

41ST PARLIAMENT



Joint Standing Committee on the  
Commissioner for Children and Young People

Report 5

REPORT REVIEW 2022

*Examination of selected reports by the Commissioner for Children and  
Young People*

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Presented by Mrs R.M.J. Clarke, MLA and Hon N. Thomson, MLC

March 2023

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**Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner  
for Children and Young People**

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**Report Review 2022**

**Examination of selected reports by the  
Commissioner for Children and Young People**

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Report No. 5

Presented by

**Mrs R.M.J. Clarke, MLA and Hon N. Thomson, MLC**

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council on  
30 March 2023



## Chair's Foreword

**T**HE Committee has reviewed the Commissioner for Children and Young People's annual report for 2021-22 and considered several other reports published by her office in the past year. Most of these were published in the period since January 2022, when Jacqueline McGowan-Jones took over the commissioner role from Colin Pettit.

Some of the work referenced has its origins in work begun by Mr Pettit. For example, the second Speaking Out Survey, which collected the views of around 16,500 year 4 to 12 students, was conducted in early 2021 and a summary of the results was published at the end of the year. In 2022 the Commissioner's office has continued to explore the data, revealing some startling findings around kids' views of their own safety.

Further exploration of the data related to mental health mirrored findings from the first survey in 2019, showing that teenage girls are more likely than teenage boys to feel depressed and unhappy with themselves. The Commissioner has tackled this worrying trend by establishing a Girls' Wellbeing project to explore the reasons for the gap and gather views on how to improve girls' experiences.

The Commissioner also received Lotterywest funding to extend the Speaking Out Survey to several groups that the mainstream survey could not cater for. These were students who are home-schooled, students with special educational needs and students in remote communities. It is important to capture the views of these minority populations to provide the best possible understanding of what children and young people in this state are experiencing. Hopefully funding will be available to do this in future years.

The Commissioner told the Committee she had enjoyed her first months in what is her dream job. We have every confidence she will continue to perform the role as well as she has in this first year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Clarke', with a long, sweeping underline.

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE, MLA  
CHAIR



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# Examination of selected reports by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

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## 1 Oversight of the Commissioner's activities

As agreed between the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, the Committee's key functions are to:

- i) monitor, review and report to Parliament on the exercise of the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People;
- ii) examine annual and other reports of the Commissioner; and
- iii) consult regularly with the Commissioner.

In February 2022 the Committee held a briefing to welcome the new commissioner, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones. The briefing was an opportunity for the new commissioner to introduce herself to the Committee and outline her plans.

The Committee also held a hearing with the Commissioner on 18 October 2022 to discuss her annual report for the 2021–22 year and several other reports released over the course of the year. This report updates the Parliament on the Commissioner's work and on the Committee's oversight activities.

## 2 Examination of the Commissioner's Annual Report 2021-22

The Commissioner's annual work plan supports the strategic plan, *Strategic Directions 2021–2026*. Work completed is outlined in the Annual Report under the strategic plan's three key platforms. Highlights from each of these follow.

### 2.1 Promoting the rights, voices and contributions of children and young people

A key activity for this platform was the Commissioner's Listening Tour, which involves the Commissioner talking with children and young people (and others in the community) about what youth need to be healthy and to reach their potential. Commissioner McGowan-Jones visited the South West, Peel, Mid-West, West Kimberley and Goldfields regions and the remote Ngaanyatjarra Lands, as well as metropolitan schools and organisations. (Previous Commissioner Colin Pettit visited the West Kimberley, Gascoyne, Peel and Great Southern regions in the second half of 2021.)

Ms McGowan-Jones said the key concerns for children and young people that she heard from were safety (at school, at home and in the community) and the environment. Kids were also concerned about the cost of after-school activities, food insecurity and homelessness.

The Commissioner also met with advisory committees made up of students at Penrhos College and Margaret River Senior High School to assist with her work on a wide-ranging project exploring the gender wellbeing gap (see further information below).

