, Devonport, Launceston and Hobart. Following the success of virtual meetings run during the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020-21, online meetings were also offered during each round of regional meetings to overcome geographical, transport, or other barriers that might otherwise have prevented some Ambassadors from participating.

Following a series of targeted consultations with Ambassadors during regional meetings and an online focus group, a report on respectful relationships and consent education, *'I think adults play a big role in this'* was released in April 2022. Interviews with the Ambassadors also informed *the Commissioner's May 2022 submission* on the third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan. Further, Ambassadors provided audio material for a small series of Instagram posts showcasing children and young people's views on respectful relationships, which now feature on the CCYP Instagram and Facebook pages.

Ambassadors were asked for their ideas for creative projects they would like to be involved in over the course of the year through which they could share their views with adults. They decided on an audio project focusing on the theme 'Acceptance, Belonging and Feeling Safe'. Group and individual interviews were conducted with Ambassadors in 2021-22 and the final product will be released in the coming reporting period.

1 The minimum age requirement for CCYP Ambassador membership in 2021 was 9 years. This was raised to 10 years in 2022.



## Co-design of the CCYP Ambassador statewide event

The 2022 CCYP Ambassadors are working with the Commissioner to co-design the 2022 CCYP Ambassador statewide event.

During their in-person and online regional meetings, Ambassadors identified the key topics they would like to discuss with decision-makers who will attend the event, and the themes for creative and training workshops. They also provided a list of preferred guest speakers and booth holders, as well as identifying invitees from state and local government as well as non-government organisations.

Planning is continuing and the event will be held in October 2022.

## Consultation between CCYP Ambassadors and the Launceston City Council

In June 2022, northern CCYP Ambassadors were invited to meet with councillors of the Launceston City Council to share their thoughts on a range of issues in their local government area, such as increasing access to activities, availability of transport, and homelessness. Councillors were exceptionally receptive and invited Ambassadors to maintain the dialogue and provide further feedback on the issues identified.

## Community conversation: Silos enable discrimination to thrive

In June 2022, two southern CCYP Ambassadors attended a community conversation at Parliament House hosted by the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner in the lead-up to the 25th anniversary of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998*.

Under the theme 'Silos enable discrimination to thrive', attendees discussed how to influence change collectively to make Tasmania a kinder, fairer and more inclusive place for all.

The Ambassadors took on the role of 'storytellers' and each responded to the question: *What are the top three issues young people would like addressed? How can community leaders contribute to making the change required?*

A significant outcome of the forum was a clear recommendation by participants for the introduction of a Human Rights Act in Tasmania.

## Climate change consultation

As reported in last year's annual report, in early 2021, members of the CCYP Ambassador Program expressed an interest in having more opportunity to influence decision-makers about climate change and the environment.

In May and June 2021, the Tasmanian Climate Change Office met with Ambassadors to listen to their opinions and concerns to inform the independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* and the development of Tasmania's next climate change action plan. Four face-to-face consultations were held across the state as well as a fifth online consultation.

Coming out of these consultations, 424 ideas were collected across a variety of topics. Priorities identified by Ambassadors included:

- the use of single-use plastics
- changing people's behaviours
- preparation for a changing climate
- more readily available environmentally friendly public transport
- education.

On 2 August 2021, six Ambassadors presented the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Ambassadors Climate Change Consultation Summary* to the then Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, and discussed with him their key recommendations.

In November 2021, building on the work of the Ambassadors, the Commissioner provided feedback on the draft Tasmanian Climate Change (State Action) Act Amendment Bill 2021. The Commissioner recommended that the draft Bill be amended to ensure it aligned with Australia's international obligations relating to children's rights including, crucially, the need to provide children with the opportunities and means to engage in and influence decision-making processes that inform Tasmania's climate policy. The Commissioner further advocated on this issue by writing to the Premier and all members of the Tasmanian Parliament and providing a briefing to members of the Legislative Council.



## Young Archies Award

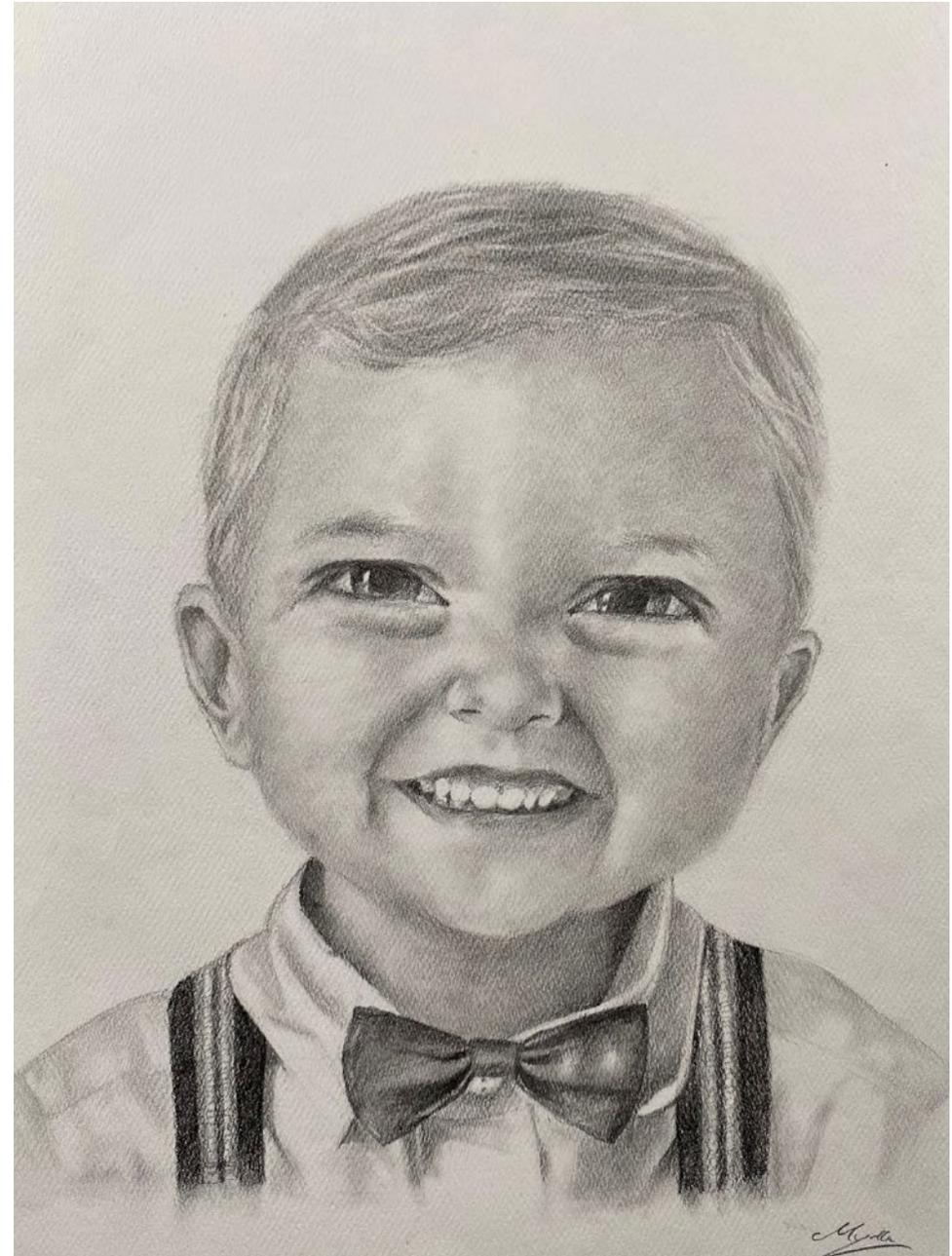
In September 2021, the Commissioner awarded Myrtle Witt from Kingston High School the 2021 Commissioner for Children and Young People's Young Archies Award for her artwork, Chubby Cheeks, a portrait of her younger brother who, in Myrtle's own words, 'I could never live without'.

