



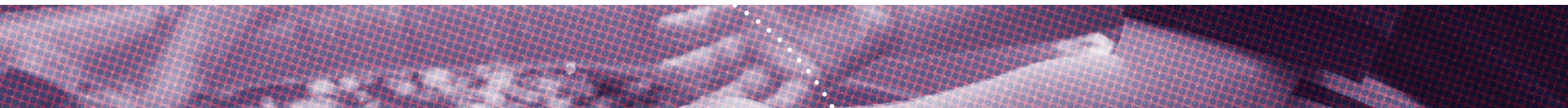
ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



CCYP

Commissioner for Children
and Young People Tasmania



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania Annual Report 2023-24

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Any questions regarding this report or the work of Tasmania's Commissioner for Children and Young People more generally may be directed to the Commissioner by emailing childcomm@childcomm.tas.gov.au or by telephoning +61 3 6166 1366.

For more information, visit: www.childcomm.tas.gov.au.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Commissioner for Children and Young People acknowledges and pays respect to the Palawa people of Lutruwita/Tasmania 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.



25 November 2024

President
Legislative Council
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

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

Dear Honourable President
Dear Honourable Speaker

Annual Report for 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Isabelle Crompton'.

Isabelle Crompton
Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People

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Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People, Isabelle Crompton

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM COMMISSIONER

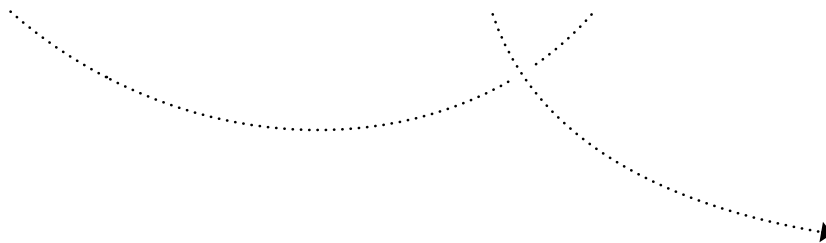
It is my privilege to introduce this Annual Report, summarising the work of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People across the 2023-2024 reporting year. Consistent with the Commissioner's legislated functions, the work of the Office has continued to focus on upholding, protecting, and promoting the rights and wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people.

During the reporting period, the Tasmanian Government received the landmark final report of the *Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings*. The report, *Who was looking after me?*, documents shameful systemic failures to protect children from harm in government institutions, and makes 191 recommendations that must reset the conversation about child safety and wellbeing and how we value our children. To truly honour the courage and experiences of the many victim-survivors who shaped the inquiry, and to demonstrate respect for the many who did not participate, it is incumbent on the Tasmanian Government, and indeed our entire community,

to effect transformative and sustained change for all children. The commencement of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework, long advocated for by this Office, is a welcome step forward.

Among the many activities highlighted in this report, an own-motion investigation into a change to the case management for children and young people in care typifies the approach, methods and priorities of this Office in pursuing better outcomes for children and young people. Culminating in the release of the *A Place at the Table* report, this work amplified the voices of children and young people in care, emphasising the importance of a rights-based approach to ensuring their safety and wellbeing. The insight and expertise of our Expert Panel was invaluable in refining this work.

Youth justice remained a major focus, with efforts on multiple fronts to promote a more equitable and safer youth justice system for current and future generations. This included critical advocacy for raising the age of criminal responsibility and influencing the Tasmanian Government's commitment to raise the age



from 10 to 14, in addition to its commitment to raise the age of detention to 16. This Office has recommended earlier delivery of both commitments and will continue to advocate for accelerated child rights-based reforms across the youth justice continuum. Once realised, these promised reforms will be truly nation leading.

Another clear highlight was the establishment of the Voices for Tasmanian Youth – a Consultative Council formed to influence, consider and respond to the Tasmanian Government’s draft strategy for upholding the rights of children by preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse. I thank each of the young people from across Tasmania who have powerfully contributed through this group. I have no doubt their shared insights, hard-work and passion for change have contributed to a safer Tasmania for all children and young people.

Looking ahead, the Tasmanian Government’s commitment to implement the Commission of Inquiry’s recommendations will include establishment of a new statutory Commission for Children and Young People. This new Commission promises strengthened oversight,

regulation, advocacy, and inquiry functions and powers to further improve outcomes. During this period of transition, the Office remains focused on working constructively to ensure changes are informed by and respond to the voices of children and young people and are underpinned by clear, durable legislation and sustainable resourcing.

I wish to acknowledge the significant contributions of Leanne McLean, who served as Tasmania’s Commissioner for Children and Young People from 2018 until her resignation in October 2024. This report documents Commissioner McLean’s activities and advocacy for and with children and young people during the reporting year, reflecting the child-centred dedication, passion, and insight that marked her tenure. Her leadership has had a lasting impact and enriched the lives and wellbeing of many children and young people. The Office continues to build on the child-centred oversight and advocacy initiatives championed by Commissioner McLean, including transitioning to a rights-based framework to guide monitoring and evaluation activities.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the small, dedicated team in the Office of the Commissioner who have demonstrated great resilience in steadfastly ensuring the rights and wellbeing of children remain central to the extraordinary reforms currently underway in the wake of the Commission of Inquiry. I am continually inspired by their expertise and unwavering commitment to achieving our vision that all children and young people in Tasmania have their rights upheld and live their best lives. My thanks also to the countless parents and carers, community members, agencies and organisations who have supported the work of the Office this year.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for and admiration of the children and young people of Tasmania. Their optimism, curiosity, compassion, and their interest in contributing to a better Tasmania for all continues to inspire and guide the work of this Office.

Isabelle Crompton

Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People

THE COMMISSIONER'S ROLE

Tasmania was one of the first Australian states or territories to have a children's commissioner. The role was initially established under the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*, with the first Commissioner commencing in October 2000. In 2016, standalone legislation established the role and functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (the Commissioner).

The Commissioner is an independent and impartial statutory officer established under Tasmania's *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016* (CCYP Act).

The general functions of the Commissioner under the CCYP Act are to:

1. advocate for all Tasmanian children and young people
2. act as an advocate for young people detained 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 generally systemic in nature. The Commissioner advocates for laws, policies and practices that uphold, protect and promote the rights and wellbeing of children and young people.

The Commissioner cannot investigate or review decisions made in respect of an individual case or specific circumstances, unless formally requested to do so by the Minister for Children and Youth. The Commissioner's ability to advocate for the rights and wellbeing of individual children and young people is limited to advocating for children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. The Commissioner has no functions regarding the regulation of organisations working with or caring for children and young people.

(The Office of the Independent Regulator oversees Tasmanian organisations required to comply with the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework. See: oir.tas.gov.au.)

The Commissioner regularly speaks with, and hears from, community members, including children and young people, about a range of issues concerning young Tasmanians. Information received in this way helps inform the Commissioner's work and systemic advocacy on behalf of children and young people. The views of children and young people inform and are reflected in the publications, reports, submissions and other media issued by the Commissioner.

In August 2023, the Tasmanian Government received a momentous report from the *Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* (Commission of Inquiry). In its report, *Who was looking after me? Prioritising the safety of Tasmanian children*, the Commission of Inquiry called for significant reforms to better protect Tasmanian children and young people from abuse and harm in the organisations that care for them. The Tasmanian Government accepted the Commission's 191 recommendations for change, including the

establishment of a new statutory Commission for Children and Young People with expanded functions and powers. During the reporting period, the Tasmanian Government started work to establish the new Commission for Children and Young People, with work ongoing.



Commissioner for Children and Young People, Leanne McLean, talking to young people at the 2022 Ambassador statewide event

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In carrying out a function or exercising a power under the CCYP Act, the Commissioner does so according to the principle that the wellbeing and best interests of children and young people are paramount. The Commissioner's work is guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Commissioner's work is also performed according to the following additional legislative principles:

- Children and young people 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.

