

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



23 November 2021

President
Legislative Council
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

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

Dear Mr President
Dear Mr Speaker

Annual Report for 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

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

Yours sincerely



Leanne McLean
Commissioner for Children and Young People

Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania Annual Report 2020-21

Author: Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania

Preferred citation:

Commissioner for Children and Young People (Tas) 2021, *Commissioner for Children and Young People Tasmania Annual Report 2020-21*, Tasmanian Government, Hobart

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Message from the Commissioner

As Tasmania's Commissioner for Children and Young People, it is my responsibility to promote and advocate for the rights and wellbeing all children and young people around our state, and to ensure that we meet our international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The views of children and young people and those who support them in their communities lie at the heart of our work at the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. This report, detailing the activities we have undertaken in the 2020-2021 financial year, demonstrates how those voices have been listened to, and how they have helped to shape and influence Tasmanian policy, strategy and legislation relating to children and young people's rights and wellbeing.

Wellbeing is a broad concept. At its most basic, it is made up of all the ingredients a child or young person needs to have a good life now and to have a solid foundation upon which to build a happy, healthy, and successful future.

I initiated my wellbeing advocacy in the previous reporting period, releasing a report, Investing in the Wellbeing of Tasmania's Children and Young People, recommending the development of a whole-of-government wellbeing strategy for children and young people, initially focusing on the first 1,000 days of children's lives. The Tasmanian Government accepted my recommendations and subsequently announced a community-wide consultation to help guide the development of their child and youth wellbeing strategy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has, since then, only increased the impetus for us to monitor and improve the wellbeing of our children and young people. Against this backdrop, the wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people has again been the central focus of my work in 2020-2021.

Throughout 2020-2021, I consulted with children and young people up to the age of 18, exploring with them their experiences of wellbeing and what they felt was needed to achieve their hopes for the present and future. The results of these consultations were provided to the Government to inform the development of its child and youth wellbeing strategy and can be viewed on the wellbeing page of my website. I am humbled that so many children and young people agreed to share their views and personal experiences to help guide this important process.



The CCYP Ambassadors, who contributed to the Government wellbeing consultations, also helped showcase young Tasmanians' views on three key aspects of wellbeing (equity and diversity; the environment; and mental health) by co-developing Future Tasmania, an online multimedia magazine or zine. Their creative inputs captured the attention of decision makers and now provide a wealth of information for my advocacy and policy work in these important areas.

During the reporting year, other aspects of young Tasmanians' wellbeing also became the focus of much community and media debate as well as critical advocacy and reform work for myself and my team.

Having previously raised issues regarding placement of young Tasmanians in out-of-home care, I was asked to chair an expert panel into improving system responses for Tasmanian children and young people with highly complex needs. I look forward to seeing the implementation of changes in response to the panel's recommendations report.

A considerable amount of my work this reporting period has also focused on improving wellbeing outcomes for another group of young Tasmanians – those who engage with the youth justice system. I advocated for changes on several fronts in this area over the past year (and continue to do so), including raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and strengthening protections to children and young people subjected to searches whilst in custody. I'm pleased to see positive shifts in attitudes and, potentially, law reform to better support the rights of young Tasmanians in this area.

The safety and wellbeing of children should be at the centre of everything we do. The establishment of the Commission of Inquiry into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in 2021 was most welcome, heralding, I hope, a stronger commitment to improving systems to avoid similar harms and rights

abuses in the future but also providing a safe place for survivors and their loved ones to tell their stories to help drive these important systemic reforms. This is only the start of a very long process, but I applaud the survivors and their supporters as well as the Commission and all those who are striving to improve the safety and wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people.

The pandemic continues around Australia and, while in 2021 at least, life for many in Tasmania has mostly returned to normal, relative to other parts of Australia, its impacts on the wellbeing of children and young people do continue. I shall continue to monitor its effects on the wellbeing of our children and young people, ensure their voices are heard, their experiences accounted for and help to make a space for them at the table when important decisions regarding their lives and futures are being made.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the CCYP Ambassadors, the many people who have so generously shared their thoughts and experiences during consultations and meetings, the many community and service providers working with children and young people, and my own office's dedicated team for their strong commitment to improving the lives of all young Tasmanians.

Leanne McLean

Commissioner for Children and Young People

The year at a glance

21

Group memberships

14



Submissions written

122



Public enquiries responded to

\$1.369_m

Budget for 2020-2021

74



Formal consultations across the state

32



Speeches and presentations given

24



Media releases and opinion pieces written

13



Reports and publications written

730



Approximate number of children, young people and carers consulted with

144



Number of CCYP Ambassadors

31%

Percentage of Tasmanian schools involved in the CCYP Ambassador program

15

In-person visits to Ashley Youth Detention Centre residents*

*The Commissioner also conducts phone consults with residents.

Locations of face-to-face engagements in 2020-2021

The Commissioner is committed to engaging with children and young people, as well as bodies who support and provide services to them, around the state, including those who are harder to reach. Careful planning enables the Commissioner to engage in person across metropolitan, regional and remote areas, with the use of digital technology expanding engagement reach where public health restrictions and/or resourcing might otherwise reduce outreach opportunities. With the increased emphasis on digital technologies in 2020-2021, flexible approaches were taken to ensure that this did not impact negatively on access to those who are vulnerable and hard to reach across the state.



Major achievements

Following advocacy by the Commissioner, the Tasmanian Government agreed to develop the State's first child and youth wellbeing strategy. The Commissioner helped children and young people contribute to its development by undertaking wellbeing consultations with roughly 500 Tasmanian children, young people, and carers, resulting in a children's book, report and submission, which informed the strategy.