## Hobart City Council inaugural Children's Mayor

In 2021, the Commissioner was invited to be a member of the selection panel to nominate the inaugural Hobart City Council Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The program was arranged to coincide with Children's Week 2021 and was designed to highlight the important role children play in the City of Hobart, encourage democratic awareness and invite children to share their ideas and aspirations for Hobart.

Interested students from primary schools in the Hobart local government area developed a short statement describing how they would make Hobart a better city for children, starting with the line: 'If I was Children's Mayor of Hobart I would...'. The winning manifestos were then read at a formal reception in Hobart Town Hall on 27 October 2021, which the Commissioner and other panel members, as well as other members of the community, attended.

Alexander Johnstone from Lansdowne Crescent Primary School was declared the inaugural Children's Mayor. Alexander's manifesto 'Saving the Earth on Two Wheels!' encouraged a greater focus on active transport.



'Chubby Cheeks' by Myrtle Witt

# Promoting and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people

## Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

As described in the 2020–21 Annual Report, the Commissioner conducted targeted consultations with children and young people to inform the development of the Tasmanian Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. The Commissioner consulted with 408 children and young people up to the age of 18 years across metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Tasmania as well as with around 90 adults representing parents and carers and other adults who support children. The Commissioner also submitted a response to the Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Discussion Paper released in January 2021.

In August 2021, the Government released *It Takes a Tasmanian Village* – Tasmania's first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy for 0 to 25-year-olds. This strategy includes a commitment to fund the Commissioner's office to increase participation opportunities for all children and young people (Action 52). This funding was subsequently set out in the 2021–22 Budget and amounts to \$875,000 spanning the financial years 2021–22 to 2024–25. This funding is for:

*...the Commissioner for Children and Young People's engagement activities to include additional best practice opportunities for all Tasmanian children and young people to express their views, participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives and have their voices heard. In particular, this action will focus on children and young people who are not usually provided the opportunity to participate and be heard.*

## Activities initiated with Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy funding in 2021–22

In line with the budget decision, the Commissioner initiated a range of activities in 2021–22 as described in the following sections.

## Bolstering the CCYP Ambassador Program

After examining the demographics of the Ambassador Program, and after gathering feedback from Ambassadors and Engagement team members about the program's structure and membership, the decision was taken to focus on achieving more representative membership from across Tasmania in 2022.

A new recruitment plan, backed by a comprehensive communications plan, focused on groups previously under-represented in the program's membership. This included, but was not limited to:

- children and young people from all regions of Tasmania (including West and North-West Tasmania, the East Coast, and islands)
- all genders and sexual orientations
- children and young people with disability
- Aboriginal children and young people
- children and young people from multicultural, migrant and refugee backgrounds
- children and young people disengaged from school
- children from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

This process led to the recruitment of 80 children and young people, with a greater diversity of backgrounds, and with representatives spread across public, independent and Catholic schools, as well as home education.

## Redesign of the CCYP website

In late April 2022, the Commissioner initiated the redesign of the CCYP website to make it more accessible to children and young people.

A priority in this process has been to hear directly from children and young people, including those with a disability, on how to improve the user experience. As a result, the website will now have an area specifically for young people, with content designed for them, including information about their rights.

The site will incorporate a new hub promoting engagement opportunities for children and young people and showcasing the ideas, initiatives and views of participating young Tasmanians. Graphic and user interface designs have now been completed. Once content and testing have been completed, the new website will be launched in the next annual reporting period.

## Increasing the Commissioner's policy and engagement capacity

In order to bolster the Commissioner's policy and engagement capacity, a new fixed-term position of Senior Policy and Engagement Officer has been established in the Engagement team. The position was advertised in the reporting period but recruitment was not finalised until the following financial year.

This position will help increase the Commissioner's capacity to connect with, talk to and hear from Tasmanian children and young people, particularly those who traditionally are more vulnerable or difficult to reach. The additional capacity will help the Engagement team to carry out targeted consultations with groups of children and young people whose voices are not as readily heard on important policy issues, including those in geographically difficult to reach areas of the state, children and young people in contact with the youth justice system, very young children, and disengaged youth.



## COVID-19 monitoring

In 2021-22, the COVID-19 pandemic was again a priority area of focus for the Commissioner. School closures, learning from home and school reopenings, disruptions to sports and cultural activities, interruptions to normal family life, and isolation and other requirements, as well as anxiety about the virus itself, continued to have a significant impact on the wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people.

In January 2022, as debates around school reopenings and public health measures in educational settings increased, the Commissioner increased her advocacy for a child-centred approach to decision-making in the educational arena. In an opinion piece, she called for decision-makers to carefully consider potential effects of their decisions on children, particularly the most vulnerable or disadvantaged. The Commissioner continued to remind decision-makers that placing children and young people at the centre of decision-making processes not only upholds their rights but also reduces the possible long-term impacts on their lives and wellbeing.

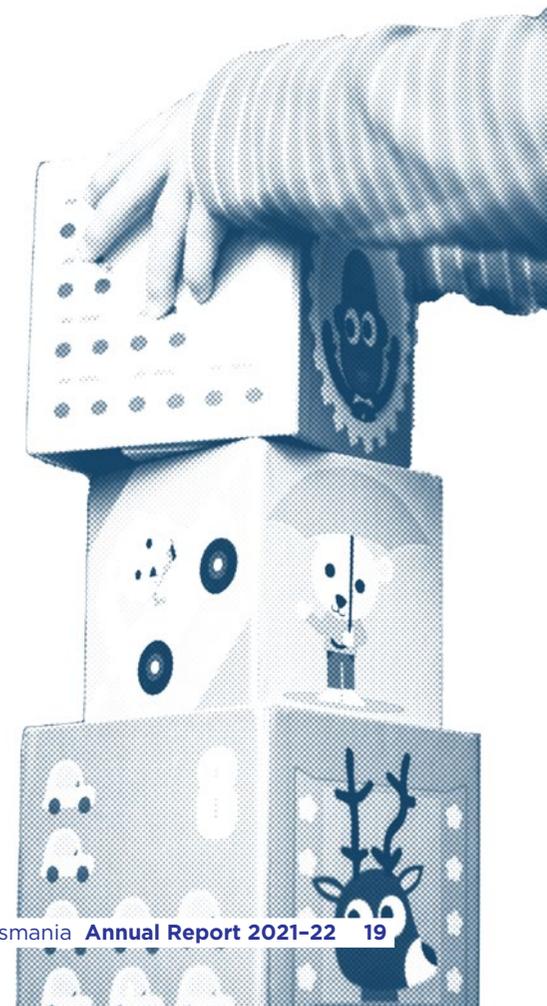
The Commissioner continued to monitor challenges to the wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people arising from COVID-19, including ongoing monitoring and analysis of administrative data received from Tasmanian Government agencies as well as publicly available data.