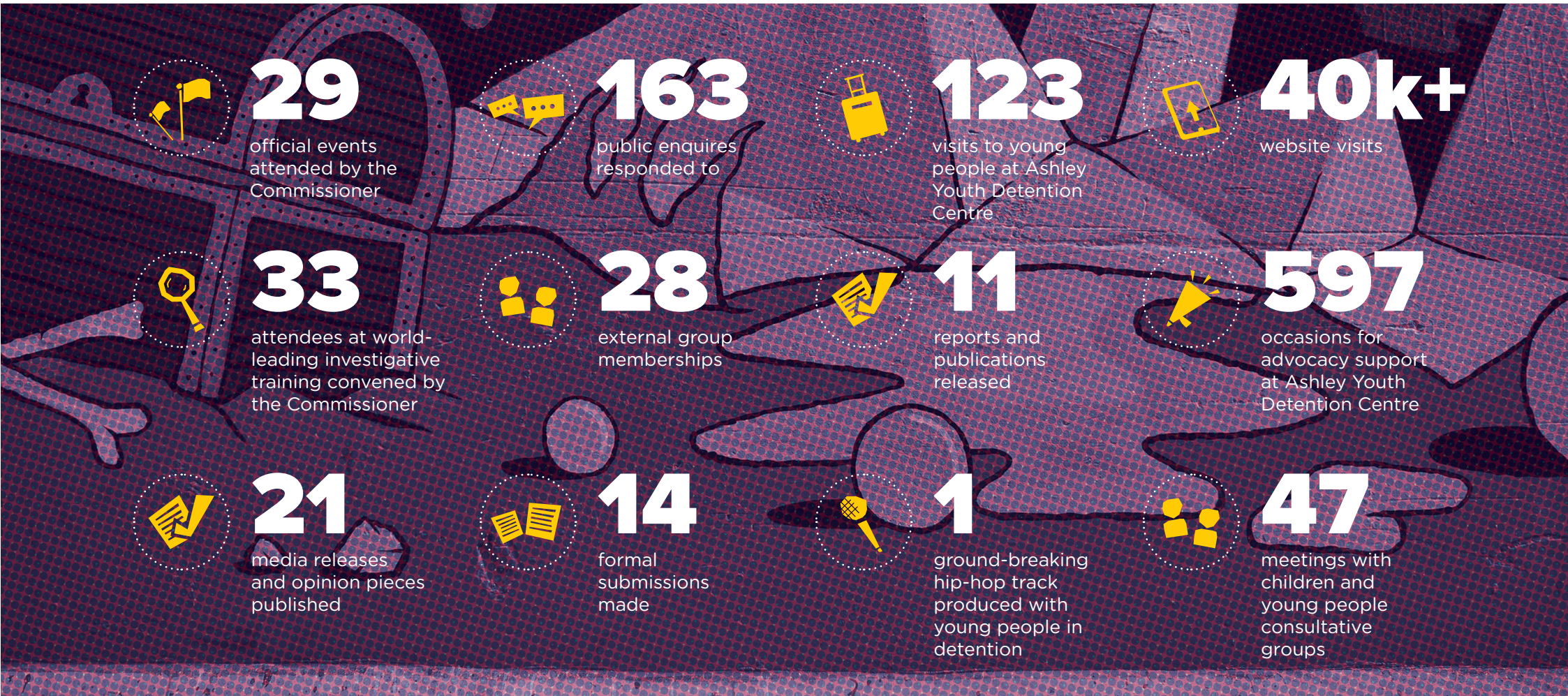
- The contributions made by children and young people to the community should be recognised for their value and merit.
- The views of children and young people on all matters affecting them should be given serious consideration and taken into account.
- Parents, families and communities have the primary role in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people and should be supported in carrying out their role.

The Commissioner's work is also guided by the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Standards.



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Here is a snapshot of the work of the Commissioner during the 2023-2024 reporting year:



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner is supported by a small, multi-disciplinary team of dedicated and passionate professionals (Office of the Commissioner).

While the Commissioner's role is independent of government, the Office of the Commissioner received operational support in areas such as human resources, finance and budget, payroll, information technology and facility services from the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) during the reporting period.

For 2023-24, the budget for the Office of the Commissioner was \$1.629 million. Additional fixed-term funding was provided through Action 52 of *It Takes a Tasmanian Village* (the Tasmanian Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy) and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. This enabled the Commissioner to increase participation opportunities for children and young people. Financial statements regarding the Office of the Commissioner are included in the DECYP Annual Report.

In the Commissioner's Annual Report for 2022-2023, the Commissioner noted a considerable increase in the size and scope of the policy and monitoring work of the Office of the

Commissioner. Requests for additional funding to support information and business management, and additional research and data analysis capability during 2023-2024 were unsuccessful.

An extension of fixed-term funding enabled partial resourcing of increased policy and analysis work relating to the Commission of Inquiry. DECYP also assisted with resourcing for a project to migrate Office of the Commissioner records from legacy systems to Teams/SharePoint Online. The migration project is ongoing.

The Office of the Commissioner's Strategic Framework highlights that a key enabler for the achievement of objectives is that 'our team is equipped with the skills, capabilities and knowledge required to deliver on our strategic priorities'. Given the breadth and scope of the functions of the Commissioner, the complex policy and legal landscape in which we operate, and our extensive engagement with children, and other community members, many of whom have experienced trauma, significant investment has continued to be made in building the resilience and skills of the Office of the Commissioner team. Staff are offered individualised performance development including coaching and mentoring;

opportunities to learn about other roles in the office and to chair meetings; opportunities to attend conferences; and opportunities to participate in self-paced and/or face-to-face professional development. In addition, the Commissioner supported several whole-of-office or team training and development opportunities during the year, including:

- Frontline Mind – Customised team resilience workshops, September and October 2023
- Ontario Ombudsman's Office – "Sharpening Your Teeth" Investigation Training, January 2024
- Tasmanian Training Consortium - Leading Teams Through Change, April 2024
- Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania - Cultural Competency, May 2024
- Tasmanian Training Consortium - Aboriginal Cultural Respect, June 2024
- Griffith University - Interviewing Children: A skills-based course for a range of professionals, (self-paced)

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Each year before 31 March, the Commissioner is required to prepare an Annual Plan describing the proposed program of work and activities for the following financial year. The Commissioner's Annual Plan for the period 2023-2024 is available at childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/annual-plan-2023-2024.

To provide a medium-term strategic focus for activities, and to inform day-to-day work and priority setting, the Office of the Commissioner developed a Strategic Framework, initially to guide the years 2022-2023. Recognising its utility, the Strategic Framework was carried over into the 2023-2024 reporting year.

The Strategic Framework states the Office of the Commissioner's vision: *That all children and young people in Tasmania have their rights upheld and live their best lives.*

Towards achieving this vision, it also sets out a mission: *We uphold, protect and promote the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania.*

The Strategic Framework notes the following organisational values:

- child-centred
- collegiality
- equity
- courage
- integrity
- kindness.

And it identifies key enablers:

- children and young people
- our strategic partnerships and networks
- our people (i.e. the staff of the Office of the Commissioner).

The Strategic Framework is available at childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/ccyp-full-strategic-framework-2022-2023, with a shorter, more accessible summary of the Strategic Framework available at childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CCYP-Strategic-Framework-Summary-20222023.pdf.

In this Annual Report, the Commissioner's activities, initiatives and outcomes are described in relation to priority areas outlined in the Strategic Framework, being:

- Aboriginal cultural awareness
- communication and engagement
- monitoring
- advocacy, research and advice.

An Annual Plan for 2024-2025 was submitted to the Minister on 22 March 2024 and is available at childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/2024-2025-ccyp-annual-plan.





DELIVERING AGAINST OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Aboriginal cultural awareness

During the year, the Commissioner and team worked to further develop their understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and heritage, undertook advocacy work for Aboriginal children and young people, joined national advocacy campaigns, and continued to advocate for the establishment of independent statutory oversight and advocacy mechanisms for Aboriginal children and young people at the national and state level.

Strengthening our understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture

In July 2023, the Commissioner was pleased to be invited to join members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community for the Aboriginal flag raising at Piyura Kitina/Risdon Cove, to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

The Commissioner returned to Piyura Kitina in February 2024, with members of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates group (ANZCCGA), including the First Nations Caucus. This group, visiting Hobart for a two-day ANZCCGA biannual meeting, were hosted by members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre who graciously shared hospitality, stories about their cultural heritage, as well as advocacy and leadership advice with this receptive audience.