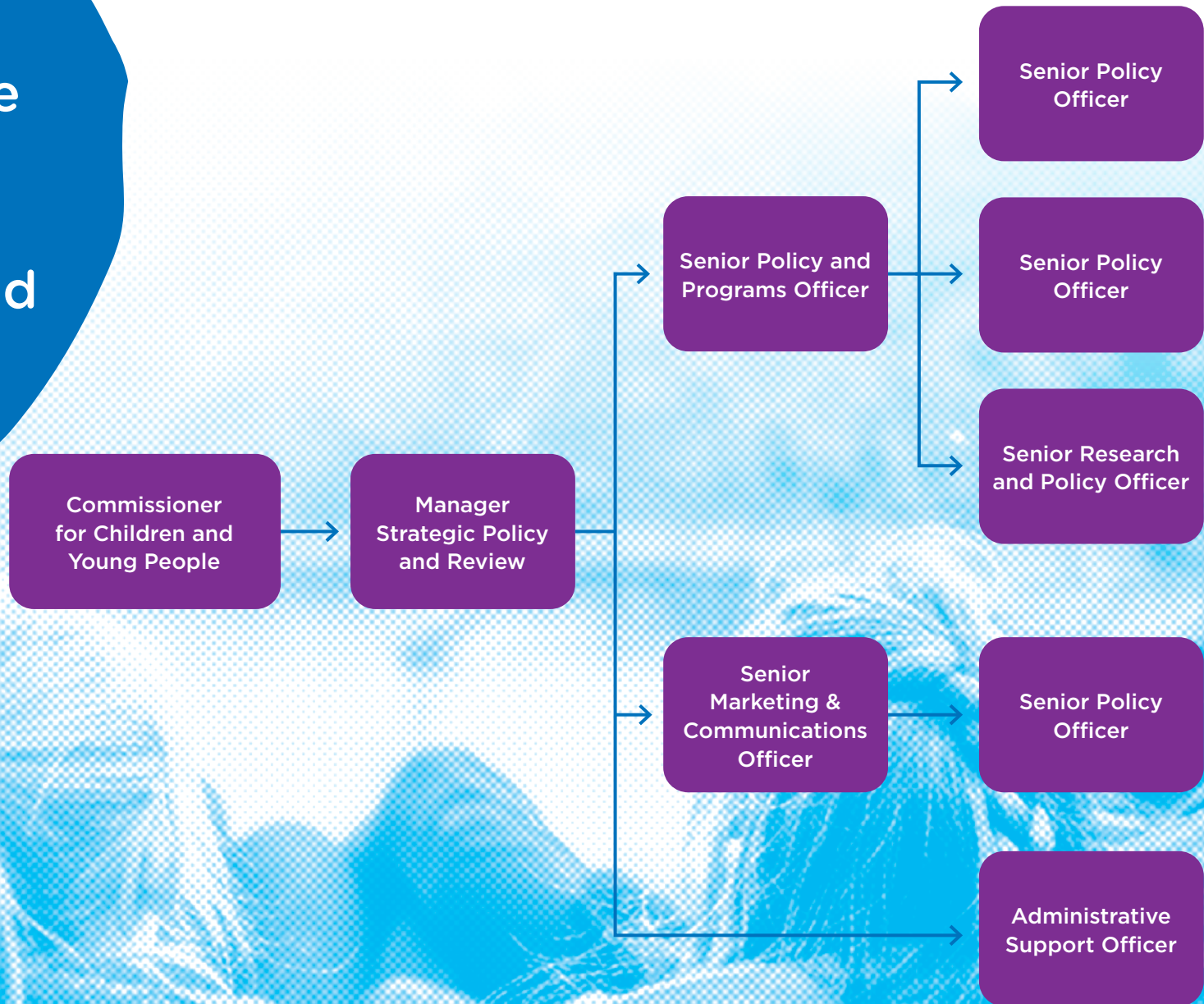
Provided a platform for young Tasmanians to voice their concerns and hopes for their future through a co-developed digital zine, Future Tasmania. Following its launch, seven CCYP Ambassadors who presented the zine on behalf of their fellow authors were invited to dine with the Governor of Tasmania to further elaborate on issues of concern to young Tasmanians.

Following advocacy from the Commissioner, the Department of State Growth undertook a dedicated consultation with young people on the Tasmanian Renewable Action Plan (TREAP) and produced a young people and child friendly version of the TREAP. This is the first time that the Government has specifically sought to directly engage with, and seek the views of, young people in relation to a major policy initiative.

Following advice by the Commissioner, the Tasmanian Government prepared a draft Bill to reform the law relating to personal searches of children in custodial settings, seeking community feedback through public consultations. The Commissioner provided input throughout the reform process, including through a submission on a draft Bill, which is expected to be introduced into Parliament in the coming reporting period.

Following advocacy by the Commissioner for timely access to effective legal representation for all children appearing in out-of-hours courts, the Tasmanian Government committed to providing access to legal representation for children and young people who appear before after-hours courts.

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



Role of the Commissioner for Children and Young People

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

- a. advocate for all Tasmanian children and young people generally
- b. act as an advocate for youth detainees under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*
- c. research, investigate and influence policy development into areas relating to children and young people generally
- d. promote, monitor, and review the wellbeing of children and young people generally

- e. promote the participation of children and young people in the making of decisions that affect their lives and empower them to do so
- f. help ensure the State meets its national and international obligations in respect of children and young people
- g. encourage organisations to establish child-friendly mechanisms to assist children and young people participating in matters that affect them.

The Commissioner's role is systemic in nature, which means she is unable to look into specific decisions made in respect of an individual case or specific circumstances unless formally requested to do so by the Minister for Children and Youth. It also means she has neither a complaint handling role nor an individual advocacy role, except in relation to young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.

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

Delivery against the 2020-2021 priorities

Each year, the Commissioner publishes an annual plan outlining her proposed program of work and activities for the following financial year. This annual report provides details of initiatives and activities undertaken during the reporting period under the following five priorities outlined in the Commissioner for Children and Young People Annual Plan 2020-2021:

- Promoting and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people
- Listening to and promoting the voice of children and young people
- Systemic advice and advocacy on matters affecting children and young people
- Independent monitoring of Tasmania's out-of-home care (OOHC) system
- Individual advocacy for children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.

During the reporting period, there was an increased interest from external parties seeking assistance with facilitating mechanisms for children and young people to have a voice. Furthermore, the office was also called upon more than in previous years to provide expert and independent comment and advice on draft Bills and was invited to contribute to numerous other consultations relating to or having impacts upon the rights and wellbeing of children and young people. Coupled with the ebb and flow of staffing movements during the year, this meant that it was necessary at times for the Commissioner to make the difficult decision not to contribute to consultative processes due to competing calls on limited office resources. The Commissioner was grateful to receive an additional allocation of internal funding from the Department of Communities Tasmania during the reporting period to support the creation of a fixed-term policy and research position, which was filled in the following reporting period.

Promoting and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people

In her February 2020 report, *Investing in the Wellbeing of Tasmania's Children and Young People*, the Commissioner observed that, despite considerable efforts over time, many of the wellbeing outcomes of children and young people in Tasmania have remained stagnant or worsened. One of the key recommendations in the report was the development of a long-term, cross-partisan, evidence-informed strategy for promoting and improving the wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania, with the first 1,000 days as a key priority for all relevant government agencies.

Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

In March 2020, the Tasmanian Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, announced in his first State of the State address that the Government would progress a child and youth wellbeing strategy including a specific focus on the first 1,000 days of children's lives. Later that year, the Tasmanian Government

asked the Commissioner to undertake targeted consultations with children and young people aged up to 18 years to inform its Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. Specific funding was provided to the Commissioner for this purpose and the CCYP wellbeing consultations took place in November and December 2020.

Consultations were conducted with approximately 500 Tasmanians from diverse cultural, social, and religious backgrounds and locations around the state. This number included 408 children and young people up to the age of 18 years, across 18 metropolitan, regional, and remote areas of Tasmania, including the Furneaux Islands. Given the difficulty of ascertaining in-depth insights from children aged 0 to 4, discussions were also held with around 90 adults, representing parents and carers of children aged up to 4 years and other adults who support children in this age group. Consultations provided a sense of what life is like for Tasmanian children and young people and helped identify key issues that would make life better for young Tasmanians in their communities, and in Tasmania more generally.