The office continued to sponsor 5 awards for youth or services for youth, including a new award for Best Practice in Children's Consultation. The award, part of the Institute of Public Administration Australia's annual achievement awards, recognises an organisation that has excelled in listening to and using the views of children and young people to achieve significant outcomes. It is pleasing to see consultation with children being recognised alongside other achievements in public service performance. In the absence of any administrative or statutory requirements for government and non-government agencies to seek out children's views, this is one small way to encourage organisations to ensure children are included when making decisions that affect their lives.

## **2.2 Monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the wellbeing of all WA children and young people**

The publication of the Speaking Out Survey 2021 results was a key achievement for this platform, as well as an extension project to survey marginal groups not reached by the main survey: those who are home-schooled, students with special educational needs, and those in remote communities. The report on students who are home-schooled has been released; however, there were only 39 responses which means the data cannot be regarded as representative of the home educated population in WA (approximately 4500 students in 2021). The Committee notes that the marginal group surveys were funded by Lotterywest. If this funding or another source of funding is available to repeat the surveys with these groups in future, a strategy to elicit a higher response rate from home-schooled children will be needed.

The extension project enabled another 327 Aboriginal children in remote locations to participate, bringing the total to 987. Given the lack of data on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children, the Committee commends the Commissioner for reaching out to these remote children – even though (as the Commissioner's report notes) there may be some limitations in the results since only those who were at school on the day of the survey were included.

The report on the extension survey for children with special educational needs is not yet available.

As part of this platform, the Commissioner:

- established the Girls' Wellbeing project and has recently released insights from the Speaking Out Survey on girls' wellbeing (see section 3.3)
- continued to promote and support the implementation of child safe principles and practices and child friendly complaints mechanisms in organisations, by providing advice and participating in multiple government and non-government interagency forums about the National Principles<sup>1</sup>
- monitored how WA governments are dealing with complaints from children and young people, releasing the *Monitoring of complaints systems 2021* report (see section 3.4).

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1 The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles) reflect the 10 child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and outline how organisations can protect children from all types of harm in organisations.

### 2.3 Prioritising the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people

Deeper analysis of the Speaking Out Survey 2021 responses has focussed on views of mental health and safety, as well as views on wellbeing from Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) children and young people. Data snapshots for all except CALD children had been published at the time of writing.

The data analysis could guide areas of further investigation for the CCYP (as occurred with girls' wellbeing). Data on perceptions of safety are particularly concerning and worthy of further research: nearly 10% of year 4 to 12 students feel safe at home only some of the time or less. Double that proportion – 20% – feel safe at school only sometimes or less. The proportion of year 4 to 12 students feeling safe in the community only sometimes or less was higher again – 29%. Half of males and one-third of females in years 9 to 12 had been physically hit or harmed. This was more likely to occur at home for females and at school/sporting events for males.<sup>2</sup>

Through a series of focus groups, the CCYP remains aware of serious challenges for gender-diverse young people. Ms McGowan-Jones said this cohort were very vulnerable and very at risk in a range of ways, but particularly in regard to mental health, housing, violence, engagement in community and not being believed. She said her office would release a report in the first quarter of 2023 on its consultations with gender-diverse young people.<sup>3</sup>

Young people in youth detention are another particularly vulnerable group that the CCYP has actively advocated for, with the current Commissioner visiting Banksia Hill Detention Centre on a regular basis. Ms McGowan-Jones told the Committee that the underlying problem leading to the unrest at Banksia Hill was the failure to provide therapeutic, trauma-informed care. According to Ms McGowan-Jones, more staff were needed, and psychologists needed to be available after hours, at times young people were more likely to engage in self-harm or attempt suicide.<sup>4</sup>

Ms McGowan-Jones said: 'We must invest in the staffing and operating service philosophy that has been established as required to meet the needs of these young kids.'<sup>5</sup>

The Committee received an update on 15 March 2023 from the Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Corrective Services, on what progress has been made in this area. The letter, included in this report at Appendix Two, details some of the funding recently allocated to youth justice, including:

- Almost \$22 million for a staged expansion of staffing at Banksia Hill in support of the new service model
- \$9.3 million to expand mental health services and support programs for detainees to enhance therapeutic care – implementing a multidisciplinary team that will provide

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2 Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, *Data snapshot – Children's views on their safety*, accessed 12 October 2022, <[ccyp.wa.gov.au/our-work/projects/speaking-out-survey/](http://ccyp.wa.gov.au/our-work/projects/speaking-out-survey/)>.