During May and June 2024, several members of the Office of the Commissioner team attended Aboriginal Cultural Respect training conducted by the Tasmanian Training Consortium. This well-received training, led by members of the State Service Management Office's Aboriginal Employment team, has contributed to increasing internal awareness about the way we conduct our work with Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The Commissioner defers to and promotes awareness of the knowledge and expertise of Aboriginal people in shaping and leading responses to issues affecting their children.

During the reporting period, the Office of the Commissioner was privileged to have members of Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations speak at a range of events hosted by the Commissioner. Nala Mansell (Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre) provided a powerful Welcome to Country for the public launch event of the Commissioner's *Memorandum of Advice - The Age of Criminal Responsibility in Tasmania* in July 2023. In February 2024, Rodney Dillon (Weetapoon Aboriginal Corporation) spoke with ANZCCGA members at the commencement of their face-to-face meeting in Hobart. Their respective addresses centred on the lived experience of Aboriginal children and the need for urgent and sustained change in collaboration and genuine partnership with Aboriginal people.

Advocating for the rights of Aboriginal children and young people

In February 2024, the Commissioner joined with other Australian members of the ANZCCGA group to endorse the Australian Government's commitment to establish a National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/accga-appointment-national-commissioner.

From March to June 2024, and as part of her systemic monitoring of Tasmania's out-of-home care system, the Commissioner undertook a comprehensive stakeholder engagement with out-of-home care providers, peak bodies, DECYP, as well as the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

In May 2024, the Commissioner made a submission to the Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism regarding the draft National Preventive Mechanism Expectations on the treatment of children and young people deprived of their liberty. The rights, interests, participation and voices of Tasmanian Aboriginal children and young people were highlighted in the Commissioner's submission. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/draft-tasmanian-npm-expectations.

Also in May 2024, the Commissioner called for urgent action by the Tasmanian Government, to reduce escalating numbers of children, including Tasmanian Aboriginal children, held on remand at AYDC. The Commissioner noted the numbers of Aboriginal children detained in custody were contrary to the Closing the Gap targets, a view endorsed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/call-for-urgent-action-on-ashley-youth-detention-centre.





Advocacy for a Tasmanian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

In its final Report, the Commission of Inquiry recommended the establishment of a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People for Tasmania (Recommendation 9.14), as part of a new and expanded Commission for Children and Young People (Recommendation 18.6).

Recommendation 9.14 is due to be implemented before July 2026.

The Commissioner has long advocated for both the establishment of a new Commission, as well as the creation of a new role with statutory powers and functions to advocate for, monitor and inquire into the experiences of Tasmania's Aboriginal children and young people, including in out-of-home care and youth justice settings where they remain statistically over-represented.

Throughout the 2023-2024 year, the Commissioner advocated to ensure the Government's work to establish this new statutory oversight role for Aboriginal children and young people occurs in collaboration with Aboriginal people and in a way that upholds the right of Aboriginal people to self-determination.

Reports and other publications released throughout the 2023-2024 year demonstrated the Commissioner's commitment to advocating for improved outcomes for Tasmania's Aboriginal children and young people. This included:

- through the December 2023 report ***Somebody in your corner: The views of children, young people, carers and care providers on children and young people being stable and safe in out-of-home care***, calling for greater recognition of the importance of connection to culture for Aboriginal children and young people in care.
- reporting on the placement of Aboriginal children and young people in care through the July 2023 ***Monitoring Report No. 2 (Second Edition): Key data on Tasmania's out-of-home care system, 2020-2022***, as well as ***A place at the Table: An investigation into a change to the case management of children and young people in care in Tasmania***, released November 2023.
- sharing the views of Aboriginal children and young people with lived experiences of detention within Tasmania's youth justice system through ***"Listen: This is my voice: Young people's experiences on the youth justice system***, released in July 2023.

Communication and engagement

During the reporting period, the Commissioner continued the essential work of seeking out the views of children and young people and promoting their involvement in the decisions that affect their lives.

The Commissioner also advocated for other organisations and authorities with decision-making responsibilities that affect children and young people to do the same, and to work with them to create pathways for meaningful and effective participation.

During 2023-2024, the Commissioner continued to engage with children and young people and other stakeholders, through a range of communications channels to increase public understanding of the role of the Commissioner and of children's rights generally.



Commissioner McLean talking to young people at the 2022 Ambassador statewide event



Listening to the voices of young people in detention

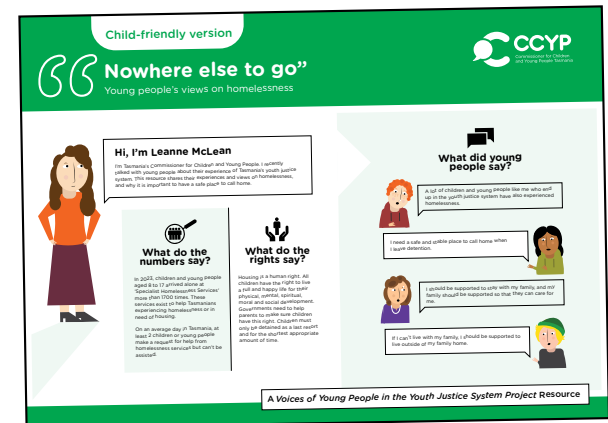
In July 2023, the Commissioner released **“Listen: This is my voice”**: *Young people’s experiences on the youth justice system*, the first report in a series titled the **Voices of Young People in the Youth Justice System project** (Voices Project).

The Voices Project promotes and empowers young people with recent lived experience of the Tasmanian youth justice system to share their views on this system. By working with young people to share their views about what contact with this system can be like for children and young people, this project provides critical insights into the system’s impact on children and young people in Tasmania. The Voices Project informs the Commissioner’s ongoing systemic advocacy about the reforms needed to promote, protect, and uphold the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania.

In May 2024, the Commissioner released **“Nowhere else to go”**: *Young people’s views on homelessness*, along with a supporting methodology document, as part of the Voices Project, with further reports to be released throughout 2024 and 2025. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/voicesproject.



Reports, including child-friendly versions, are available at childcomm.tas.gov.au



Spotlight on ‘Diamonds’ Hip-Hop project

As part of the Voices Project, the Commissioner also collaborated with arts and social change organisation Big hART to deliver the ‘Diamonds’ Hip-Hop Project at AYDC.

This project provided young people in detention with a safe and accessible way to express themselves and have their voices heard by writing, recording and producing an original hip-hop music track and accompanying film clip. Made with the support of DECYP, as well as staff at AYDC, ‘Diamonds’ premiered on Triple J in September 2023.

To watch and listen to ‘Diamonds’, see childcomm.tas.gov.au/young-people/diamonds-music-video.

As part of the official track launch, two of the young artists who contributed to ‘Diamonds’ were supported by the Commissioner to participate in an interview at AYDC for Triple J’s national *Hack* program, raising up their voices to powerfully share their lived experience through this national platform. ABC news also amplified their views and experiences. See abc.net.au/news/2023-09-09/hack-inside-tasmania-youth-detention-centre/102820698.





Creating opportunities for children to tell decision-makers what they think

During the first half of the reporting period, the Commissioner continued to work with members of the **CCYP Ambassador Program**, welcoming children and young people from around the state to 8 regional meetings across Tasmania.

CCYP Ambassadors help the Commissioner to understand what is important to children and young people around the state. Open to Tasmanian children and young people aged 10-17, the Ambassador program was first constituted by members of the Commissioner's Children and Young People Consultative Council in 2018. A broader group with regional representation ultimately replaced that body in 2019. Since then, the program has met and exceeded the Commissioner's statutory obligations surrounding a formal committee and has ensured

hundreds of children and young people have influenced and participated in the work of the Commissioner each year.

Planned recruitment for the 2024-2026 Ambassador Program was paused in early 2024 following the Government's stated intention to establish a new Commission for Children and Young People by 1 July 2024 (a timeline since revised). This difficult decision was taken to avoid disrupting engagement with children and young people during what was understood to be the imminent transition of the Commissioner's functions to a new statutory entity.

The Commissioner subsequently worked with a group of children and young people to form a new Consultative Council under the CCYP Act, to consider and respond to a proposed Tasmanian Government Child Sexual Abuse Reform Strategy.