The following publications resulted from the CCYP wellbeing consultations:

- A children's picture book of wellbeing (*When I Wake Up I Smile*)
- An educational resource to accompany *When I Wake Up I Smile*
- A report on the CCYP Wellbeing Consultations with 0- to 18-Year-Old Tasmanians and parents/carers (*We Call It Happy*)

When I Wake Up I Smile is a picture book by 156 children aged 4–8 from across Tasmania developed

through creative arts-based workshops on wellbeing facilitated by artists from All That We Are at seven Tasmanian primary schools. It provides insights into what Tasmanian children want and need to be happy, healthy and secure. Copies of the book were provided to each child who participated in the consultation process and the Commissioner was invited to special assemblies convened at the participating schools to celebrate the book's publication. Copies were also sent to all primary schools in Tasmania.

In January 2021, the Tasmanian Government released *Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Discussion Paper - January 2021* and called for submissions to inform Tasmania's first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. In April 2021, the Commissioner provided a submission in response to the Discussion Paper.

The submission proposed a long-term evidence-informed strategy to improve the wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people, including critical actions to ensure robust governance and accountability, and mechanisms to measure and monitor progress. It also provided detailed information about the types of evidence-informed initiatives which could lead to substantial improvements in the wellbeing of Tasmanian children and young people. The submission was informed by the views of the children and young people who took part in the wellbeing consultations, as well as the parents and carers of very young children.

The Commissioner welcomed the incorporation of the views of children, young people and their carers in the 30 June 2021 Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Consultation Report, *Your Voice, Your Views, Your Say*.

The Premier launched *It Takes a Tasmanian Village – Tasmania’s First Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy for 0–25-Year-Olds* in August 2021. Consistent with her function to promote, monitor and review the wellbeing of Tasmania’s children and young people, the Commissioner will be taking a keen interest in the implementation of the Strategy and the development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Information Strategy.

COVID-19 Monitoring

In April 2020, the Commissioner published the *CCYP Pandemic Framework: Monitoring & Advocacy during COVID-19*, a framework outlining the focus of CCYP’s monitoring and advocacy work during the response phase of the pandemic. In the 2020–2021 financial year, monitoring of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Tasmanian children and young people continued, guided by the Framework. Monitoring activities included a mix of:

- Conversations and meetings with key stakeholders with on-the-ground knowledge of children and young people’s health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Monitoring of data provided to CCYP by the Department of Communities Tasmania, Department of Education, Department of Health and Tasmania Police through a data-sharing arrangement. This data will be collated and presented to agencies in the 2021–2022 financial year. This data monitoring has also taken account of publicly available data, as well as data provided by Kids Helpline.

In November and December 2020, the Commissioner published four COVID-19 Monitoring Insight papers:

- *COVID-19 Monitoring Insights: New Ways of Working*
- *COVID-19 Monitoring Insights: Children and Young People in OOHC*
- *COVID-19 Monitoring Insights: Family Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic*
- *COVID-19 Monitoring Insights: Mental Health and Psychosocial Recovery.*

On 12 October 2020, an opinion piece by the Commissioner was published in *The Mercury*. In the article, the Commissioner outlined her concern that the withdrawal of Federal Government COVID-19 support and stimulus payments could exacerbate already unacceptable levels of childhood deprivation and poverty in Tasmania.

The Commissioner is continuing to monitor challenges to the wellbeing of Tasmania’s children and young people arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

B4 Early Years Coalition

The Commissioner co-chairs the B4 Early Years Coalition with respected educator Elizabeth Daly OAM. B4 recognises that high quality support to families and their children from birth to four years, and particularly in the first 1,000 days, is crucial to ensure lifelong health and development. B4 uses the collective impact approach, which brings individuals, businesses, organisations and communities together with the shared purpose that every child in Tasmania has the best possible start in life.



Listening to and promoting the voice of children and young people

One of the Commissioner's key functions is to empower children and young people to participate in decision making and voice their opinions in matters that may affect their lives and promote their right to do so. This includes encouraging organisations to establish child-centred mechanisms to enable the participation of children and young people in matters that affect their lives. By listening to children and young people, we show them that what they have to say is important. They also learn the skills to become engaged and active citizens.

By empowering children to participate in decision-making processes, we all benefit. Sharing their views and influencing decision making is a powerful contributor to improving children and young people's wellbeing. Decisions informed by the unique perspectives and lived experiences of children and young people result in increased trust and better buy in.

CCYP Ambassador Program

The CCYP Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for children and young people from around Tasmania to have their voices heard on how things could be improved for young Tasmanians. CCYP Ambassadors range in age from 9 to 17, come from all regions in Tasmania (including Cape Barren Island and King Island) and from varied backgrounds. During the reporting period, approximately 144 children and young people were CCYP Ambassadors. Further information about the CCYP Ambassador Program is available on the [CCYP website](#).

During the reporting period, CCYP Ambassadors shared their views on how things could be improved for children and young people in Tasmania through:

- Regular regional meetings in Burnie, Devonport, Launceston and Hobart, conducted online in the early part of the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions
- A statewide event held in Launceston on 25 September 2020 attended by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, political leaders and representatives from Tasmanian Government departments and non-government organisations
- Out-of-session projects on key priority areas identified and agreed upon by CCYP Ambassadors
- Targeted consultations on proposed government policies, including to inform the development of the Tasmanian Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

Future Tasmania

With the advent of social distancing and other pandemic-related public health restrictions in early 2020, meetings and activities with CCYP Ambassadors moved online. As part of this new approach, the Ambassadors undertook an online creative project in collaboration with art and social change organisation, Big hART. Ambassadors identified three key areas of concern. They submitted creative contributions exploring the three topics, which were incorporated into a digital online magazine, or zine.

The topics explored in the zine were:

- environment and climate change
- mental health
- equality and diversity.

The zine also featured cameos by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, the Premier of Tasmania, the Honourable Peter Gutwein MP, (then) Labor Shadow Minister for Education and Early Years, Child Safety and Youth Affairs, the Honourable Josh Willie MLC, and Tasmanian Greens Leader, Cassy O'Connor MP.

At the Statewide CCYP Ambassador event, CCYP Ambassadors presented their zine, *Future Tasmania*, to key decision makers and the media.

Following their presentation, seven CCYP Ambassadors were invited to dine with the Governor at Government House to share their views on Tasmania's future and the challenges faced by young Tasmanians.

Creative Hands Project

In 2020, CCYP Ambassadors worked with artists from All That We Are to create images of children's hands superimposed with messages to inspire and act as a reminder that we are all always connected. The installation of hands, called 'Connected', is displayed in the Commissioner's office.

Consultations to inform the Tasmanian Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

In late 2020, the Commissioner conducted wellbeing consultations, discussed in more detail under 'Promoting and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people', above, with Tasmanian children and young people aged up to 18 years of age to inform the development of the Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. The consultations targeting the 9-18 age group were conducted primarily, though not wholly, through the CCYP Ambassador program.

An initial consultation was held with approximately 100 CCYP Ambassadors to obtain their views on the most effective ways to consult with children and young people. This advice informed the Government's overarching wellbeing consultation process.