3 Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Transcript of Evidence*, 18 October 2022, p. 12.

4 *ibid*, p. 11.

5 *ibid*, p. 12.

mental health, psychiatry, psychology, occupational therapy, speech pathology and lived experience peer mentoring support for young people

- A new \$7.5 million Crisis Care Unit and \$3.6 million to staff a new Aboriginal Services Unit.<sup>6</sup>

### 3 Key reports

#### 3.1 Missing out Matters: Child Poverty in Western Australia (October 2021)

This was the third report on child poverty in WA released by the Commissioner's office since 2019. Drawing on the most recent *Profile of Children and Young People in WA*, the report estimates that up to 17% of Western Australian children (around 600,000) are living in poverty. *Missing Out Matters* presents perspectives on child poverty from 11 high profile West Australians, and sparked the Committee's current inquiry into poverty and childhood food insecurity. CCYP Ambassador Dr Casta Tungaraza highlighted the difficulties faced by refugees and also called for a human rights approach to poverty, while Colin Pettit (CCYP at the time) and WA Council of Social Service CEO Louise Giolitto called for a child wellbeing framework or strategy for WA. Adjunct Professor Tony Pietropiccolo, director of Centrecare Inc and co-founder of the Valuing Children Initiative, emphasised the ethical and moral dimensions of addressing child poverty. He expanded on this fundamental aspect during a hearing in March 2022 when the Committee was determining the terms of reference of its first inquiry for this parliamentary term.

The report continues to be relevant to the inquiry, which is exploring existing and potential initiatives to address food insecurity for children and young people. The Committee has heard views which echo those of Professor Helen Milroy expressed in *Missing Out Matters*, namely that:

modest investments in supporting children's health and wellbeing will not only lead to cost savings down the track through reductions in illness, unemployment and other issues but also contribute to even greater prosperity through increased productivity.<sup>7</sup>

#### 3.2 Students' wellbeing during the primary-secondary school transition and transition practices – A literature review (June 2022)

This report examined research into the transition between primary and secondary school and the impact it has on the wellbeing of students, especially girls. The major concerns for students are social relationships (with both friends and teachers), adjusting to a new school environment and pressure from increased workload. The factors that are most influential in supporting student wellbeing are positive social relationships and parental involvement.

The CCYP commissioned Edith Cowan University to undertake the literature review after the most recent Speaking Out Survey showed that the transition period can challenge students' sense of wellbeing, belonging and academic engagement.

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<sup>6</sup> Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Corrective Services, Letter, 15 March 2023, p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Missing out matters: Child poverty in Western Australia*, Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, 2021, p. 7.

The report identifies a range of transition programs to assist students and provides some guiding principles for supporting student wellbeing. These include:

- involving students in planning and designing transition programs
- ensuring parents are well informed and engaged
- implementing long-term transition programs starting in the early primary years
- collaboration between primary and secondary schools to create consistency and continuity in practices
- broad stakeholder engagement
- professional development training to assist teachers in supporting students
- gender-specific strategies that acknowledge that male and female students have different concerns and challenges, and programs that cater to non-binary students.

This literature review report is particularly timely, given its finding that none of the transition practices had specific strategies tailored to gender.<sup>8</sup> As the Commissioner's report *Girls' Wellbeing: Insights from the 2021 Speaking Out Survey* shows, the gender wellbeing gap begins to manifest at approximately this stage in the lives of girls.

Perhaps an appropriate area for further research for the CCYP would be transition programs that cater to girls' concerns and could help ameliorate the identified decline in wellbeing.