A fixed-term senior data analyst position was created using unexpended salary to assist with this monitoring. The analyst began work in May 2022, expanding the existing data analysis capacity of the Commissioner's office by analysing quantitative data from government and non-government sources on the impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people in Tasmania.

The Commissioner intends to publish a series of monitoring reports exploring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the wellbeing of young Tasmanians in the next reporting period.

## B4 Early Years Coalition

The Commissioner co-chairs the B4 Early Years Coalition with respected educator Elizabeth Daly OAM. B4 plays an important role in communicating the importance of the first 1,000 days by connecting, supporting, engaging with and encouraging individuals and organisations to work together to ensure that 'every child in Tasmania is cared for and nurtured through their early years, no matter what'. The coalition has also played an important role in supporting and responding to actions outlined in Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, including providing advice on outcomes, indicators, proposed initiatives and research opportunities to support the early years. The Commissioner will continue to support this work to ensure that every Tasmanian child has the best start in life.



# Independent monitoring of Tasmania's out-of-home care system

The Commissioner monitors Tasmania's out-of-home care (OOHC) system. The aim of this work is to promote and protect the rights and wellbeing of Tasmanian children and young people in OOHC. It explores the experiences of Tasmania's children and young people in care and examines the processes and system features that affect their wellbeing.

This monitoring focuses on systemic issues in institutional and administrative practices – it is distinct from complaint handling and individual advocacy associated with OOHC, which are not part of the Commissioner's legislative remit. The OOHC monitoring program has four key elements:

- regular data monitoring
- thematic monitoring
- responsive investigations
- monitoring of the Tasmanian Government's implementation of the Commissioner's recommendations to strengthen the OOHC system.

More information is available [here](#).

An OOHC Expert Panel provides advice about the monitoring program. The panel is chaired by the Commissioner and has the following members:

- Professor Sharon Bessell, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
- Professor Daryl Higgins, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University
- Dr Greet Peersman, the Australia and New Zealand School of Government
- Professor Kitty te Riele, Peter Underwood Centre, University of Tasmania.

## Regular data monitoring

Data monitoring includes the regular, routine flow of a set of government data to the Commissioner on specified matters relevant to Tasmania's OOHC system. Data gathered through this component of the monitoring program helps inform other elements of the program. For example, the Commissioner receives quarterly data reports from the Department of Communities Tasmania on child safety activities, numbers of children in OOHC (placed with government versus non-government providers), foster care households, and indicators relevant to the Tasmanian Government's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People in Out of Home Care Tasmania. Publicly available data is also considered.

A report analysing regular data monitoring data for 2020–21 drawing out key themes and trends will be published in the next reporting period.

## Monitoring implementation of out-of-home care recommendations

During the reporting period, the Commissioner undertook a review and preliminary analysis of the Tasmanian Government's progress in implementing each of the recommendations made in the Commissioner's *Monitoring Report No. 1* published in October 2019.

This analysis was informed by the Government's *Response Report and Action Plan 2020*, subsequent progress reports, information received through monitoring discussions with OOHC providers, children and young people, and carers, and quarterly data reports. As part of this analysis, the Commissioner also took into account more recent Tasmanian Government initiatives and commitments relevant to reforms of the OOHC system. The Commissioner sought and received additional information from the Department of Communities. The Commissioner's findings will be reported in the next reporting period.

## Thematic monitoring: Being Loved and Safe

The thematic focus of the current phase of the monitoring program is the wellbeing domain of 'Being Loved and Safe'. Acknowledging the complexity and breadth of this theme, the sub-focus is on two aspects: stability and safety.

More information on the Commissioner's work under this theme is available at the [CCYP website](#).

## Monitoring meetings with out-of-home care providers

Under the theme of Being Loved and Safe, monitoring meetings were conducted with 13 OOHC providers during 2021-22, as well as the Department of Communities Tasmania as system owner. These meetings were held in the north, north-west and south of the state. During these meetings, the Commissioner asked providers about key issues relevant to this theme including their experiences of care teams and care planning, unplanned placement changes, care concerns and accreditation.

Planning for a second round of provider meetings began during the reporting period. Further to the key issues previously explored, the next round will ask providers to share their views about the participation of children and young people in decision-making about their lives while in OOHC, placement stability, and keeping children and young people safe. These and other insights will form part of the Commissioner's forthcoming Loved and Safe report to be released in the next reporting period.

## 'My Nest' workshops

In exploring the topic of Being Loved and Safe, the Commissioner's conversations with children and young people during the year focused especially on what it means to have safety and stability while living in care.

The Commissioner offered children and young people choices in the way they would like to speak with her about these topics. Some chose a one-on-one chat and others preferred to talk in a group. Artists from All That We Are, a social art organisation, assisted these conversations by guiding young people in writing or talking about 'nests', as well as through making and drawing activities, as another way to talk about 'home'.

The messages and artwork that the young people shared with the Commissioner during these important discussions lent themselves to being collated and presented together in a book format. The result was a picture book, *Ok, so a nest is a home*, featuring artwork and quotes by the children and young people with care experiences who took part in the consultations.

The book was launched in June 2022 at the State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, with subsequent events scheduled in regional libraries in the second half of 2022. Copies of the book are available in every public library in Tasmania.

## Submissions relevant to out-of-home care

In September 2021, the Commissioner provided [a submission to the Tasmanian Standards for Children and Young People in Care Consultation](#). This was a follow-up to the Commissioner's February 2021 comments (unpublished) provided to the Department of Communities Tasmania on the draft Consultation Workbook - Establishing Tasmanian Out-Of-Home Care Standards and a Tasmanian Carers Register. The Commissioner noted in her submission that many of her earlier recommendations had been acted upon. The Tasmanian Out of Home Care Standards were subsequently released by the Government in August 2022. The Commissioner has advocated for appropriate accreditation, regulation and oversight mechanisms to support, educate and advise OOHC providers on effective implementation of, and compliance with, the standards.

In July 2021, the Commissioner provided [a submission](#) to inform implementation of the successor plan to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. It included comment on the need to embrace Aboriginal leadership, foster genuine partnerships, and build capacity to enable a new approach to achieving tangible changes in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

See also the Commissioner's comments in relation to OOHC in her [witness statement](#) to the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings. The Commissioner gave evidence to the Commission of Inquiry at a public hearing on the topic of 'Out of home care: System oversight and accountability and opportunities for change'. The transcript of that hearing can be viewed [here](#). For further information regarding the Commission of Inquiry, please refer to page 29.

## Improving system responses for children and young people with highly complex needs

After concerns were raised about the safety and wellbeing of Tasmanian children and young people residing at the Many Colours One Direction (MC1D) program in the Northern Territory, an investigative review by the Department of Communities Tasmania recommended, among other things, the creation of an expert panel to examine an improved system response for Tasmanian children and young people with highly complex needs. The expert panel was convened in January 2021 and the Commissioner was appointed as the independent chair.