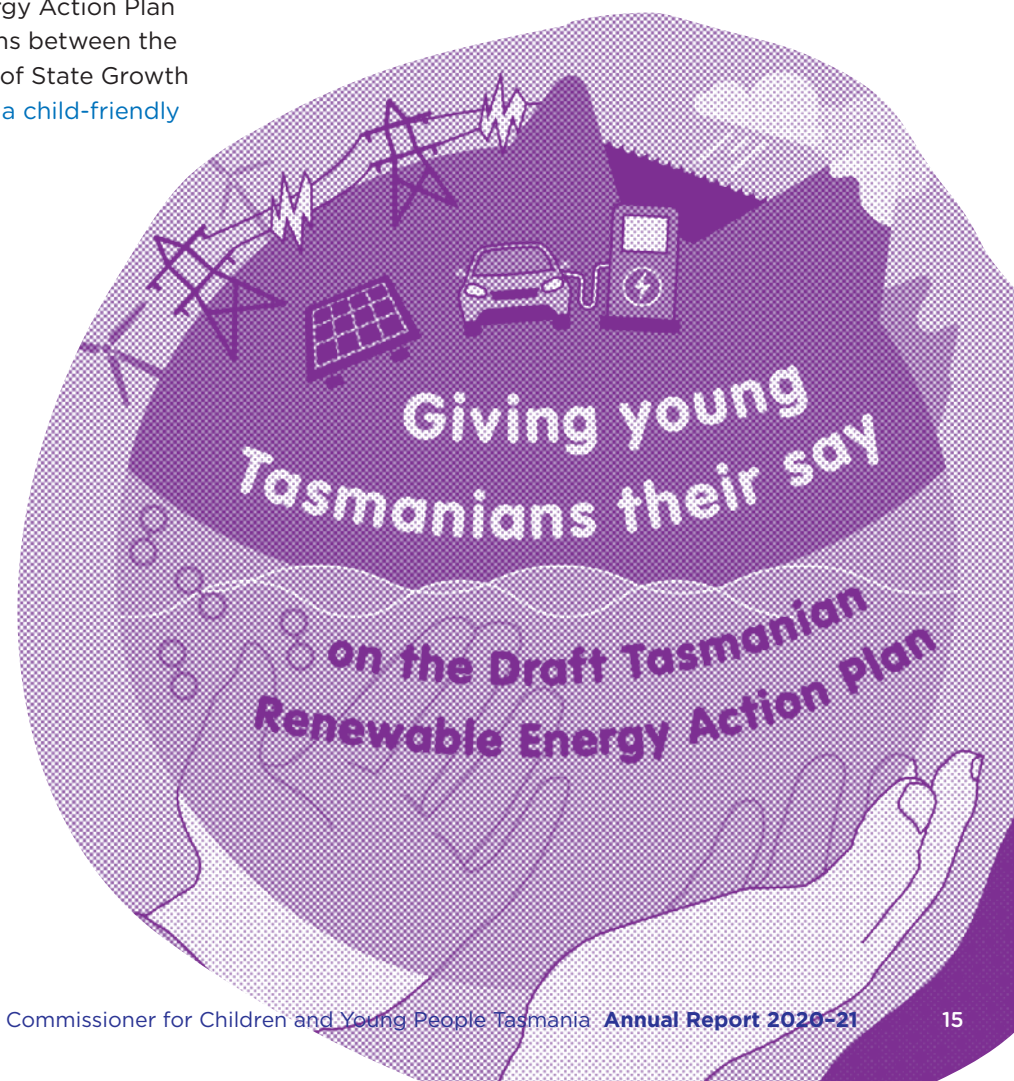
The CCYP wellbeing consultations, held subsequently, consisted of interactive discussions and creative activities structured around the six wellbeing domains of the Tasmanian Government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework. The participating CCYP Ambassadors' views were incorporated into the Commissioner's wellbeing consultation report, *We Call it Happy* and informed the Commissioner's submission on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

Draft Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan 2020 (TREAP)

Children and young people from around Tasmania, including CCYP Ambassadors, have consistently expressed concerns about climate change and degradation of the natural environment and are very keen to have a say on these issues that affect their lives and futures.

In April 2020, the Tasmanian Government released its Draft Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan 2020 (TREAP). Following discussions between the Commissioner and the Department of State Growth Tasmania, the Department released a [child-friendly](#)

[consultation paper](#) with consultation questions specifically designed for children and young people. This was the first time that the Government specifically sought to directly engage with, and seek the views of, young people in relation to a major policy initiative, and it led to more responses in its first week than the adult consultation process received overall. Children and young people's feedback contributed to the inclusion of new actions in the final TREAP.



The Tasmania Project

The CCYP office provided input into the development of The Young People's Voices Survey conducted as part of the University of Tasmania's The Tasmania Project. The survey provided Tasmanian children and young people aged 9 to 17 with an opportunity to express their views on COVID-19 and how Tasmania should move forward into the future. Parents and guardians were also surveyed. The data collected is informing the State Government's pandemic recovery response and a longer-term study to support children and young people's wellbeing in Tasmania.

Australian Children's Laureate

As part of the Commissioner's ongoing work to promote the importance of literacy, the 2020-2021 Australian Children's Laureate, Ursula Dubosarsky, and Prep and Year 1 students from Glenorchy Primary School, were invited to read Ms Dubosarsky's book, *The March of the Ants* at the Glenorchy Library. The Laureate and the Commissioner also held a professional development session for library staff on early childhood literacy.

Young Archies Awards

In September 2020, the Commissioner awarded Hiba Farrukh from Margate Primary School with the 2020 Commissioner for Children and Young People's Young Archies Award for her delightful piece entitled *Mama*.



Systemic advice and advocacy on matters affecting children and young people

As advocate for all children and young people in Tasmania, the Commissioner regularly engages in strategic advocacy and provides independent, apolitical, and impartial advice and comment on the extremely 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

- Public commentary including through media releases and opinion pieces
- Engaging in systemic advocacy where a matter is raised with the CCYP office by a member of the community
- Being a member of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG).

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



The Commissioner's systemic advocacy work is also informed by concerns conveyed to the CCYP office by members of the community. While the Commissioner does not have a complaint handling role or an individual advocacy role, except in relation to young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*, the CCYP office is regularly contacted by members of the public who wish to raise concerns about the wellbeing of children and young people. During the reporting period, the office dealt with 122 such enquiries. In these circumstances, members of the public are given information about referral options and, in appropriate circumstances, their concerns may be shared with a relevant authority. Where a concern raised also raises issues of a systemic nature, the Commissioner may seek further information from a relevant agency or organisation.

Youth Justice

Minimum age of criminal responsibility

The Commissioner supports an increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years. This would involve a departure from a criminal justice response for children under 14 years to a developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed and culturally safe early intervention model that would better support children and their families and communities. Prevention and early intervention programs are critical to addressing the biological and environmental risk factors for children entering the youth justice system. Targeted programs throughout childhood (beginning in the first 1,000 days) can address risk factors and increase protective factors at the individual, social and community levels to prevent children and young people engaging in antisocial and other problematic behaviours.