### **3.3 Girls' wellbeing: Insights from the 2021 Speaking Out Survey (August 2022)**

A gender-based wellbeing gap was first identified by the Commissioner in the 2019 Speaking Out Survey. In 2021, the Commissioner published a literature review exploring Australian and international research on the issue, which demonstrated that girls have significantly lower wellbeing outcomes than their male peers across a broad range of measures.

In 2021, the Commissioner conducted the second Speaking Out Survey. This survey reached a greater number of children and young people across WA (16,532 compared to around 5000 in 2019) and confirmed the findings from the 2019 survey. The *Girls' wellbeing: Insights from the 2021 Speaking Out Survey* report analyses the most recent survey results and uses the survey responses to give voice to female children and young people. This insight shows that many female young people in WA rate their life satisfaction as very low, have low self-esteem, often feel unsafe at home and in their local community and feel unheard and unsupported by their loved ones.

The report concludes that:

Girls want their families to ask them how they are, listen to their views and be kind and supportive in their responses. Schools can provide an environment that encourages positive, supportive and respectful relationships across the school.

Urgent action is also required across all government and non-government sectors. There is a clear need for targeted services and programs to support girls' mental

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8 Edith Cowan University, *Students' wellbeing during the primary-secondary school transition and transition practices – A literature review*, prepared for the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA by Diem T. N. Hoang and Nicola F. Johnson, June 2022, p. 22.

health, self-esteem and sense of belonging, however there is a broader requirement to continue to decrease gender inequality and gendered attitudes in Australian society.<sup>9</sup>

The Committee commends the Commissioner and her office for its continued investigation of this gender wellbeing gap. The results of the research reflect that ‘our female young people are being left behind’.<sup>10</sup>

The Committee takes this opportunity to further draw this important research to the attention of the WA government and public sector and echoes the Commissioner’s statement that:

Both government and non-government sectors have a responsibility to work together to ensure policies, programs and services are focused on improving wellbeing outcomes for girls. Every young person must be given the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their gender.<sup>11</sup>

### **3.4 Monitoring of complaints systems 2021 (January 2022)**

Under section 19 of the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006*, the functions of the Commissioner include:

- (d) to monitor the way in which a government agency investigates or otherwise deals with a complaint made by a child or young person and the outcome of the complaint
- (e) to monitor the trends in complaints made by children and young people to government agencies.

To fulfil these functions, the Commissioner carries out regular surveys of government agencies in relation to their complaints systems and the complaints they receive from children and young people. These surveys have been conducted in 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018 and 2021. The report summarises ‘the incremental, though limited, improvement from 2010 to 2018 in agency recognition of children and young people as potential or actual complainants’.<sup>12</sup>

The 2021 review concludes that there has been ‘limited and uneven progress by agencies in ensuring the concerns of children and young people, including some of the most vulnerable children in WA, are heard and acted upon’.<sup>13</sup> The Commissioner comments that ‘more work needs to be undertaken by many public sector agencies to align complaints systems with National Principle 6’.<sup>14</sup>

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9 Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Girls’ wellbeing: Insights from the 2021 Speaking Out Survey*, Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, 2022, p. 7.

10 *ibid.*, p. 1.

11 *ibid.*

12 Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Monitoring of complaints systems 2021*, Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, 2022, p. 4.

13 *ibid.*, p. 25.

14 *ibid.*, p. 26.

Additionally, the report concludes that:

... this monitoring report provides a timely call for government agencies to critically reflect on their preparedness for a future child safe regulatory scheme if their performance against National Principle 6 is representative of their progress against each of the ten National Principles.<sup>15</sup>

## **4 Ongoing issues**

### **4.1 The position of Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People**

On 18 November 2021, the Committee tabled a report detailing the history of a proposal to create a commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people. There have been calls for such a position since the creation of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. After consideration of the merits of such a proposal, this Committee recommended that a separate statutory position dedicated to the advocacy of Aboriginal children and young people be created to work alongside the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The Committee additionally recommended that the Treasurer make funds available for such a position and suitable support staff.