In July 2021, the expert panel handed down its advice and recommendations on the essential therapeutic elements required for an improved service system. The panel made four recommendations:

- Recommendation 1: Develop a whole-of-government approach to promote and drive systemic change
- Recommendation 2: Develop the Tasmanian OOHC system to improve its efficacy and increase and enhance placement options for children and young people
- Recommendation 3: Transition away from the utilisation of MC1D and commit to robust, inclusive and collaborative decision-making in relation to interstate residential placements of young people throughout the transition
- Recommendation 4: Adopt a whole-of-government focus on implementation and investment.

The Government accepted in principle all the recommendations of the report, including transitioning away from the use of MC1D. The Commissioner is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations on an ongoing basis as part of her OOHC monitoring program.

In June 2022, the Commissioner wrote to the Minister for Education, Children and Youth outlining her concern that the budget allocation of \$2 million in 2022-23 for the implementation of the expert panel's recommendations was insufficient to achieve the sustained whole-of-government investment envisaged by the panel when it made its recommendations.

## Presence at key out-of-home care events

The Commissioner helped launch Foster Care Week 2021 on 11 September 2021 at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart and also offered the 'nest' activities (as described above) for children and young people in care.

On 10 September, the Commissioner opened the Child Protection Recognition Awards, which recognise those, including young people and foster carers, who make a positive contribution to child protection, and help to make sure families, children and young people have a fair go.

# Systemic advice and advocacy on matters affecting children and young people

As the advocate for all children and young people in Tasmania generally, the Commissioner regularly engages in strategic advocacy and provides independent, apolitical, and impartial advice and comment on the broad range of issues that affect the wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people. Specific elements of this work include:

- commenting on draft Bills
- contributing to other consultative processes
- providing advice to government on issues affecting the rights and wellbeing of children and young people
- participating in public forums, panels and conferences
- providing public commentary, including through media releases and opinion pieces
- engaging in systemic advocacy where a matter is raised with the office of the CCYP by a member of the community
- being a member of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG).

This section of the annual report outlines some of the major advocacy issues engaged in during the reporting period, other than advocacy for the development of a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, discussed above.

The Commissioner's systemic advocacy work is, in part, informed by concerns conveyed to the office of the CCYP by members of the community. The Commissioner does not have a complaint handling role or an individual advocacy role, except in relation to young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*, and cannot investigate specific circumstances or specific decisions made in respect of an individual case. However, the office of the CCYP is regularly contacted by members of the public who wish to raise concerns about the wellbeing of children and young people.

During the reporting period, the office dealt with 191 such enquiries. In these circumstances, members of the public are given information about referral options and, in appropriate circumstances, their concerns may be shared with a relevant authority for action. Where a concern also raises issues of a systemic nature, the Commissioner may seek further information from a relevant agency or organisation or engage in systemic advocacy.

Significant work was also undertaken during the reporting period to design an ethical consultation project to elicit the views of children and young people with lived experience of the youth justice system. The Commissioner and the Advocate for Young People in Detention will have discussions with children and young people as part of the Youth Justice Consultation Project during the next reporting period.

## Youth Justice

### Minimum age of criminal responsibility

The Commissioner continued her advocacy for an increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) to at least 14 years, with concomitant reforms to provide for a developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed and culturally safe non-criminalising response that would better support children and their families and communities.

In November 2021, the Commissioner, together with the Australian members of the ANZCCG and the Australian Human Rights Commission, issued [a joint media release](#) regarding the commitment of state Attorneys-General to develop a proposal to raise the MACR to 12. The joint media release said that while the commitment was a positive step, it did not go far enough.

The Commissioner sought advice from the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute (TLRI) on law reform considerations of raising the MACR – in particular, what reforms would be required to ensure community safety and to promote the wellbeing of those children aged less than the increased MACR who exhibit harmful behaviours. In April 2022, the TLRI published [the report](#) which drew on submissions by peak public bodies and social services in Tasmania and across Australia following a forum on MACR held by the Commissioner in partnership with the University of Tasmania in early 2021.

The TLRI report, along with discussions with young people as part of the Youth Justice Consultation Project, will inform the Commissioner's comprehensive advice to the Tasmanian Government during the next reporting period on what raising the MACR will mean for Tasmania.

In June 2022, the Tasmanian Government announced its intention to raise the minimum age of youth detention to 14 years. The Commissioner issued a media release welcoming this development but stressing the need for the reform to apply not only to detention but to criminal responsibility as a whole, and for the introduction of a fully integrated therapeutic support and early intervention model.



## Therapeutic approach to youth justice – ongoing advocacy

The Commissioner is a strong advocate for the development and implementation of an integrated therapeutic approach to youth justice in Tasmania, including custodial youth justice services. The Tasmanian Government has now recognised that our youth justice system is not fit for purpose and has committed to reform. This includes the closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre and the transition to a therapeutic model of youth justice, including therapeutic detention only as a last resort.

To achieve the Government's stated aim, complex systemic reform is required across an array of services impacting children and young people, their families and communities.

## Youth Justice Reform Blueprint

The Tasmanian Government has been consulting on a whole-of-government Youth Justice Blueprint for Tasmania. The blueprint will outline 'a strategic direction for a contemporary, integrated, therapeutic youth justice system for Tasmania' and will have a focus on prevention, early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation for those young people at risk of, and/or involved with, the youth justice system.

In March 2022, the Commissioner made [a submission](#) in response to the Tasmanian Government's discussion paper 'Reforming Tasmania's Youth Justice System'. This submission was guided by three overarching principles to guide the reform of youth justice in Tasmania across the continuum of prevention and early intervention, targeted and tertiary intervention:

- The reforms should be child-centred.
- The reforms should acknowledge the right of Aboriginal people to determine and lead the appropriate response for their children.
- The reforms should acknowledge the ecological model of child development, which recognises the influence of families, communities and broader society on the wellbeing of children.

The Commissioner will continue to advocate for the development of an integrated therapeutic approach across the youth justice continuum in Tasmania, including raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and will monitor and further contribute as appropriate to the development and implementation of any reforms to the youth justice system resulting from the Government's current consultation process.

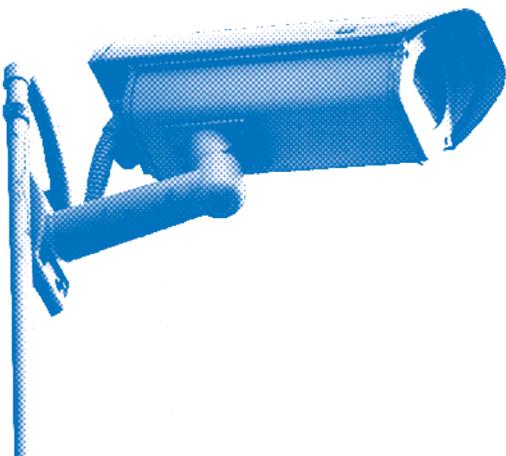
## Closure of Ashley Youth Detention Centre

On 8 September 2021, citing serious historical and contemporary concerns raised about the safety and wellbeing of children at Ashley Youth Detention Centre, the Commissioner wrote to the then Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, and the then Minister for Children and Youth, the Hon Sarah Courtney MP, calling on the Tasmanian Government to close the facility and redesign its custodial youth justice model to align with a truly therapeutic and trauma-informed approach in line with the preferred recommendation of Noetic in its 2016 Custodial Youth Justice Options Paper. The Commissioner followed this the next day with a [media release](#).