Following the Commissioner's February 2020 [submission](#) to the Review of the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility undertaken by the Council of Attorneys-General Working Group, the Commissioner has promoted informed community discussion about what raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility would mean for Tasmania. In partnership with the University of Tasmania, the Commissioner joined an expert panel of Tasmanian practitioners and academics drawn from law, police, health and community services for a webinar on what raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility would mean for Tasmania. (A recording of the Age of Innocence: Children and Criminal Responsibility webinar is available [online](#). The webinar, held on 25 February 2021, was moderated by the University of Tasmania's Associate

Professor Sonya Stanford. Joining the Commissioner on the panel were:

- Donna Adams, then Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police
- Rodney Dillon, Indigenous Advisor, Amnesty International Australia
- Alan Hensley, Associate Director (Crime), Tasmania Legal Aid
- Michael Hill, former Chief Magistrate
- Dr Georgina O'Donnell, Forensic and Clinical Psychologist.

The Commissioner also published a [background paper](#) to provide context for the webinar discussion.

To gauge community sentiment on raising the age of criminal responsibility in Tasmania, the Commissioner conducted an online survey to inform further detailed advice to the Tasmanian Government. Thirty-five survey responses, one postcard, and four written responses to the survey questions were submitted.

During the next reporting period, the Commissioner intends providing comprehensive advice to the Tasmanian Government on what raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility will mean for Tasmania.

Therapeutic approach to youth justice - ongoing advocacy

The Commissioner is a strong advocate for the development and implementation of an integrated therapeutic approach to youth justice in Tasmania. In November and December 2020, the Commissioner provided input into the redevelopment of the physical environment at Ashley Youth Detention



Centre (AYDC) and the development of the trauma-informed [Practice Framework](#) and Learning and Development Framework for AYDC. The Commissioner attended the launch of these frameworks on 16 March 2021 at AYDC. Implementation of the new Practice Framework will require a sustained commitment to embedding the principles of the frameworks across the organisation, and the Commissioner shall continue to monitor its progress. More work is also required to introduce a therapeutic model across the full spectrum of youth justice services, including at AYDC.

Consultation Draft Youth Justice Amendment (Searches in Custody) Bill 2020

In 2019, the Commissioner provided [advice](#) to the Tasmanian Government aimed at ensuring Tasmanian legislation, policies and procedures regarding searches of children in custodial settings, particularly strip searches are in line with well-established human rights standards and principles and contemporary best practice. The Tasmanian Government accepted the Commissioner's recommendations made in that advice. While new policies and procedures have been adopted by the Tasmania Prison Service and at AYDC, full implementation of the recommendations will require legislative change. In October 2020, the Commissioner made a [submission](#) on the Consultation Draft Youth Justice Amendment (Searches in Custody) Bill 2020, acknowledging the collaborative work undertaken by relevant government agencies to clarify and consolidate the law governing the searches of children and young people in custody into one piece of legislation. The Commissioner also provided advice to ensure the legislative reform reflects best practice and upholds the human rights principles upon which her advice was based. The draft Bill is expected to be introduced into Parliament

in the coming reporting period. The Commissioner continues to monitor data relating to searches of young people detained at AYDC.

Draft Bail Bill

In April 2021, the Commissioner provided a [submission](#) on the draft Bail Bill, 2021 noting that the draft Bill was inconsistent with the Tasmanian Government's work to develop an integrated state-wide therapeutic model for youth justice and its commitment under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to reduce the detention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. It further noted that the draft Bill was inconsistent with fundamental human rights principles applicable to children and young people in the justice system.

Draft Custodial Inspector Amendment (OPCAT) Bill

In February 2021, in a [comment](#) on the above Bill, the Commissioner indicated general support for designation of the Custodial Inspector as Tasmania's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) for the purposes of domestic implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). Other matters commented on included the scope of the proposed NPM inspection regime, accountability mechanisms (such as public reporting), the independence of the NPM and the desirability of NPM functions and related matters being outlined in standalone legislation.

Access to legal representation for children appearing before after-hours courts

The lack of access to legal representation for children appearing before out-of-hours courts, especially in the North and North West of the State, has been an issue of concern and advocacy.

Many children in conflict with the law face a range of communication and other barriers to accessing justice which can be exacerbated by a lack of access to legal representation.

In September 2020, the Commissioner wrote to the Attorney-General, the Honourable Elise Archer MP to advocate for timely access to effective legal representation for all children appearing in out-of-hours courts. As a result, the Tasmanian Government committed to providing access to legal representation for children and young people in the North and North West who appear before after-hours courts.

Specialist legal advice and representation for children

The importance of effective and timely legal representation for children in out-of-hours courts mentioned above is just one essential part of a broader approach to facilitating children's access to justice for the numerous legal problems they can experience.

The Commissioner has been supportive of initiatives that would result in children having greater access to child-friendly legal information and advice, including through schools via a collaboration between the Department of Education and Tasmania Legal Aid. This matter was raised in the Commissioner's [submission](#) to Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Discussion Paper – January 2021.

Implementing recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the need for a child safe organisational framework in Tasmania

Draft Child Safe Organisations Bill 2020

The Commissioner is a strong advocate for the development and implementation of a child safe legislative framework in Tasmania, and, in particular, provision for an independent entity to undertake child safe standards oversight, as well as educative and other functions, as outlined in Royal Commission recommendations 6.10 and 6.11.

In March 2021, the Commissioner made a [submission](#) to the Tasmanian Government on the draft Child Safe Organisations Bill 2020. There was no clear intention evident in the draft Bill to establish independent oversight of the child safe standards to monitor and enforce compliance with the standards nor to perform other related functions, as envisaged by the Royal Commission. The types of oversight and compliance monitoring described in the draft Bill were inadequate to achieve the levels of systemic and cultural change required in Tasmania, including in Tasmanian Government institutions, to put the interests of children first and to keep them safe from harm.

The Commissioner also argued that it is essential that the child safe standards framework proposed for Tasmania is accompanied by a reportable conduct scheme, pointing to other jurisdictions, particularly New South Wales and Victoria, where an independent statutory entity has responsibility for promoting, and/or independent oversight of, child safe standards, and for oversight of organisational responses to allegations of child abuse through a reportable conduct scheme.