The Attorney General advised the Committee in March 2022 that the government was undertaking a process of community engagement with key stakeholders to determine whether to establish a distinct commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people. The Committee was subsequently advised in August 2022 that the engagement process had been completed. The Attorney General stated that:

Overall, stakeholders supported improved advocacy and better outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people however noted that there are a number of existing measures that could achieve this without the need for legislative reform ... the Western Australian Government has concluded that enhanced oversight of outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people may be achieved under the existing statutory framework, and will be the subject of further work between the Government and the current CCYP.<sup>16</sup>

The Committee sought a copy of any reports detailing the community engagement described by the Attorney General, but was advised that no report was produced.<sup>17</sup> A list of the stakeholders consulted has since been provided,<sup>18</sup> but no record of what was discussed during the consultations has been provided.

The Committee asked the Commissioner for an update on her negotiations with government on this issue at the hearing in October 2022. The Commissioner gave the Committee the following summary:

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15 Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Monitoring of complaints systems 2021*, Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, 2022, p. 26.

16 Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, Letter, 31 August 2022.

17 Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, Letter, 3 November 2022.

18 Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, Letter, 16 December 2022.

I have spoken to government that we need an Aboriginal-specific team. I have identified positions, with a senior assistant commissioner role. That would be my view about a minimum. Whilst it would have been ideal to have a commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people, there are always positives and negatives. One of the negatives when we make an Aboriginal-specific role is that others abrogate their responsibility. That is okay while I am in the role, because I am Aboriginal; I am not going to abrogate my responsibility to my own people. However, if and when I leave, there is no guarantee there would be another Aboriginal person in the role. I have said we would like to embed it and that would be to write to this committee and to put forward a proposal that the committee has oversight of ensuring that director, once established, stays and does not suffer cuts and reductions over time. That is probably the best option. Of course, we have to do a budget submission ... I must say the Attorney General has been very supportive and has got his department to support us in developing that budget submission for the May budget process. Staff in his office are also supporting us in liaising with Treasury and others. I am fairly positive, but of course everything is subject to the budget process. My concern will be if we do not get that Aboriginal-specific directorate.<sup>19</sup>

The Commissioner went on to state that the government had said ‘that the work could be undertaken within the current statutory framework ... But to do that effectively, I need an Aboriginal services directorate, at a minimum.’<sup>20</sup>

#### **4.2 Lack of decision on the oversight mechanism for the Royal Commission recommendations**

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released its final report in December 2017. In his annual report in 2021, the then Commissioner Colin Pettit noted that 4 years of the 10-year implementation period had passed and progress had been slow. At our hearing with Commissioner McGowan-Jones in October 2022, Ms McGowan-Jones reported with some frustration that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet had stated ‘as late as this morning’ that it was ‘still reviewing policy settings’ regarding who within the WA government would have oversight of the implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations.<sup>21</sup> The Committee received an update from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet regarding progress on recommendations for which it is the lead agency and was told that ‘the Department continues to progress the development of a policy proposal for a model of independent oversight of child safe organisations responding to the recommendations of the Royal Commission, for consideration by Government’.<sup>22</sup>

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19 Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Transcript of Evidence*, 18 October 2022, p. 3.

20 *ibid.*

21 *ibid.*, p. 1.

22 Emily Roper, Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Letter, 20 March 2023.



## 5 Summary of performance

The CCYP consulted with 1588 children and young people in various regions of the state in 2021–22, exceeding the key effectiveness indicator target of 1500. The other key effectiveness indicator was also exceeded, with the Commissioner making 388 representations on issues impacting children and young people, including advocacy meetings, speeches, submissions and media articles. The target was 200.

Unit costs were significantly lower than the targets, partly due to an increase in the number of online consultations and virtual meetings in place of in-person meetings (particularly for regional areas).

Total costs were \$3.43 million in 2021–22. The forward estimate allocates \$3.27 million for 2022–23 – a decrease from 2021–22 accounted for by the \$280,000 Lotterywest grant to extend the Speaking Out Survey to non-mainstream groups. By 2025–26 the budget allocation is estimated to reach \$3.3 million.