During April 2024, the Commissioner and members of her Office conducted 6 meetings around Tasmania, including one meeting at AYDC, to speak with children and young people aged 10-18, and representing diverse communities, about the formation of this new Council. Agreeing to continue to work with the Commissioner and meeting several times for workshops across the reporting period, this group of 19 children and young people named itself the **Voices for Tasmanian Youth** (VTY). The group devised an internal behavioural agreement ("Being Our Best Selves") as well as a logo and "look and feel". Together, they worked with the Office of the Commissioner team to discuss and develop key messages to inform the Tasmanian Government's concurrent drafting of its Strategy and Action Plan.

This work included the VTY meeting with key stakeholders, such as the Tasmanian Government's Reform Lead and Reform Team, as well as devising a range of outputs to share their key messages. Outputs, including a substantial report imbued with their voice and aspirations for a safer Tasmania, as well as a creative response (in partnership with Terrapin Theatre) were shared publicly soon after the end of the reporting period. These will be detailed in the 2024-2025 annual report. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/VTY.

Spotlight on Agfest 2024

In May 2024, the Commissioner partnered with the University of Tasmania's Children's University to deliver an engagement-based exhibit at Agfest, an annual three-day, youth-led rural exposition held near Launceston.

Children and young people were invited to join a collaborative art activity to raise awareness about their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Participants chose a right that mattered to them and expressed why through writing or drawing on thought-bubble shaped paper. Throughout the activity, the Commissioner held meaningful conversations with participants about their rights, learning more about what's important to them and why.

Over the course of 3 days, more than 300 children and young people took part. Their artwork, some of which is included in this report, was proudly displayed at Agfest, helping to spread awareness about the importance of children's rights and participation to the wider festival audience.



Commissioner McLean (right) at Agfest with a member of her team

Talking about children’s rights

The Commissioner took every opportunity to raise awareness of children’s rights and the role of the Commissioner by engaging with state and national media, through speeches and presentations, and by contributing to the work of external bodies and committees. See Appendix C for a list of the Commissioner’s media releases, Appendix D for a schedule of public events, and Appendix E for a schedule of external membership groups supported by the Commissioner and/or members of the Office of the Commissioner team.

For example, in November 2023, the Commissioner joined Australia’s National Children’s Commissioner Anne Hollonds to jointly present the **2023 Sandy Duncanson Social Justice Lecture**, where they responded to the provocation, “Do children matter in Australia?” Through detailed conversation at this well-attended University of Tasmania Island of Ideas event, the Commissioners explored policy failures impacting the children’s rights in Tasmania, and in other jurisdictions, and responded to public questions about opportunities for change.

In March 2024, the Commissioner presented to the **Tasmanian Vape Free Youth Project Advisory Group**, comprised of stakeholders spanning academic, health, community and education organisations. During this presentation, the Commissioner detailed the rights basis for



Commissioner McLean (right), with National Children’s Commissioner Anne Hollonds (left) and Professor Gino Dal Point (centre), at the 2023 Sandy Duncanson Social Justice Lecture.

seriously listening to children and young people about the matters that are important in their lives, and how to work with them, through co-designed engagement opportunities.

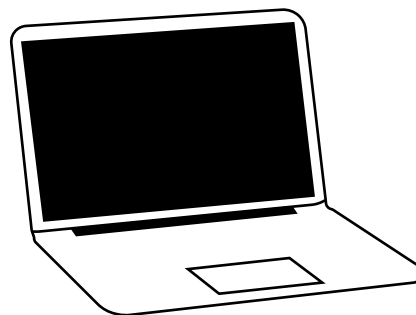
In June 2024, the Commissioner’s final speaking engagement for both the reporting period and her appointment as Tasmania’s Commissioner for Children and Young People, was during **TasTAFE’s leadership team workshop day**. The Commissioner spoke to the assembled leadership about the issues facing Tasmania’s children and young people, as well as their right to participate in the co-design of their educational experiences.

Sharing opportunities and information online

The Commissioner's **Your Engagement Place** (YEP!) hub, launched in the previous reporting period, continued to prove popular with children and young people. YEP! provides a one-stop shop of curated engagement opportunities open to young Tasmanians aged under 18. Across the reporting period, 41 curated engagement opportunities were posted through YEP! and 6 digest newsletters were sent to children and young people registered for updates. The Office of the Commissioner also introduced an easier mechanism for organisations to submit their engagement opportunities for listing on YEP! To learn more and register for updates, see childcomm.tas.gov.au/YEP.

11,538

unique website users across the 2023-2024 period



The **Commissioner's website**, re-launched late in the last reporting period, after extensive consultation with children and young people, continued to assist the Commissioner to effectively share information with a wide audience, attracting 11,538 unique users across the 2023-2024 period. To explore the many resources made available through the Commissioner's website, see childcomm.tas.gov.au.

The Commissioner's **social media presence** remained an important communication channel, assisting the Commissioner to communicate important messages to, with and for children and young people, with posts shared being seen more than 103,800 times. Towards the end of the reporting period, the Office of the Commissioner worked with VTY members to prepare a social media "take-over" timed to coincide with the launch of their report in July 2024. Through workshop-style engagement, the VTY were supported to consider how they could use social media to share their important messages for change, with consideration given to how this social media activity would be safely managed. More detail about this social media "take over" will be included in the annual report for 2024-25.

103,800

social media post views



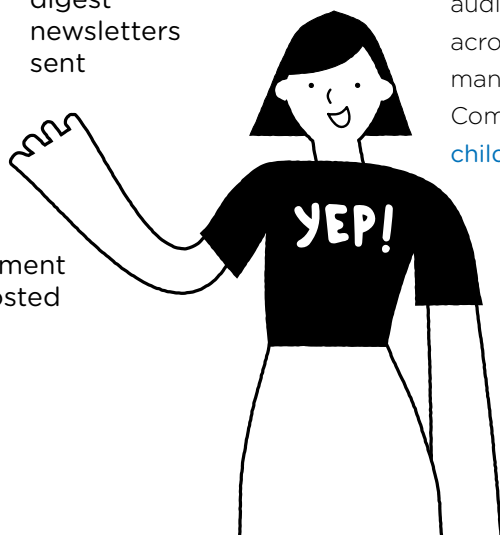
41

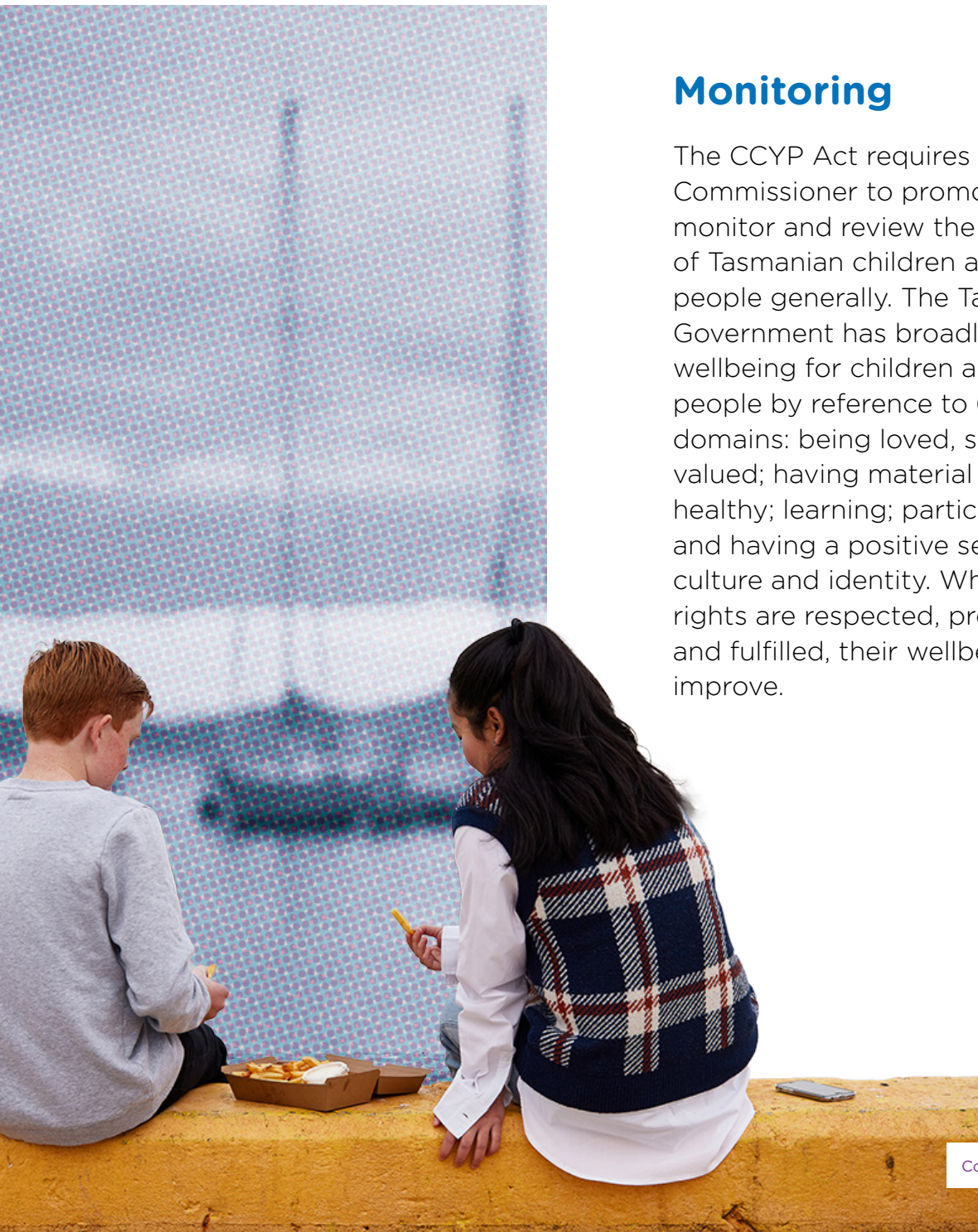
curated engagement opportunities posted through YEP!