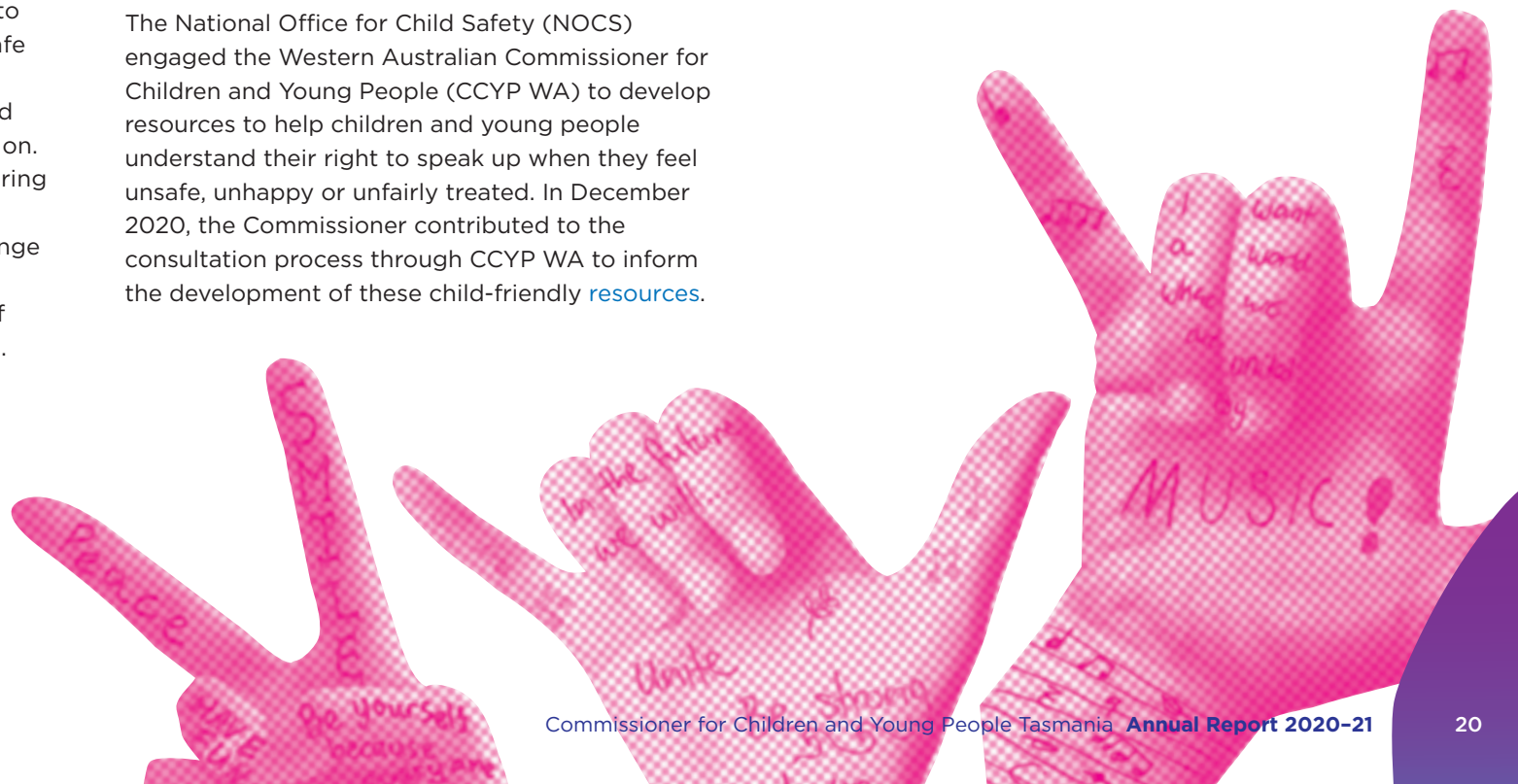
Although outside the reporting period, please also refer to the [Commissioner's submission](#) to the [Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings](#).

National Office for Child Safety Complaint Handling

The National Office for Child Safety (NOCS) engaged the Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP WA) to develop resources to help children and young people understand their right to speak up when they feel unsafe, unhappy or unfairly treated. In December 2020, the Commissioner contributed to the consultation process through CCYP WA to inform the development of these child-friendly [resources](#).

National Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

A key recommendation of the Royal Commission was the design and implementation of a National Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse. This work is being led by the National Office for Child Safety (NOCS) and will outline a whole-of-community approach to preventing child sexual abuse including through education and awareness raising, improved supports for children who show harmful sexual behaviours and offender prevention interventions, as well as giving victim-survivors access to the right support at the right time. The Commissioner provided input into the development of the Strategy via a consultation with members of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians and individual feedback directly to NOCS.



Other systemic advice and advocacy

During the reporting period, the Commissioner made submissions and other contributions on a range of other policy matters affecting the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania:

- [Submission](#) to inform the Review of Education Regulation in Tasmania
- Submission to the Coronial Inquest into the Deaths of Six Infants and One Child who were known, or whose families were known, to Children and Youth Services prior to their death (Submission not publicly available.)
- [Submission](#) on the Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Advance Care Directives) Bill 2020
- [Submission](#) to inform the Draft Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2021–2027 – 1st Phase consultation process
- [Submission](#) to inform the Tasmania Law Reform Institute (TLRI) Inquiry into Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Conversion Practices
- [Submission](#) to inform the Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process
- [Submission](#) to inform the Independent Review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*
- Review of the *State Service Act* – no document is available as this was a consultation directly with Dr Ian Watt AC
- In September 2020, the Commissioner provided feedback on the draft report of the review into Tasmania’s Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services conducted by Professor Brett McDermott and also contributed to the review’s consultation process.

For a full list of public submissions made in the reporting period, please refer to Appendix B.

ANZCCG

The Commissioner is a member of the Australian and New Zealand Children’s Commissioners and Guardians (the ANZCCG), which includes national, state, territory and New Zealand children and young people commissioners, guardians and advocates. The ANZCCG aims to promote and protect the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people in Australia and New Zealand.

Historically, the ANZCCG met face-to-face twice a year each May and November, with hosting responsibilities rotated between members. However, due to COVID-19, members met in this period by teleconference, with secretariat support for the monthly meetings provided by the New South Wales Office of the Children’s Guardian. During the reporting period, the Commissioner was also represented on the ANZCCG Policy Officers’ Network.

During the National Child Protection Week 2020 webinar program, the Commissioner joined other members of the ANZCCG to partner with NAPCAN to present the webinar *Putting Children First: From Rhetoric to Reality*.

In May 2021, members of the ANZCCG issued a [joint media release](#) opposing a shift away from evidence-based policy approaches to youth justice in the Northern Territory.

In April 2021, the ANZCCG participated in a National Office for Child Safety consultation to inform the final development of the National Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse.



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

In the 2017-2018 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed dedicated resources to the office of the Commissioner to conduct independent systemic monitoring of out-of-home care (OOHC) in Tasmania.

The main aim of this program is to promote and protect the rights and wellbeing of Tasmanian children and young people in our OOHC system. This is achieved through systemic monitoring of Tasmania's OOHC system, examining how Tasmania's children and young people in OOHC, overall, are going, and looking into the processes or features of the OOHC system that affect their wellbeing.

The OOHC Expert Panel provides advice to the OOHC Monitoring Program. The panel is chaired by the Commissioner and has the following members:

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



Monitoring implementation of OOHC recommendations

In October 2019, the Commissioner released the first report of the OOHC Monitoring Program, *Monitoring Report No. 1: The Tasmanian Out-of-Home Care System and “Being Healthy”, Out-of-Home Care Monitoring Program 2018-19*.