In response to concerns raised by many advocates, including the Commissioner, the Tasmanian Government subsequently committed to closing Ashley Youth Detention Centre by the end of 2024.

In February 2022, the Commissioner met with Noetic, the group responsible for developing the functional brief for the alternative to Ashley Youth Detention Centre, to provide her views on key considerations for the reform.

In March 2022, the Commissioner and staff from the Commissioner's office participated in a service design workshop on reforming Tasmania's youth justice system. The workshop, facilitated by Noetic, was undertaken to inform the development of options regarding the purpose and high-level functions of the replacement facilities for Ashley Youth Detention Centre.



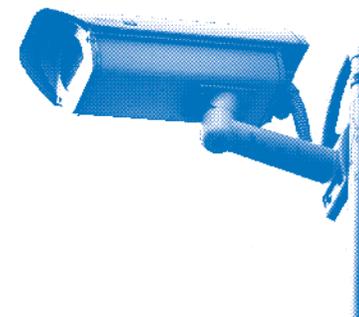
## Youth Justice Amendment (Searches in Custody) Bill 2022

Since providing formal advice to the Government on this issue in May 2019, the Commissioner continued her advocacy for an end to routine strip-searching of children in custodial settings and associated legal reforms.

Following advocacy by the Commissioner, the Tasmanian Government announced in March 2021 a \$1.3 million investment in body-scanning technology in the Hobart and Launceston reception prisons, Risdon Prison, and the Ashley Youth Detention Centre, with funding being formalised in the 2022-23 State Budget.

In June 2022, the Youth Justice Amendment (Searches in Custody) Bill 2022 was passed, preventing the routine practice of strip-searching of children and young people in custody and including greater consolidated protections for their rights and wellbeing.

Despite this significant step towards creating a safer environment for children and young people in custody, the Commissioner will continue to advocate for further widespread system reform and resourcing needed to achieve safety and improved outcomes for children and young people in contact with the youth justice system.



## Implementing Royal Commission recommendations

The Commissioner continued to advocate for full implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including through the implementation of a coordinated and integrated child-safe system for Tasmania. As illustrated in Figure 1, this would include prevention initiatives, introduction of mandatory child-safe standards with child-centred independent oversight, a nationally consistent reportable conduct scheme, appropriate information-sharing arrangements, standards for out-of-home care, and a public health approach to harmful sexual behaviours.

The Commissioner is **on the record** for her strong support of child-centred independent oversight:

*Independent oversight is fundamental to community confidence in the integrity of our organisations and institutions. It is also vital that independent oversight is supported by a culture within government and non-government organisations alike that recognises and embraces independent oversight as a critical contributor to improving children's safety within their organisations (including through improved transparency, accountability, continuous quality improvement and capacity building).*

In March 2021, the Commissioner provided detailed feedback on the draft Child Safe Organisations Bill 2020 and followed this up with extensive advocacy, including by conducting briefings – co-hosted with the Victorian Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People – to members of the Tasmanian Parliament and key stakeholders.

The Tasmanian Government committed to developing a comprehensive Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework (CYSOF) for Tasmania, overseen by an independent oversight and regulation body to be established by 1 July 2023. In line with the Commissioner's advocacy, the Government stated that the CYSOF will include a regulatory framework for compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, which creates a reportable conduct scheme to monitor investigations of child sexual abuse in institutional settings, and an information exchange relating to child safety across the sector. The Government released a new draft Child and Youth Safe Organisations Bill in September 2022 for comment.



Figure 1. A co-ordinated and integrated child safe system

## Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings

A Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings was established on 15 March 2021.

The Commission of Inquiry creates an enormous opportunity for every Tasmanian to act on our shared responsibility to take all necessary steps to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse and to respond appropriately if and when it does occur. As the continued emergence of historical and more contemporary allegations of child abuse across a range of Tasmanian Government settings demonstrates, this will require wholesale changes to the way we empower children to have a voice, how our organisations work to protect children, and how our community embraces and implements the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

The Commission of Inquiry held its opening hearing on 26 October 2021; hearings recommenced in May 2022 in Hobart and Launceston after they were postponed due to COVID.

The Commissioner provided [a written submission](#) to the Commission of Inquiry in which she made suggestions for strengthening Tasmania's approach to keeping children safe in organisational settings. The Commissioner also provided [a witness statement](#) to the Commission and has assisted the Commission by providing other information relevant to its terms of reference.

The Commissioner appeared before the Commission twice during the reporting period. On 5 May 2022, the Commissioner, together with a panel of other independent statutory office holders, [gave evidence](#) on the topic: The Tasmanian Context – Challenges and Opportunities for Change. The Commissioner [gave evidence](#) again on 17 June 2022.

## Other systemic advice and advocacy

The Commissioner provided advice to government and others on numerous matters affecting the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania throughout the reporting period. All submissions can be viewed in Appendix B and [on the CCYP website](#). Below we highlight some particularly significant work undertaken in this reporting period.

### Independent Children's Lawyers Practice Standards and Guidelines

On 20 June 2022, Tasmania Legal Aid launched the *Independent Children's Lawyers Practice Standards and Guidelines* (PSGs). The PSGs respond to children's feedback about what they need from their independent children's lawyer. The PSGs set out guidelines and related standards of practice prescribed by Tasmania Legal Aid for independent children's lawyers who are employed or funded by Tasmania Legal Aid. The PSGs were developed over 18 months in consultation with the Commissioner, representatives from the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, the Law Society of Tasmania, the Family Law Practitioners Association of Tasmania, Tasmania Legal Aid and others. The Commissioner's office was represented on the project steering committee.

The Commissioner's office is also represented on a project steering committee advising Tasmania Legal Aid on the development of practice standards and guidelines for lawyers representing the interests of children in child safety proceedings under the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*.

## OPCAT Implementation Bill 2021

In February 2021, the Commissioner provided a *submission on the Draft Custodial Inspector Amendment (OPCAT) Bill*. This included recommendations to strengthen the proposed legislation. The Commissioner also indicated her general support for the designation of the Custodial Inspector as Tasmania's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) for the purposes of domestic implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

In response to feedback received during the February 2021 consultations, the Government committed to changing its legislative approach to establishing the NPM framework. Several of the Commissioner's recommendations from her February 2021 submission were adopted, including the establishment of the Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) by standalone legislation and the provision of greater clarity regarding the NPM's functions and powers.

The Commissioner made a *subsequent submission* on 17 September 2021 on the OPCAT Implementation Bill 2021, reiterating her previous call for appropriate resourcing for the Tasmanian NPM. She also recommended that the legislation, aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable people in the community, particularly children, protect those who provide information to or communicate with the NPM from victimisation, reprisals or sanction.

The *OPCAT Implementation Act 2021* commenced on 20 January 2022. The Act includes an offence provision that protects those sharing information with the NPM from reprisal. This supports the OPCAT requirement that no sanction for such conduct be applied to a person.



## Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians

The Commissioner is a member of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG) which includes national, state, territory and New Zealand commissioners, guardians and advocates for children and young people. The ANZCCG aims to promote and protect the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people in Australia and New Zealand. Historically, the ANZCCG met face to face twice a year in May and November, with hosting responsibilities rotated between members. However, since the onset of COVID-19, meetings have transferred online. During the reporting period, the Commissioner was also represented on the ANZCCG Policy Officers' Network.

On 11 October 2021, the Australian members of the ANZCCG published a [progress update](#) on implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse with a particular focus on those pertaining to making institutions child-safe (Volume 6). The progress update was based on [work undertaken by KPMG](#) for the Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People in consultation with ANZCCG members.

As noted previously, in November 2021, members of ANZCCG and the Australian Human Rights Commission issued [a joint media release](#) in response to the commitment by state Attorneys-General to develop a proposal to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12, saying that while it was a positive step, it did not go far enough.

In March 2022, members of the ANZCCG wrote to key stakeholders – including Tasmania's Attorney-General and Minister for Corrections, the Hon Elise Archer MP; the Minister for Education, Children and Youth, the Hon Roger Jaensch MP; and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, the Hon Jacque Petrusma MP – advocating for a legislated ban on the use of spit hoods and mechanical restraint chairs on children and young people in custody. While these restraints are not currently in use on children and young people in Tasmania, members advocated for clearly articulated legislative provisions banning their use on children in all states and territories. In her April 2022 reply to the ANZCCG, the Attorney-General noted that she had sought further advice in relation to this important issue.



# Individual advocacy for children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*

## The Commissioner's advocacy role

Under the CCYP Act, the Commissioner has a specific role to act as advocate for individual children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. In practice, this means young people in youth justice detention may request the Commissioner's advocacy services on any matter affecting their rights and wellbeing. The CCYP Act (section 10) provides guidance about how the Commissioner may perform this advocacy role, including:

- listening to and giving voice to the concerns and grievances of a young person and facilitating resolution of those concerns
- seeking information about, and facilitating access by a young person to, support services
- assessing whether a young person has been provided with adequate information about his or her rights
- assessing the physical and emotional wellbeing of a young person.

As a prescribed officer within the meaning of section 135A of the Youth Justice Act, the Commissioner is entitled to access at any reasonable time any detention centre, or any detainee at the centre, for the purposes of performing her function as advocate.

During the reporting period, the Commissioner visited the Ashley Youth Detention Centre on 14 occasions to meet with residents. The residents are also able to contact the Commissioner's office at any time to request her advocacy assistance.

## The Advocate for Young People in Detention

Following the September 2021 announcement of the planned closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre, the Government agreed to provide fixed-term funding for an additional resource to support the Commissioner to carry out her advocacy services for young people in youth justice detention.

The Advocate for Young People in Detention began duties in February 2022. From February to June 2022, the Advocate visited the Ashley Youth Detention Centre 31 times (noting in-person visits were impacted during the reporting period by COVID-19 health measures) and the Hobart Reception Prison five times. The Advocate met in person with individual young people more than 243 times and spoke with young people by phone and videoconference on an as needs basis. During the reporting period, the Advocate received 159 requests for individual advocacy from young people in detention.

The additional position of the Advocate has significantly bolstered young people's access to advocacy services since February 2022 and helped improve the Commissioner's systemic oversight of children's rights and the wellbeing of children and young people in custody.

## Systemic issues raised by children and young people in youth detention

Several systemic issues have been identified through matters raised by individual young people seeking advocacy. The Commissioner has advocated on matters including but not limited to:

- preventing and responding to young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour
- further reducing the use of personal searches
- access to psychological and other supports
- nutrition
- transitions from detention, including accommodation
- transfers to Tasmania Prison Service facilities
- the use of isolation and unit bound practices.

Restrictive practices (including rolling 'lockdowns') were implemented at Ashley from 20 June 2022. The Commissioner advocated intensely for the children and young people detained at Ashley Youth Detention Centre and for a child-centred approach to be taken at all times. This advocacy continues.

Information received from children and young people in detention through the provision of individual advocacy also informed the Commissioner's March 2022 [submission](#) responding to the discussion paper: Reforming Tasmania's Youth Justice System.

## Referral of complaints

While the Commissioner has a special role advocating for individual children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*, she does not have a complaints-handling function under the CCYP Act. She is, however, able to help those detained to make a complaint, for example to the Ombudsman or to the Secretary of the Department of Communities.

During the reporting period, there was a noticeable increase in the number of referred complaints to the office of the Ombudsman. The Commissioner and Ombudsman have agreed a new information-sharing process whereby, with the consent of the young person, the Commissioner's office receives information about the outcome of their complaint. This process enables the Commissioner or a member of her staff to ensure the young person understands the outcome of their complaint and provides an opportunity to discuss with the young person any other options they might have to raise their concerns.

A new complaint referral process has also been established with Professional Standards at Tasmania Police.



# Priority areas of work in 2022-23

For information about the Commissioner for Children and Young People's priority areas of work in 2022-23, please refer to the [CCYP Annual Plan for 2022-2023](#). In that plan, work is organised under three priorities:

- **Communication and Engagement**
- **Monitoring**
- **Advocacy and Advice.**

# Other public commentary and stakeholder engagement

Please refer to the appendices for lists of the following:

- **Appendix A** – Reports and publications
- **Appendix B** – Submissions
- **Appendix C** – Media releases and opinion pieces
- **Appendix D** – Speeches, presentations and events
- **Appendix E** – Membership of groups.

Please also refer to the CCYP website for any submissions and comments on draft Bills not mentioned elsewhere in this report, as these are routinely published on the website.

# Appendix A: Reports and publications

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Commissioner for Children and  
Young People Tasmania Annual Report  
2020–21 – 15 November 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-AR2021-DIGITAL-15-NOV-2021-ART.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-AR2021-DIGITAL-15-NOV-2021-ART.pdf)

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Tasmanian Climate Change (State Action)  
Amendment Bill 2021: Email correspondence to all  
members of the Tasmanian Parliament –  
21 March 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-21-Email-Climate-Change-State-Action-Amendment-Bill-2021.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-21-Email-Climate-Change-State-Action-Amendment-Bill-2021.pdf)

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Commissioner for Children and Young People  
2022–2023 Annual Plan – 31 March 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-31-Lt-Minister-Jaensch-with-Annual-Plan.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-31-Lt-Minister-Jaensch-with-Annual-Plan.pdf)

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'I think adults play a big role in this'. Listening  
to the views of children and young people on  
'Acceptance, Belonging and Feeling Safe' and  
the importance of respectful relationships and  
consent education – 14 April 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Respectful-Relationships-and-Consent-Ed-Report-13-APR-2022.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Respectful-Relationships-and-Consent-Ed-Report-13-APR-2022.pdf)

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'OK, so a nest is a home'. Views and experiences  
of Tasmanian children and young people in out-of-  
home care – 2 June 2022

[https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Nest-book\\_final\\_web-1.pdf](https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Nest-book_final_web-1.pdf)

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# Appendix B: Submissions

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Review of the Australian Curriculum – 8 July 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-07-08-CCYP-Submission-to-the-Review-of-the-Australian-Curriculum-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-07-08-CCYP-Submission-to-the-Review-of-the-Australian-Curriculum-FINAL.pdf)

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Consultation on implementing the successor plan to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020 – 26 July 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-07-26-CCYP-TAS-Submission-to-Successor-Plan-to-the-National-Framework-for-Protecting-Australias-Children.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-07-26-CCYP-TAS-Submission-to-Successor-Plan-to-the-National-Framework-for-Protecting-Australias-Children.pdf)

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Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings – 29 July 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021.07.29-CCYP-Submission-Commission-of-Inquiry-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021.07.29-CCYP-Submission-Commission-of-Inquiry-FINAL.pdf)

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Under 16 Homelessness – A policy framework for Tasmania: Children and young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness (draft) – 2 August 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-08-02-Comment-Draft-Policy-Framework-Under-16-Homelessness-.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-08-02-Comment-Draft-Policy-Framework-Under-16-Homelessness-.pdf)

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Family Violence Reforms Bill 2021 – 14 October 2021

Unpublished.