6

digest newsletters sent





Monitoring

The CCYP Act requires the Commissioner to promote, monitor and review the wellbeing of Tasmanian children and young people generally. The Tasmanian Government has broadly defined wellbeing for children and young people by reference to 6 key domains: being loved, safe and valued; having material basics; being healthy; learning; participating; and having a positive sense of culture and identity. Where a child's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled, their wellbeing should improve.

Collecting, analysing and sharing data and information about the rights and wellbeing of children

Central to the Commissioner's monitoring role is the ability to collect, analyse and share a range of data and other information about the rights and wellbeing of children.

The Commissioner continued to have a specific focus on monitoring Tasmania's out-of-home care system, with the aim of promoting and protecting the rights and wellbeing of Tasmanian children and young people in care. This work explores the experiences of Tasmania's children and young people in care and examines the processes and system features that affect their wellbeing, focussing on systemic issues in institutional and administrative practices. The Commissioner's out-of-home care monitoring has 4 elements:

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

For more information, see childcomm.tas.gov.au/everyone/major-programs/out-of-home-care-monitoring.

During the reporting period, the Commissioner continued to chair an **Out-of-Home Care Expert Panel** which provided advice to inform her monitoring program.

The time, effort and shared expertise of the following members of the Expert panel is gratefully acknowledged:

- Professor Sharon Bessell (Crawford School of Public Policy's Children's Policy Centre, Australian National University)
- Professor Daryl Higgins (Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University)
- Dr Greet Peersman (Australian and New Zealand School of Government)
- Professor Kitty te Riele, (Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, University of Tasmania).

In July 2023, the Commissioner published **Monitoring Report No. 2 (Second Edition): Key data on Tasmania's out-of-home care system, 2020-2022**, reiterating a previous call for improved data on Tasmania's care system. The first edition of this report, released in March 2023, described the key characteristics of the Tasmanian out-of-home care system, along with providing information about the experiences of children and young people in care for the period 2020-2021. The second edition further increased the transparency of Tasmania's care system

by expanding the time-period reported upon to include 2021-2022. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/out-of-home-care-monitoring-report-no-2-second-edition.

In December 2023, the Commissioner's report **Somebody in your corner: The views of children, young people, carers and care providers on children and young people being stable and safe in out-of-home care**, was released. This report presented the diverse views and experiences of children, young people, carers and care providers in relation to out-of-home care, complementing previously released resources. In releasing this report, the Commissioner acknowledged the participation of the many children, young people, carers and care providers who shared their views and experiences of the out-of-home care system. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/somebody-in-your-corner.

Consistent with the obligation under the CCYP Act to ensure that functions and powers are exercised in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, during the reporting period the Office of the Commissioner continued work to enhance the monitoring of children and young people's wellbeing through a child rights-based approach. This work builds on the efforts of successive Commissioners, including former Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People David Clements' 2018

report, **Laying the Foundations: A Conceptual Plan for Independent Monitoring of Out-of-home Care in Tasmania**. Currently under development, the Commissioner's enhanced monitoring and evaluation program will be child-centred, rights-based and data driven. It is expected to be finalised during the first half of the 2024-2025 reporting period.





Spotlight on *A Place at the Table*

In November 2023, the Commissioner released *A place at the Table: An investigation into a change to the case management of children and young people in care in Tasmania* (A Place at the Table). This report was a culmination of the Commissioner's first own-motion systemic investigation instigated in December 2022, examining changes to the case management for children and young people in out-of-home care in Tasmania.

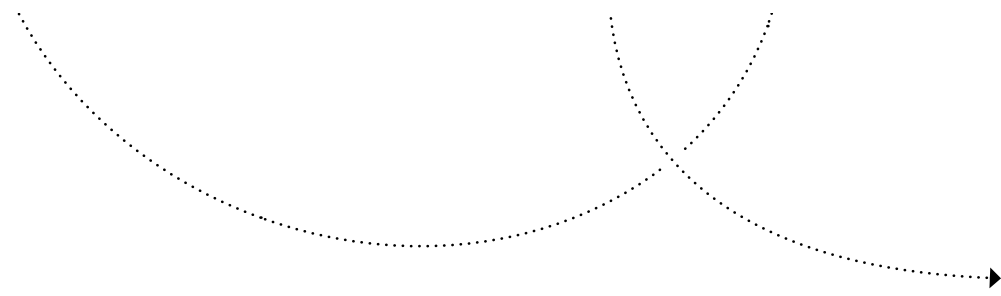
The Commissioner's report made 9 findings, including that a fundamental change to team-based case management represented a substantial systemic change that did not uphold the rights of children and young people in care. The report also made 7 recommendations, including that DECYP take immediate steps to re-set its relationship with children and young people in care by demonstrating a commitment to recognising, understanding and upholding their rights. To ensure that DECYP implements, in full, all relevant recommendations committed to by the Government, the Office of the Commissioner continues to require 6 monthly progress updates from DECYP against each recommendation. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/young-people/a-place-at-the-table.

The Commissioner launched this systemic investigation after being contacted by a young person living in care, Jasmin, who wrote to



Reports, including child-friendly versions, are available at childcomm.tas.gov.au

describe their frustration with changes that had been made without consultation to the management of their care experience. In March 2024, and with support from the CREATE Foundation, the Commissioner attended the Foundation's annual **Voices in Action conference** in South Australia, where she co-presented about the A Place at the Table investigation with Jasmin. Later, in June 2024, the Commissioner also presented on A Place at the Table at the annual **Australian Institute of Family Studies conference**.



Facilitating world-leading child-focused investigative training

In January 2024, the Commissioner hosted Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dubé and Diana Cooke, the Ontario Ombudsman's Director of Children and Youth, for the local delivery of their internationally regarded *Sharpening your Teeth* program.

The bespoke, child-centred training they provided focused on conducting investigations and will have a lasting impact on the capacity of oversight bodies across Australia.

Offered on a cost-recovery basis, Office of the Commissioner team members were joined by representatives from oversight bodies from across Australia, including: ACT Human Rights Commission, ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, ACT Public Advocate, Commission for Children and Young People (Victoria), Commissioner for Children and Young People (Western Australia), Office of the Custodial Inspector (Tasmania), Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People (South Australia), Office of the Independent Regulator (Tasmania), Office of the Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism (Tasmania), Queensland Family and Child Commission and WorkSafe Tasmania.



Commissioner McLean (centre) with Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dubé (left), and Diana Cooke, Ontario Ombudsman's Director of Children and Youth (right)



Advocacy, research and advice

As an advocate for all children and young people in Tasmania, the Commissioner regularly engaged in strategic advocacy and provided 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 by a member of the community
- being a member of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (ANZCCGA) group.