In March 2020, the Tasmanian Government published its response to that report, *Tasmanian Government Out of Home Care Response Report and Action Plan 2020*. In its response, the Government committed to implementing 15 priority actions as well as several other actions, and to reporting in December 2020. In December 2020, the Department of Communities Tasmania provided the Commissioner with a progress report (unpublished). The Commissioner submitted comments on that report. The department then provided a further progress report to the Commissioner in March 2021 (unpublished).

For most of 2020, a primary focus of the Commissioner’s monitoring was the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Tasmanian children and young people, including those in the Tasmanian OOHC system. During that time, the Commissioner’s OOHC monitoring activities were largely conducted under the umbrella of COVID-19 pandemic monitoring and advocacy as outlined in the *CCYP Pandemic Framework: Monitoring & Advocacy During COVID-19* and referred to above.

In February 2021, the Commissioner released the *Out-of-Home Care Monitoring Plan: “Being Loved and Safe”* which describes the current structure and scope of CCYP’s OOHC monitoring activities, and outlines a thematic focus on the wellbeing domain of ‘Being Loved and Safe’ in OOHC, along

with the cross-cutting theme of children and young people’s participation. The Monitoring Plan was informed by the views of children and young people with a care experience (including through the Commissioner’s conversations with members of the Youth Change Makers group and young people in Kennerley’s Moving On Program), OOHC providers, the Department of Communities Tasmania as system owner, and other stakeholders, as well as a targeted literature review and advice provided by the Expert Panel. The Monitoring Plan introduces a new, fourth part to the Monitoring Program – Part D: Monitoring the Tasmanian Government’s implementation of the Commissioner’s recommendations for the OOHC system, as outlined in Monitoring Report No.1.

A summary report, Summary of Monitoring Plan: Being Loved and Safe, was also released and distributed broadly.

During the latter part of the reporting period, an engagement plan was developed – this plan is an internal “living” document which guides the Commissioner’s engagement with children and young people in OOHC, as well as with OOHC providers, foster and kinship carers, and other stakeholders during the current monitoring cycle.

Throughout the period 2020–2021, the Commissioner has engaged in ongoing data monitoring, of both publicly available data and data provided quarterly by the Department of Communities Tasmania, including a specific dataset about children and young people placed with Many Colours 1 Direction in the Northern Territory. Work to develop a monitoring report based on quantitative data was progressed during the reporting period and this report will be released later in 2021.



FKAT State Conference

The Commissioner spoke at the Foster and Kinship Carers of Tasmania (FKAT) State Conference held in Launceston on 21 May 2021. In that speech, the Commissioner promoted awareness of her role and of the CCYP OOHC Monitoring Program. She also introduced the idea of ‘nests’ as a metaphor for the wellbeing domain of ‘Being Loved and Safe’ in OOHC.

‘My Nest’ Workshops

On 22 May 2021, the Commissioner hosted a ‘My Nest’ creative workshop at FKAT’s Big Day Out event. This workshop gave young participants and their carers an opportunity to escape the more hectic pace of the play centre and explore the theme of nests. In addition to creating a large nest from fabrics, ribbon, string and leaves, the artist-educators from All That We Are who helped run the session taught participants ‘micro-publishing’, where children created small ‘books’ about nests and made take-home copies to share with the people who matter to them. The Department of Communities Tasmania’s Child Advocate, FKAT’s CEO and board members also participated in this activity.

As well as being a hugely enjoyable event, the workshop was an invaluable opportunity for the Commissioner to hear from children and their carers in a fun and relaxed environment. The Nest is proudly on display in the CCYP office.

Discussions with OOHC providers

During 2020–2021, monitoring discussions were conducted with OOHC providers to explore the ‘Being Loved and Safe’ theme. These meetings were held in the North, North West and the South. During these meetings, OOHC providers shared their views on three topics within the domain of ‘Being Loved and Safe’, namely, Care Plans and Care Team Meetings; Unplanned Placement Changes; and Concerns and Care Concerns. Information about the Commissioner’s findings from those discussions should be released in the next reporting period.

Submissions relevant to OOHC

In September 2020, the Commissioner was asked to provide comment on the Children, Young People and Their Families Act (Amendment) Bill 2020. In her [submission](#) of 28 October 2020, the Commissioner supported the overarching policy intention of the draft Bill, which was to allow the Crown to participate in the national child protection information system ‘Connect for Safety’, but she also recommended that some sections of the draft Bill be clarified in a subsequent draft.

In February 2021, the Department of Communities Tasmania asked the Commissioner to comment on a draft Workbook Establishing Tasmanian Out of Home Standards and a Tasmanian Carers Register. The Commissioner’s comment to the Department was submitted in February 2021 (not publicly available). In that comment, the Commissioner welcomed the first draft of standards for OOHC and provided constructive suggestions for refining those standards. Further consultation by the Department of Communities occurred in the 2021–2022 reporting period.

In February 2021, the Commissioner also commented on the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Bill 2020. In her [comment](#), the Commissioner reiterated her general support for the establishment of TasCAT. On the issue of jurisdiction, the Commissioner noted her previous advocacy for the establishment of a tribunal in Tasmania that can independently review relevant decisions affecting the wellbeing of children and young people while they are in out-of-home care. (See the [submission](#) of June 2020 in response to the draft Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Bill 2020 and Recommendation 1(e) of the Commissioner’s October 2019 *Monitoring Report No. 1 The Tasmanian Out-of-Home Care System and “Being Healthy”*.) The Attorney-General has advised that the Tasmanian Government will consider the Commissioner’s recommendation regarding jurisdiction as part of the third stage of TasCAT’s establishment in later 2021.



Many Colours 1 Direction

On 29 September 2020, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation published a story raising concerns relating to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people residing at Many Colours 1 Direction (MC1D) in the Northern Territory. On the same day, the then Minister for Human Services, the Hon Roger Jaensch MP, directed the Department of Communities Tasmania to complete an Investigative Review into the allegations raised. Following the initial news story, a range of media outlets continued to comment on and question the care provided to these children. In response, the Commissioner published two media releases (*Many Colours 1 Direction, September 2020*; and *Many Colours 1 Direction, 14 October 2020*).

The Commissioner pointed out in the 30 September 2020 media release:

The Commissioner's capacity to provide independent oversight of or to monitor the wellbeing of children and young people placed with MC1D is limited by the fact those children are interstate.

The Commissioner cannot directly require a person or organisation outside Tasmania to provide her with information about the way they provide services to, and care for, the children placed with them.

The Commissioner can only monitor the wellbeing of children placed with MC1D through requesting information from the Department of Communities Tasmania, which she has done.

In particular, the Commissioner has requested information from the Department about the systems and processes it has put in place to oversee the wellbeing of children placed with MC1D.

While acknowledging that public debate and discussion about the placement of children at MC1D is important, the Commissioner also called for media outlets to raise issues responsibly and in a way that does no harm to the individual children and young people involved.