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Consultation on the Education Legislation Amendments (Education Regulation) Bill – 23 August 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-08-23-Submission-Education-Regulation-Bill.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-08-23-Submission-Education-Regulation-Bill.pdf)

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Consultation on the Tasmanian Standards for Children and Young People in Care – 17 September 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-09-17-OOHC-Standards-Submission.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-09-17-OOHC-Standards-Submission.pdf)

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OPCAT Implementation Bill 2021 – 17 September 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-09-17-Submission-OPCAT-NPM-Tasmania.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-09-17-Submission-OPCAT-NPM-Tasmania.pdf)

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Written Contribution to the Tasmanian Literacy Advisory Panel on Early Years Literacy – 2 November 2021

Unpublished

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Tasmanian Climate Change (State Action) Act Amendment Bill 2021 – 12 November 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-11-12-FINAL-Submission-Climate-Change-State-Action-Amendment-Bill-2021.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-11-12-FINAL-Submission-Climate-Change-State-Action-Amendment-Bill-2021.pdf)

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Australian Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 and related Bills – 21 December 2021

[www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal\\_and\\_Constitutional\\_Affairs/Religiousdiscrimination/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Religiousdiscrimination/Submissions)

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Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry into the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 (the Bill) and related bills – 21 December 2021

[www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Human\\_Rights/ReligiousDiscrimination/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Human_Rights/ReligiousDiscrimination/Submissions)

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Review of the *Disability Services Act 2011* – 23 December 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-12-23-CCYP-submission-to-Disability-Services-Act-Discussion-Paper.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-12-23-CCYP-submission-to-Disability-Services-Act-Discussion-Paper.pdf)

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Discussion paper on the Tasmanian Sport and Active Recreation Strategy – 23 December 2021

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-12-23-CCYP-Submission-to-Tasmanian-Sports-and-Active-Recreation-Strategy.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-12-23-CCYP-Submission-to-Tasmanian-Sports-and-Active-Recreation-Strategy.pdf)

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Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2022 – 7 February 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-02-07-FINAL-CCYP-Tas-Comment-Criminal-Code-Amendment-Bill-2022\\_-002.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-02-07-FINAL-CCYP-Tas-Comment-Criminal-Code-Amendment-Bill-2022_-002.pdf)

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National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–32 – 25 February 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-02-25-CCYP-Tas-Submission-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-02-25-CCYP-Tas-Submission-FINAL.pdf)

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Reforming Tasmania's Youth Justice System: discussion paper – 21 March 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-21-FINAL-Reforming-Youth-Justice-submission.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-21-FINAL-Reforming-Youth-Justice-submission.pdf)

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Tasmania's Community-wide Framework on Literacy – 25 March 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-25-Literacy-Advisory-Panel-submission.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-03-25-Literacy-Advisory-Panel-submission.pdf)

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Review of the Tasmania Law Reform Institute – 29 April 2022

Oral submission

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Tasmania's third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan – 31 May 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-05-31-Third-Family-and-Sexual-Violence-Action-Plan-CCYP-Tas-Submission.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-05-31-Third-Family-and-Sexual-Violence-Action-Plan-CCYP-Tas-Submission.pdf)

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Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2021–2027 – 30 June 2022

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-06-30-FINAL-submission-Tasmanian-Drug-Strategy.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-06-30-FINAL-submission-Tasmanian-Drug-Strategy.pdf)

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# Appendix C: Media releases and opinion pieces

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Wellbeing – 5 July 2021 (opinion piece)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Talking-Point-We-Call-It-Happy-Report-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Talking-Point-We-Call-It-Happy-Report-FINAL.pdf)

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Tasmania Legal Aid's *Children First* report welcomed – 22 July 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Legal-Aid-Report\\_Children-First-0721-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Legal-Aid-Report_Children-First-0721-FINAL.pdf)

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Prioritising homeless young Tasmanians – 16 August 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Colony-47-0821-FINAL-1.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Colony-47-0821-FINAL-1.pdf)

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Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy welcomed – 22 August 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-08-21-CCYP-media-release-Child-and-Youth-Wellbeing-Strategy-Welcomed-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-08-21-CCYP-media-release-Child-and-Youth-Wellbeing-Strategy-Welcomed-FINAL.pdf)

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State Budget 2021–2022 – 27 August 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-State-Budget-2021-2022.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-State-Budget-2021-2022.pdf)

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Ashley Youth Detention Centre – 9 September 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-AYDC-091021.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-AYDC-091021.pdf)

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Statement of support: Raise the age of criminal responsibility in Tasmania – 25 October 2021 (joint signed letter)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/joint-letter-on-Raising-the-age-of-criminal-responsibility-SIGNED-LETTER.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/joint-letter-on-Raising-the-age-of-criminal-responsibility-SIGNED-LETTER.pdf)

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Recommendations by DoE inquiry into child sexual abuse welcomed – 10 November 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Inquiry-into-DoE-Responses-to-child-sexual-abuse-1121.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Inquiry-into-DoE-Responses-to-child-sexual-abuse-1121.pdf)

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Minimum age of criminal responsibility: Missed opportunity – 15 November 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-MACR-National-151121-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-MACR-National-151121-FINAL.pdf)

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Proposal to raise the age does not go far enough – 15 November 2021 (joint media release of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians and the Australian Human Rights Commission)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/ANZCCG-Joint-Media-Statement-Pledge-on-raising-the-age-not-enough-211115-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/ANZCCG-Joint-Media-Statement-Pledge-on-raising-the-age-not-enough-211115-FINAL.pdf)

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CCYP annual report 2020–21 – 23 November 2021 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf)

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Putting children and young people first – 20 January 2022 (opinion piece)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Talking-Point-FINAL-Putting-child-rights-centre-in-pandemic-policy-decisions-0122.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Talking-Point-FINAL-Putting-child-rights-centre-in-pandemic-policy-decisions-0122.pdf)

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Applications open for new CCYP Ambassadors – 8 February 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-CCYP-Ambassador-applications-0222-.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-CCYP-Ambassador-applications-0222-.pdf)

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New department supporting children and families welcomed – 24 February 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-02-24-CCYP-MR-Amalgamation-of-Child-Services.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-02-24-CCYP-MR-Amalgamation-of-Child-Services.pdf)