Securing a commitment to a raised minimum age of criminal responsibility

On 14 July 2023, the Commissioner publicly launched a **Memorandum of Advice - The Age of Criminal Responsibility in Tasmania**. Launched at a well-attended public event with speakers including Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre representative Nala Mansell, along with former Tasmanian Chief Magistrate Michael Hill, the advice detailed how to better promote and protect the wellbeing and best interests of children and young people exhibiting harmful behaviour, and how to improve community safety through raising the age of criminal responsibility. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/memorandum-of-advice-the-age-of-criminal-responsibility-in-tasmania.

Throughout the reporting period, the Commissioner made regular valuable contributions to inform the Tasmanian Government's ambitious *Youth Justice Blueprint 2024 - 2034*. Finalised in December 2023, the final Blueprint confirmed the Government's commitment to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years, without exception, and its commitment to increase the minimum age of detention to 16 years. The Commissioner, along with child and human rights organisations across Australia, welcomed these nation-leading commitments.

Public enquiries

This section of the Annual Report outlines the major advocacy issues the Commissioner engaged in during the reporting period. This systemic advocacy work is, in part, informed by concerns conveyed to the Office of the Commissioner by members of the community. The Commissioner does not have a complaint-investigation 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, members of the public regularly contact the Commissioner to raise general and specific concerns about the wellbeing of children and young people. During the reporting period,

the office dealt with public enquiries from 163 individuals, representing an increase on the 135 individuals corresponded with in the previous year. In these circumstances, members of the public are given information about referral options and where appropriate, 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.

With a view to continuous improvement, during the reporting period staff members of the Office of the Commissioner undertook systemic investigations training to help strengthen the response to public enquiries received.

Advocating for respectful public comment on youth justice matters

During the reporting period, the Commissioner had frequent cause to advocate for the moderation of public discourse regarding children and young people in contact with the criminal justice system, often in response to public commentary that degraded children and young people. Through this advocacy, the Commissioner emphasised that upholding children's rights and promoting community safety are not opposing goals.

On 23 August 2023, the Commissioner published an opinion piece titled **“Tough on Crime” approaches do not make communities safer**, arguing that escalating populist rhetoric does little to address the root causes of the harmful behaviour displayed by a small number of children and young people. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/tough-on-crime-approaches-do-not-make-communities-safer.

During the 2024 Tasmanian State Election, the Commissioner advocated for politicians of all persuasions to reject populist rhetoric and non-evidence-based youth justice policies. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/populist-rhetoric-has-no-place-post-commission-of-inquiry.

The Commissioner shared this same message of moderation during several public engagements and speeches, including for the Rotary Club of Launceston on 27 March 2024 and during the Youth Week Tasmanian media launch on 8 April 2024.

For a full schedule of the media releases and opinion pieces published by the Commissioner during the reporting period, see [Appendix C](#).



Being consulted on reforms aimed at improving the rights and wellbeing of children

The Office of the Commissioner continues to be a trusted and respected authority on matters relating to the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania and is respected for its capability to provide evidence-based, clear and accessible feedback and advice on the wide range of reforms.

During the reporting period, the Commissioner was invited by external parties to provide feedback to inform a range of reforms, policies and projects.

For example, in August 2023, through the Commissioner’s membership of the Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity, feedback was provided to the Tasmanian Department of Health on a draft policy update regarding **Safe examinations, procedures and care**. Here, the Commissioner used a child rights-based approach to remind the Department of Health of the rights of children in hospital and healthcare settings and the importance of promoting understanding of and respect for those rights through operational policies.

In June 2023, and again in July 2024, the Commissioner provided feedback to DECYP on a draft manual for carers titled **“Who can Say OK in Tasmania” – A Carer Reference Guide**. The final guide, released in September

2024, incorporated significant elements of the Commissioner’s advice especially around the capacity of young people to provide informed consent in healthcare situations. See decyp.tas.gov.au/who-can-say-ok.

The Commissioner also published several formal reports, listed at **Appendix A**, and provided numerous formal submissions, detailed at **Appendix B**.

Topics covered in the Commissioner’s formal submissions during 2023-2024 included:

- youth justice and detention
- child wellbeing
- disability inclusion
- youth employment and transitioning from childhood to adulthood
- conversion practices
- community protection and sentencing
- Commission of Inquiry related legislation
- child sexual abuse reform
- rights and wellbeing of children in places of detention.

Complementing formal submissions, during the reporting period the Office of the Commissioner also provided specialist child rights-based feedback and ethical child engagement guidance on a range of child and young people focused government policy work (at various stages of



development). This included feedback on specific youth justice policy and procedures (both at AYDC and in the community), out-of-home care policy and procedures, child safeguarding policies and procedures, and others. Providing effective feedback at an early stage of policy development helps to ensure that children’s rights and best interests are appropriately acknowledged and supported and builds capacity in other organisations to consider and respond to any child rights impacts in the policy development process.

Preparing for a new Commission for Children and Young People

Having contributed extensively to the momentous work of the Commission of Inquiry, the Commissioner was invited to attend the Commission of Inquiry's final public hearing on 30 August 2023. The Commission's final report, *Who was looking after me? Prioritising the safety of Tasmanian children*, was tabled in the Tasmanian Parliament and publicly released in September 2023. Shortly after, the Commissioner called on the Tasmanian Government to act with bravery and determination when responding to the Commission's 191 recommendations for reform to prioritise children and young people's interests. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/government-must-respond-with-bravery-and-determination.

A key reform recommended by the Commission of Inquiry is for the Tasmanian Government to establish a new statutory Commission for Children and Young People (new Commission) with all the powers and resources necessary to perform an expanded range of functions on behalf of children and young people in Tasmania. More than 16 recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry relate to the structure, role, functions and powers of the new Commission, including the establishment of a new role of Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, and that the functions of the new Commission include the existing functions

of the Commissioner for Children and Young People under the CCYP Act, and those of the Independent Regulator established under the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023*. The Commissioner welcomed these and related recommendations, noting their alignment with her longstanding advocacy on behalf of children and young people in Tasmania for strengthened oversight mechanisms.

During the reporting period, the Commissioner advocated strongly for the Tasmanian Government to adopt a deliberative approach to the legislative development process to establish the new Commission, including upholding the right of self-determination of Aboriginal people, as well as the right of children and young people to meaningfully participate in the design of their new Commission. The Commissioner also advocated for project and change management resources to support the successful transition of the Office of the Commissioner, including its staff, to the new Commission. These matters were unresolved at the conclusion of the reporting period.

The Office of the Commissioner experienced a significant and sustained increase in requests by agencies for child-centred and rights-based advice and feedback on Commission of Inquiry and related reforms during the year.

In April 2024, the Commissioner was elected as Chair of a new Independent Statutory Officer

Working Group (ISOWG) established to progress Recommendation 18.14 of the Commission of Inquiry. That recommendation proposes the development of a user-friendly guide for the public, including children and young people, on how members of the ISOWG can assist with complaints and concerns about how organisations respond to child sexual abuse.



Providing individual advocacy for children in youth justice detention

Under the CCYP Act, the Commissioner has a specific role to act as the independent advocate for individual children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. In practice, this means children and 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 by:

- 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 their rights
- assessing the physical and emotional wellbeing of a young person
- receiving regular reports to assist in monitoring youth justice detention, including about isolation, searches, incidents and the use of restrictive practices.

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 the function of advocate. While children and young people are generally detained at AYDC, they may also be detained in Tasmania Prison Service facilities.

During the 2023-2024 year, the Commissioner visited AYDC on 14 occasions to meet with children and young people. Children and young people were also in frequent contact with the Advocate for Young People in Detention (see the following section for further details) and were able to contact the Office of the Commissioner at any time to request advocacy assistance.

Isolation and rolling lockdowns at AYDC remained a significant concern throughout the reporting period, sustaining the need for the Commissioner's ongoing advocacy. On behalf of the young people detained at AYDC, the Commissioner sought to bring this issue into the public arena, advocating privately as well as publicly, including:

- Speaking at length with ABC Radio on 6 July 2023 about lockdowns at AYDC lasting up to 23 hours per day. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/abc-radio-lockdowns-at-aydc-for-up-to-23-hours-a-day

- Calling on 15 September 2023 for the Tasmanian Government to work with community sector stakeholders to expedite the closure of AYDC. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/ashley-youth-detention-centre-closure
- On 22 May 2024, repeating the call for the Tasmanian Government to act urgently to address historically high numbers of young people being detained at AYDC resulting in the increased use of isolation practices in the face of staff shortages. See childcomm.tas.gov.au/call-for-urgent-action-on-ashley-youth-detention-centre.

