

Consent Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines requirements for seeking informed consent for children and young people to participate in activities conducted by the Commissioner for Children and Young People (the Commissioner) or by others on the Commissioner's behalf.

Who this policy applies to

This policy applies to the Commissioner and CCYP staff conducting activities that involve the participation of children and young people.

The Commissioner may, from time-to-time, conduct activities which involve the participation of children and young people through external parties such as government or non-government organisations.

Where the external party has no consent process of its own, this policy will apply.

Where the external party has its own consent process, the applicable consent process will be determined by the Commissioner on a case-by-case basis, having regard for the wellbeing of children and young people and in a manner that affords them respect and protection from harm.

Policy statement

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (the Commissioner) and the Commissioner's staff (CCYP staff) regularly engage with children and young people through various activities designed to promote their effective and meaningful participation in decision making and to empower them to express their views on matters that may affect their lives.

These activities can include, among others, meetings, interviews, focus groups, surveys, questionnaires, consultations, digital communication, photos and filming, media opportunities, competitions and other events organised by the Commissioner.

To give consent means to give permission, approval or agreement.

Consent is obtained from all children and young people before they participate in an activity. Generally, consent for a child or young person's participation should also be obtained from their parent or guardian. Parent/guardian consent is not required, however, where the Commissioner is satisfied that a young person is sufficiently mature to provide informed consent to participate.

The process for obtaining consent is tailored specifically to each engagement activity at the discretion of the Commissioner.



This policy aims to:

- Ensure that children and young people's participation is voluntary and that they understand the implications of their participation
- Recognise and respect the developing autonomy of children and young people, consistent with their age and level of maturity
- Recognise and respect the role of parents and guardians to make decisions on behalf of (or in collaboration with) their child, consistent with their child's level of maturity and understanding.

Legislation

- *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016* (Tas)
- *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023* (Tas)
- *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* (Tas)
- *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* (Tas)
- *Right to Information Act 2009* (Tas)

Related policies and procedures

CCYP

- Child Safe Policy
- Complaints Management Guide and Complaints Management Policy
- Engagement Policy and Engagement Procedure
- Images and Other Recordings of Children and Young People Policy
- Reporting and Responding to Child Safety Concerns, Disclosures and Incidents Procedure
- Transporting Children and Young People Policy

DECYP (some links may not be accessible outside DECYP's systems)

- [Safeguarding Framework – Safe. Secure. Supported.](#)

Supporting information and tools

- [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [NHMRC - National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2023\)](#)

Authorisation

Authorised by: Ros Cornish, Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People
Last significant review: July 2026
Review due: June 2027