After 10 months in the job, Ms McGowan-Jones said in October 2022 that it was challenging ‘to do all the work we should be doing with the small team we have’.<sup>23</sup> The team was unable to do as much work with vulnerable groups – for example, culturally and linguistically diverse and gender-diverse children and young people – as it would like. In a briefing with the Committee in February 2022, Ms McGowan-Jones said that her office was not sufficiently resourced and she would be putting together a case for more funding.<sup>24</sup>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Clarke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE, MLA  
CHAIR

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<sup>23</sup> Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Transcript of Evidence*, 18 October 2022, p. 1.

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*, p. 3.



# Appendix One

## Committee's functions and powers

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The following was agreed by concurrence between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council on 26 May 2021, establishing the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People:

1. Pursuant to section 51 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2006, a Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People be appointed by the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.
2. The Joint Standing Committee shall comprise 2 members appointed by the Legislative Assembly and 2 members appointed by the Legislative Council.
3. It is the function of the Joint Standing Committee to —
  - i. monitor, review and report to Parliament on the exercise of the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People;
  - ii. examine Annual and other Reports of the Commissioner; and
  - iii. consult regularly with the Commissioner.
4. A report of the Joint Standing Committee will be presented to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council by members of the Joint Standing Committee nominated by it for that purpose.
5. The Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly relating to Standing and Select Committees will be followed as far as they can be applied.



## Appendix Two

### Letter from Minister for Corrective Services

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**Hon Bill Johnston MLA**  
**Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services;**  
**Industrial Relations**

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Your Ref A1007951  
Our Ref 71-30619

Mrs R M J Clarke MLA - Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 5005

Dear Mrs Clarke

#### **REQUEST FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 February 2023, requesting information on action being undertaken to provide therapeutic and trauma informed care and additional staffing at Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

I advise that a newly developed Operating Philosophy and Service Model for Banksia Hill has been completed. The Service Model is informed by best practice from national and international research - and is being strategically implemented with a focus on change management processes.

Respected former Mental Health Commissioner Tim Marney is beginning at Banksia Hill at the end of the month to lead this implementation.

The newly developed Service Model is established on eight service principles. Collectively the service principles articulate how Banksia Hill will deliver on the purpose of the centre and ensure that every young person has the opportunity to benefit. The eight principles are:

- 1 Elevate and respect young people's voices
- 2 Foster structure and consistency for young people
- 3 Ensure cultural safety and strength for Aboriginal young people.
- 4 Connect young people with family, kin, and community.
- 5 Foster a throughcare-focused approach to care for young people
- 6 Embed developmentally appropriate and needs-informed approaches.
- 7 Apply positive restorative approaches to discipline
- 8 Promote culture of appreciation, care and support for staff

Additionally, you may be aware that the State Government has recently committed over \$100 million towards youth justice in Western Australia. This contains considerable investment towards therapeutic care and staffing, including:

- Almost \$22 million for a staged expansion of staffing at Banksia Hill in support of the new service model;
- \$9.3 million to expand mental health services and support programs for detainees to enhance therapeutic care – implementing a multidisciplinary team that will provide mental health, psychiatry, psychology, occupational therapy, speech pathology and lived experience peer mentoring support for young people; and
- A new \$7.5 million Crisis Care Unit and \$3.6 million to staff a new Aboriginal Services Unit

The Department currently employs 6.6 FTE psychologists within the youth justice estate.

The Mental Health Commission has also been funded \$13 million to implement a new service. Consultation has commenced with representatives from the Child and Adolescent Forensic Services to establish more effective mental health support to young people in detention and appearing before the Court. This funding is for a state-wide model and staff will be co-located at a community-based Youth Justice Centre and Banksia Hill.

Once again, thank you for raising your correspondence and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Johnston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Hon Bill Johnston MLA**  
**Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy;**  
**Corrective Services; Industrial Relations**

**15 MAR 2023**





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