Following the Commissioner's relentless advocacy on this matter, along with the determination of stakeholders across the community sector, the Tasmanian Government announced the formation of a taskforce to reduce the number of young people detained at AYDC on 27 June 2024. See premier.tas.gov.au/latest-news/2024/june/new-taskforce-accelerating-youth-justice-reforms. The numbers of young people detained on remand has since fallen from the historic highs the Commissioner drew to the public's attention during the reporting period.



Spotlight on the role of the Advocate for Young People in Detention

Since February 2022, the Commissioner has been funded, on a fixed-term basis, to enable the employment of an Advocate for Young People in Detention (the Advocate), bolstering the advocacy services available to young people in detention and improving the Commissioner's systemic oversight of children's rights and the wellbeing of children and young people in custody.

The Advocate is generally onsite at AYDC 2 to 3 days per week and is available by phone to listen to any concerns or issues that young people may be experiencing. During the reporting period, the Advocate made 109 visits to facilities where young people are detained, including to AYDC and Tasmania Prison Service facilities, supplementing the Commissioner's schedule of visiting AYDC every 3 weeks.

When visiting AYDC, the Advocate is provided with keys and can move around the centre unaccompanied. This enables the Advocate to observe the young people's living environment, provide information about their rights, and interact with staff and program delivery.

By maintaining a regular, in-person presence at AYDC, the Advocate can establish effective

rapport with each individual young person in detention. Young people have reported that having an Advocate onsite who they know, and trust, is important to them.

In 2023-2024, the Advocate delivered presentations to the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates, and to delegates at the 2024 OPCAT Symposium: The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) hosted by the Tasmanian NPM, providing an overview of this model of embedded advocacy, pioneered by the Commissioner and unique to Tasmania.

During the year, the Commissioner and Advocate provided advice to AYDC management about a range of operational and policy matters, including:

- improving access to **education** at AYDC
- reducing the **use of lockdowns and isolation practices**
- improving young people's **access to legal representation**
- advocating for the urgent revision of an outdated Memorandum of Understanding enabling **transfers of young people from AYDC to Tasmania Prison Service facilities**
- increasing access to **psychology, therapeutic and community supports**, as well as access to appropriate housing for young people leaving detention.

The Advocate works on behalf of young people including during care team, multi-disciplinary team, and exit-planning meetings. The Advocate helps young people to raise concerns and make complaints, and advocates for complaint outcomes to be communicated to young people in a timely and child-centred manner, including information about any right of review. Where appropriate, the Advocate attempts to resolve matters as they arise through discussions with AYDC staff. The Advocate liaises on behalf of young people with government and non-government services, legal practitioners and youth justice workers, and may support young people during court appearances. Through this work, the Advocate monitors for emerging systemic issues and provides the Commissioner with regular reports and advice.

The key individual advocacy themes identified by and with young people in detention during occasions for advocacy across the 2023-2024 period are listed on the following page.



Individual advocacy themes during 2023-2024

1. **Health, safety and wellbeing:** including access to mental health support, medical treatment, medication concerns, access to exercise and healthy food, and risks and/or concerns regarding physical safety. (163 instances)
2. **Assistance with making complaints:** including assistance to make a formal complaint, a request to follow up on an outcome to a complaint, information on right to make a complaint, seeking a review of a complaint outcome or issues regarding complaint systems generally. (143 instances)
3. **Staff behaviour:** including alleged mistreatment or misconduct by staff, misapplication of Centre rules, inadequate responses to young people's needs. (140 instances)
4. **Support provision and referrals:** including contacting, accessing and receiving appropriate support from government and non-government service providers, including Child Safety Service, Community Youth Justice, NDIS, Drug & Alcohol support and mentoring support. (137 instances)
5. **Court and legal matters:** including access to or contact with legal practitioners, seeking legal advice on a range of legal matters, understanding court processes, issues with bail, delays in court proceedings, court-ordered report. (118 instances)
6. **Exit planning and accommodation:** including requests for support and planning for a young person's exit from detention. May include access to safe and stable accommodation/housing, referrals to support agencies, access to Centrelink, school re-enrolments, family reunification. (109 instances)
7. **Education and programs:** including access to learning at the AYDC School, other education and training programs, education support, access to recreational activities, and programs. (93 instances)
8. **Use of physical force:** including concerns regarding physical holds and restraints, use of mechanical restraints (e.g. handcuffs) and alleged assault by both staff and other young people. (86 instances)
9. **Physical environment of detention centre:** including issues with units or cells, maintenance issues, furniture, and requests to move units. (72 instances)
10. **Lockdowns and isolation:** including concerns about lockdowns, unit-bound practices, isolation, and restricted movement around the centre. (63 instances)
11. **Contact with loved ones:** including contact with family members, friends, and other support networks through phone access, video calls and in-person visits. (51 instances)
12. **Issues with other children and young people:** including bullying, fighting, and disagreements/problems with other young people in detention. (50 instances)

Other themes included: issues related to young people's interaction with police and/or Tasmania Prison Service staff (32 instances), harmful sexual behaviour and/or sexual assault (31 instances), privacy and confidentiality (24 instances), AYDC's Behaviour Development Program (20 instances), transfers from AYDC to Tasmania Prison Service facilities (18 instances), detention centre policies and rules (15 instances), personal property (15 instances), issues regarding external security contractor staff (14 instances), personal searches and room searches (12 instances), food and canteen (5 instances), matters related to culture and religion (4 instances).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Reports and other publications

- Monitoring Report No. 2 (Second Edition): Key data on Tasmania’s out-of-home care system, 2020-2022, 12 July 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/out-of-home-care-monitoring-report-no-2-second-edition
- Listen: This is my voice - Young people’s experiences of the youth justice system, 14 July 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/listen-this-is-my-voice-young-peoples-experiences-of-the-youth-justice-system
- Memorandum of Advice - The Age of Criminal Responsibility in Tasmania, 14 July 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/memorandum-of-advice-the-age-of-criminal-responsibility-in-tasmania
- Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania Annual Report 2022-23, 22 November 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/annual-report-2022-2023
- A Place at the Table: An investigation into a change to the case management of children and young people in care in Tasmania, 29 November 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/everyone/ccyp-investigation-into-the-introduction-of-a-new-out-of-home-care-case-management-approach
- A Place at the Table: An investigation into a change to the case management of children and young people in care in Tasmania, Child-friendly version, 29 November 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/a-place-at-the-table-child-friendly-version
- Somebody in your Corner: The views of children, young people, carers and care providers on children and young people being stable and safe in out-of-home care, 21 December 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/somebody-in-your-corner
- “Nowhere else to go”: Young people’s views on homelessness, 31 May 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/nowhere-else-to-go-young-peoples-views-on-homelessness
- “Nowhere else to go”: Young people’s views on homelessness, Child-friendly poster, 31 May 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/nowhere-else-to-go-child-friendly
- “Hearing the Voices of Young People in the Youth Justice System”: Methodology: How we listened, 31 May 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/voices-project-methodology
- A decade of children’s voices on child safety, 6 June 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/a-decade-of-childrens-voices-on-child-safety-report