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Strip searching: The first step on the long road to reform – 22 March 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Strip-Searching-FINAL-0322.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Strip-Searching-FINAL-0322.pdf)

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'I think adults play a big role in this': Respectful relationships and consent education – 14 April 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Respectful-relationships-and-consent-education-report.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Respectful-relationships-and-consent-education-report.pdf)

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Safeguarding children – 24 May 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-05-24-CCYP-Media-SafeGuarding-Children-0522.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022-05-24-CCYP-Media-SafeGuarding-Children-0522.pdf)

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Strip searching – 1 June 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Release-Strip-Searching-0622.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Release-Strip-Searching-0622.pdf)

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Minimum age of detention – 8 June 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Minimum-Age-of-Detention-0622.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Minimum-Age-of-Detention-0622.pdf)

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OK, so a nest is a home: Book launch – 14 June 2022 (media release)

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Nest-book-launch-Tuesday-0622.pdf](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Nest-book-launch-Tuesday-0622.pdf)

# Appendix D: Speeches, presentations and events

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B4 Early Years Coalition: briefing to Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, at Government House – 7 July 2021

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Tasmania Legal Aid: launch of 'Children First' report – 22 July 2021

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Elizabeth College: talk on minimum age of criminal responsibility – 23 July 2021

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Fahan School: talk on minimum age of criminal responsibility – 2 August 2021

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Hobart City Council: Child and Youth Homelessness Forum – 4 August 2021

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What Matters Tasmania: awards presentation\* – 9 August 2021

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Reconciliation Week breakfast\* – 13 August 2021

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Colony 47: youth homelessness and housing crisis media opportunity – 16 August 2021

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Child safe and reportable conduct: briefings for the Government and community sector, with Victoria's Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People – 18 & 19 August 2021

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St Michael's Collegiate: talk on minimum age of criminal responsibility – 20 August 2021

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Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: launch of Tasmanian Government's 'It Takes a Tasmanian Village'\* – 22 August 2021

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Early Childhood Australia, Tasmania Branch, with B4 Early Years Coalition: Early Years Forum – 28 August 2021

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Department of Education: Young Archies awards presentation – 4 September 2021

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National Summit on Women's Safety 2021\* – 6 September 2021

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NAPCAN National Child Protection Week webinar: 'What does a community need for every child to thrive?' – 7 September 2021

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Tasmanian Youth Sector Symposium – 9 September 2021

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Child Protection Week Safety Awards – 10 September 2021

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Legislative Council Tasmania: raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility briefing – 13 October 2021

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Hobart City Council: selection panel session for inaugural Children's Mayor – 18 October 2021

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St James' Catholic College, Cygnet: 'When I wake up I smile' book ceremony – 26 October 2021

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Hobart City Council: launch of the inaugural Children's Mayor and annual reception for children – 27 October 2021

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Students Against Racism: cross-cultural workshop\* – 29 October 2021

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TasCOSS Conference 2021\* – 2 November 2021

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Tasmanian Governance Forum 2021 – 3 November 2021

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Rainbow Child Care and Early Learning Centre – 12 November 2021

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Australian National University: 'In Conversation with Children's Commissioners' webinar series – 18 November 2021

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Lady Gowrie Service Managers: professional development presentation – 19 November 2021

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University of Tasmania – B4 Early Years Coalition: 'Making Marks: A Celebration of Children's Art' exhibition launch – 19 November 2021

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Youth Advisory Group: meeting with CREATE – 19 November 2021

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Community Consultative Group – child and youth wellbeing workshop\* – 23 November 2021

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Foster and Kinship Carer Association Tasmania (FKAT): carer morning tea\*, Penguin – 24 November 2021

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Our Watch: national primary prevention hub event\* – 30 November 2021

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FKAT: Christmas lunch\* – 10 December 2021

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Ogilvie High School: graduation awards presentation – 14 December 2021

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Ashley Youth Detention Centre: Christmas lunch\* - 15 December 2021

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CREATE & CCYP Youth Advisory Group - 28 January 2022

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Play2Learn launch\* - 7 March 2022

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FKAT & CREATE: morning tea\* - 29 March 2022

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Reforming Tasmania's Youth Justice System: service design workshop\* - 4 April 2022

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Sustainability Strategy for Tasmania: workshop\* - 12 April 2022

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CREATE: Voices in Action: Resilient, Resourceful and Remarkable Conference\* - 28-30 April 2022

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Libraries Tasmania: leadership workshop - 4 May 2022

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Legislative Council Tasmania: Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021 briefing - 5 May 2022

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Working It Out: IDAHOBIT breakfast and Dorothies awards\* - 17 May 2022

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Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity: national meeting\* - 17 May 2022

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National Simultaneous Storytime, Libraries Tasmania - 25 May 2022

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National Reconciliation Week: breakfast\* - 1 June 2022

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Libraries Tasmania (Devonport library): 'The Living Room' - 3 June 2022

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Women's Legal Service: Safe & Together™ model workshops - 8-9 June 2022

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Bay of Fires Children's Art Exhibition Prize, St Helens - 11 June 2022

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Thrive to 25: presentation - 14 June 2022

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Official launch of CCYP's 'Loved and Safe' book - 14 June 2022

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Tasmania Legal Aid: launch of Independent Children's Lawyer Practice Standards and Guidelines\* - 20 June 2022

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Launceston City Council: meeting with CCYP Ambassadors - 23 June 2022

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Tasmania Legal Aid: independent children's lawyers conference - 24 June 2022

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Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings: 'The Tasmanian context: challenges and opportunities for change'. Oral evidence - 5 May 2022

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Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings: 'Out of home care: system oversight and accountability and opportunities for change'. Oral evidence - 17 June 2022

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\*No official speaking role

# Appendix E: Membership of groups

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Australian National Child Health and Development Atlas Oversight Group\*

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Australia and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG)\*

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Australia and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians Policy Officers Network

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B4 Early Years Coalition\*\*

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Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act Review Advisory Group\*

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Community Consultative Group on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

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Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity (COPMM)\*

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Expert Panel Therapeutic Care\*\*

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Family and Sexual Violence Community Consultative Group

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Fired Up: Responding to conflict and violence in teen relationships in Tasmania Reference Group, Anglicare Tasmania Inc.\*

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Glenorchy Action Interagency Network (GAIN) and Youth Action Network Glenorchy (YANG) - now Thrive to 25

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Hobart City Vision Community Panel\*

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Magistrates Court Hobart Court Users Group

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Reconciliation Tasmania Collective

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Research Assessment and Approval Committee (RAAC), Education Performance and Review, Department of Education

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Southern Regional Mental Health Group

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Statewide Youth Collaborative Group

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TasCOSS COVID Recovery Statewide Meetings

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Tasmania Legal Aid Independent Children's Lawyers Project Steering Committee

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Tasmania Legal Aid Separate Representative Project Steering Committee

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Tasmanian Collaboration for Health Improvement\*

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University of Tasmania Research Advisory Panel, Regional Recovery after COVID-19\*

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Youth Action Priorities (YAP)

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\*Commissioner McLean only

\*\*Commissioner McLean only - Chair, Co-Chair or Independent Chair



**CCYP**

Commissioner for Children  
and Young People Tasmania