APPENDIX B: Submissions

- Submission - Youth Justice and Child Wellbeing Reform across Australia, 3 July 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/letter-to-national-childrens-commissioner-youth-justice-and-child-wellbeing-reform
- Submission - Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism Implementation Project, Consultation Paper 2, 7 July 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/tasmanian-national-preventive-mechanism-implementation-project-consultation-paper-2
- Oral evidence - Legislative Council - submission to Inquiry into Tasmanian Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention Matters, 10 August 2023, available on the Parliament of Tasmania website
- Submission - Draft Disability Inclusion Bill 2023, 19 September 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/disability-inclusion-bill-2023
- Submission - Feedback on Tasmania Legal Aid's Independent Children's Lawyers Panel Document, 25 September 2023, unpublished
- Submission - Youth Jobs Strategy, 20 November 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/response-to-youth-jobs-strategy
- Submission - Young Persons Transitions Project, 12 December 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/response-to-transitions-project
- Submission - Justice Miscellaneous (Conversion Practices) Bill 2024 - Consultation Draft, 16 February 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/ccyp-letter-regarding-justice-miscellaneous-conversion-practices-bill-2024
- Submission - Consultation on the draft Tasmanian Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2023, 1 March 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/community-protection-offender-reporting-amendment-bill-2023
- Submission - Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Bill 2024 - Consultation Draft, 9 April 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/letter-regarding-child-safety-reform-implementation-monitor-bill
- Submission - Draft Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism Expectations on the treatment of Children and Young People deprived of their liberty, 6 May 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/draft-tasmanian-npm-expectations
- Submission - Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters Inquiry into Civics Education, Engagement and Participation in Australia, 31 May 2024, available on the Parliament of Australia website
- Letter - Tasmanian Child Sexual Abuse Reform Strategy and Action Plan, 3 June 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/letter-regarding-tasmanian-child-sexual-abuse-reform-strategy-and-action-plan
- Submission - Justice Miscellaneous (Commission of Inquiry) Bill 2024 - Consultation Draft, 7 June 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/resource/justice-miscellaneous-commission-of-inquiry-bill-2024-consultation-draft

APPENDIX C: Media releases and opinion pieces

- Better data still needed for Tasmanian Out-of-Home Care, 12 July 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/better-data-still-needed-for-tasmanian-out-of-home-care
- Tasmania’s Age of Criminal Responsibility, 14 July 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/tasmanias-age-of-criminal-responsibility
- Opinion piece: “Tough on crime” approaches do not make communities safer, 23 August 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/tough-on-crime-approaches-do-not-make-communities-safer
- Government must respond with bravery and determination, 30 August 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/government-must-respond-with-bravery-and-determination
- Where we start matters, 6 September 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/where-we-start-matters
- Ashley Youth Detention Centre Closure, 15 September 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/ashley-youth-detention-centre-closure
- Final report of the Commission of Inquiry, 26 September 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/final-report-of-the-commission-of-inquiry
- ACCG call for a respectful dialogue regarding the Voice Referendum, 27 September 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/australias-commissioners-for-children-guardians-and-advocates-call-for-a-respectful-dialogue-regarding-the-voice-referendum
- Commissioner New Term, 31 October 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/commissioner-new-term
- Statement from Commissioner for Children and Young People on engagement with the Commission of Inquiry, 1 November 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/statement-from-commissioner-for-children-and-young-people-on-engagement-with-the-commission-of-inquiry
- Annual Report published, 15 November 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/annual-report-november-2023
- Case Management Investigation, 29 November 2023, childcomm.tas.gov.au/case-management-investigation-november-2023
- Rising to the challenges and opportunities of 2024, 29 January 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/rising-to-the-challenges-and-opportunities-of-2024
- Opinion piece: Adult prison is no place for children, 8 February 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/opinion-piece-adult-prison-is-no-place-for-children
- ACCGA statement on historic appointment, 14 February 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/accca-appointment-national-commissioner
- ANZCCGA meet in Hobart, 22 February 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/australian-and-new-zealand-childrens-commissioners-guardians-and-advocates-meet-in-hobart
- Populist rhetoric has no place post-Commission of Inquiry, 1 March 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/populist-rhetoric-has-no-place-post-commission-of-inquiry
- Listening to children should be our next Parliament’s priority, 9 April 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/listening-to-children-should-be-our-next-parliaments-priority
- Call for urgent action on Ashley Youth Detention Centre, 22 May 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/call-for-urgent-action-on-ashley-youth-detention-centre
- Report released: “Nowhere else to go”, Young people’s views of homelessness, 31 May 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/report-released-nowhere-else-to-go
- Statement from Leanne McLean, Commissioner for Children and Young People, 20 June 2024, childcomm.tas.gov.au/statement-from-leanne-mclean-commissioner-for-children-and-young-people

APPENDIX D: Speeches, presentations and events

- Speaker, Hobart City High School, 5 July 2023
- Panel member, *Turning Ideas into action - how do we make effective change in our community*, Tasmanian Youth Parliament, 11 July 2023
- Host, Public release of CCYP Advice to the Tasmanian Government on the age of criminal responsibility in Tasmania event, 14 July 2023
- Guest reader, Rainbow Childcare Centre, Book Week, 24 August 2023
- Presenter, *Protecting and Promoting the Rights and Wellbeing of our Children and Young People*, TasCOSS Conference, 30 August 2023
- Speaker, Independent Voices on Justice that make our Community a Safer Place forum, JusTas, 13 September 2023
- Speaker, Sacred Heart College, 21 September 2023
- Speaker, National Foster Carers' Conference, 22 September 2023
- Panel member, Laurel House forum, 20 and 23 October 2023
- Guest reader, Little Explorers Pack launch event, 7 November 2023
- Speaker, Women Supporting Women forum, 9 November 2023
- Presenter, #THRIVE23 Conference, 14 November 2023
- Panel member, Sandy Duncanson Social Justice Lecture, 8 November 2023
- Convenor, *Sharpening your Teeth* investigative training, 15 and 16 January 2024
- Panel member, YNOT Emergent Adulthood Action Plan roundtable, 2 February 2024
- Host, Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates meeting, 20 and 21 February
- Speaker, Don College, 5 March 2024
- Panel member, International Women's Day event for Devonport City Council, 5 March 2024
- Presenter, Vape Free Youth Project Advisory Group, 12 March 2024
- Panel member, *NPM expectations on the treatment of children and young people: considerations and learnings* at the 2024 OPCAT Symposium the National Preventive Mechanism in practice, 19 March 2024
- Panel member, *Racism Thrives in Silence* Equal Opportunity Tasmania forum, 20 March 2024
- Panel member, *Children and Young People's Rights in Out-of-Home Care* at the Voices in Action Conference, 22 March 2024
- Presenter, *A Place at the Table: having a say in decisions about things that affect children in care* at the Voices in Action Conference, 23 March 2023
- Speaker, Rotary Club of Launceston, 27 March 2024
- Speaker, Youth Week Tasmania launch, 8 April 2024
- Host, Agfest exhibit, 2 to 4 May 2024
- Speaker, Fahan School, 3 June 2024
- Presenter, *A Place at the Table: having a say in decisions about things that affect children in care*, at the AIFS Conference, 12 June 2024
- Speaker, TasTAFE senior leadership workshop, 25 June 2024

APPENDIX E: Memberships

- Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Youth Service and Practice Framework Focus Group, Department of Health
- Australia and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates (ANZCCGA)
- ANZCCGA Data Community of Practice
- ANZCCGA Policy Officers' Network
- Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas Steering Committee
- Australian Research Council Linkage Project - Fostering school attendance for students in out-of-home care
- Child and Youth Wellbeing Website Working Group, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act Review Advisory Group, Department for Education, Children and Young People
- Commission for Children and Young People Working Group, Department of Premier and Cabinet (resigned 3 June 2024)
- Community Services Resilience and Recovery Network, TasCOSS
- Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity
- End Physical Punishment of Australian Children Network
- Fostering School Attendance for Students in Out-of-home Care project
- Independent Children's Lawyers Project Steering Committee, Tasmania Legal Aid
- Independent Statutory Officer Working Group (Chair)
- Just Healthy Families Advisory Group, Tasmania Legal Aid and Women's Legal Services Tasmania
- Justice Reform Initiative (Patron)
- Little Tasmanian Action Group, Brand Tasmania
- Mental Health Act Review Implementation Project - Legislation Working Group, Department of Health
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Young People Working Group, Department of Health
- Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Framework for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Alcohol and Other Drugs Focus Group, Department of Health
- Research Application and Advisory Committee, Education Performance and Review, Department for Education, Children and Young People
- Smoke Free Young People Working Group, Department of Health
- Songs for Freedom Reference Group, Big hART
- Southern Regional Mental Health Group, Mental Health Council of Tasmania
- Strengthening Capacity of Parenting and Perinatal Mental Health Services Steering Committee, Department of Health
- Thrive to 25, Glenorchy City Council
- Young People Working Group - Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Health
- Youth Action Priorities, Hobart City Council



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