The report of the Department's *Investigative Review*, released publicly on 3 November 2020, made four recommendations for further improvement, whilst concluding that the children and young people residing at MC1D were safe and well. One of the recommendations of the Review was to convene an expert panel to provide advice on the establishment of a Tasmanian based program. The Expert Panel was established in January 2021 with the aim of delivering advice to the Minister for Human Services on the essential therapeutic elements required for an improved service system response for Tasmanian children and young people with highly complex needs. The Commissioner took on the role of Independent Chair of the Expert Panel. She delivered the panel's *final report* to the Minister for Children and Youth on 28 July 2021.



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

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

- listening and giving voice to the concerns and grievances of a young person and facilitating resolution of those concerns
- seeking information about and facilitating access by a young person to support services

- assessing whether a young person has been provided with adequate information about his or her rights
- assessing the physical and emotional wellbeing of a young person.

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

During the reporting period, the Commissioner visited AYDC on 15 occasions, including her attendance at the AYDC Christmas lunch and the Ashley School end-of-year assembly. Young people

are also able to contact the Commissioner's office at any time to request her advocacy assistance.

The lack of transitional accommodation for young people leaving AYDC is a matter that has been raised with the Commissioner by young people on a number of occasions.

The Commissioner has consistently advocated for an integrated therapeutic approach to youth justice in Tasmania, including at AYDC. This has included contributing to the development of a trauma informed practice framework and learning and development framework for AYDC. In addition, she has also advocated for young people at AYDC to have the opportunity to care for animals and, in December 2020, she personally delivered several chickens to the centre for the young people to care for.



Other public commentary and stakeholder engagement

Please refer to the appendices for a list of the following:

Appendix A – Reports and publications

Appendix B – Submissions

Appendix C – Media releases and opinion pieces

Appendix D – Speeches, presentations and events

Appendix E – Membership of groups.

Please also refer to the [CCYP website](#) for any submissions and comments on draft Bills not mentioned elsewhere in this report, noting that CCYP submissions to public consultation processes and comments on draft Bills are routinely published on this website.



Priority areas of work in 2021–2022

For information about the Commissioner for Children and Young People's priority areas of work during 2021–2022, please refer to the [CCYP Annual Plan for 2021–2022](#). In that plan, work is organised according to five priorities:

- listening to and promoting the voice of children and young people
- promoting and monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people
- independent monitoring of Tasmania's out-of-home care (OOHC) system
- advice and advocacy on matters affecting children and young people
- advocacy for children and young people detained under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.

The Commissioner has also prepared a version of the CCYP Annual Plan for young Tasmanians, [CCYP Annual Plan 2021–2022 for Young Tasmanians](#).



Appendix A: Reports and publications

CCYP Annual Plan 2021–2022

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-03-22-Letter-and-Annual-Plan-to-Minister.pdf>

CCYP Annual Plan 2021–2022 (child-friendly version)

[CCYP-Annual-Plan-2021-2022-for-Young-Tasmanians.pdf](https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-03-22-Letter-and-Annual-Plan-to-Minister.pdf) ([childcomm.tas.gov.au](https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au))

Future Tasmania – 25 September 2020

<https://zine2020.childcomm.tas.gov.au/>

COVID-19 Insights – Children and Young People in Out of Home Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic – 3 November 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Monitoring-Insights-Children-and-Young-People-in-OOHC.pdf>

COVID-19 Insights - New Ways of Working During the COVID-19 Pandemic – 3 November 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Monitoring-Insights-New-Ways-of-Working.pdf>

COVID-19 Insights – Mental Health and Psychosocial Recovery – 14 December 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Mental-Health-and-Psychosocial-Recovery-December-2020.pdf>

COVID-19 Insights – Family Violence During the Pandemic – 14 December 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Family-Violence-During-the-COVID19-Pandemic-December-2020.pdf>

Age of Innocence Children and Criminal Responsibility Paper – 15 February 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Age-of-Innocence-Children-and-criminal-responsibility-Background-Paper-FINAL.pdf>

Monitoring Plan: “Being Loved and Safe” – 17 February 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-02-17-Monitoring-Plan.pdf>

Summary of Monitoring Plan: “Being Loved and Safe” – 17 February 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-02-17-Summary-of-Monitoring-Plan-Being-Loved-and-Safe.pdf>

When I Wake Up I Smile - A Book of Wellbeing – 24 May 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-When-I-Wake-Up-I-Smile.pdf>

When I Wake Up I Smile - Learning Resource – 24 May 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Learning-Resource-When-I-Wake-Up-I-Smile.pdf>

We Call it Happy - Wellbeing Consultation Report – 1 June 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Wellbeing-Consultation-Report-We-Call-It-Happy.pdf>

Appendix B: Submissions

Submission to the Coronial Inquest into the Deaths of Six Infants and One Child who were known, or whose families were known, to Children and Youth Services prior to their death – 25 August 2020

Submission not publicly available

Review of Education Regulation – 1 October 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-01-Submission-Review-of-Education-Regulation.pdf>

Comment on the Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Advance Care Directives) Bill 2020 – 21 October 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-21-Comment-Guardianship-and-Administration-Amendment-Advanced-Care-Directives-Bill-2020-FINALdocx..pdf>

Draft Children, Young Person and Their Families Act (Amendment) Bill 2020 – 28 October 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-28-CCYP-Comment-CYPTFA-Amendment-Bill-2020.pdf>

Consultation Draft Youth Justice Amendment (Searches in Custody) Bill 2020 – 30 October 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-30-Comment-Consultation-Draft-Youth-Justice-Amendment-Searches-in-Custody-Bill-2020-.pdf>

Draft Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2021-2027 – 1st Phase consultation – 30 November 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-11-30-FINAL-Submission-Tasmanian-Drug-Strategy.pdf>

Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Bill 2020 – 5 February 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-02-05-Comment-Tasmanian-Civil-and-Administrative-Tribunal-Bill-2021.pdf>

Inquiry into Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Conversion Practices – 9 February 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-02-09-FINAL-TLRI-SOGI-Conversion-Practices.pdf>

Custodial Inspector Amendment (OPCAT) Bill – 15 February 21

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-02-15-FINAL-Submission-OPCAT-NPM-Tasmania.pdf>

Child Safe Organisations Bill 2020 – 1 March 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-03-01-Submission-Child-Safe-Organisations-Bill-2020-FINAL.pdf>

Comment on Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Discussion Paper, January 2021 – 1 April 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Submission-to-Tasmanias-Child-and-Youth-Wellbeing-Strategy-Discussion-Paper.pdf>

Submission in response to the draft Bail Bill 2021 – 13 April 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-04-13-CCYP-FINAL-submission-on-Bail-Bill-2021.pdf>

Indigenous Voice Co-design Process – 30 April 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-04-30-Submission-to-the-Indigenous-Voice-Co-design-Process.pdf>

Discussion Paper on Tasmania's Climate Change Act - Independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* – 3 May 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-05-03-Submission-to-the-Discussion-paper-Independent-Review-of-the-Climate-Change-Act-.pdf>

Appendix C: Media releases and opinion pieces

Independent Inquiry into DoE Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Welcomed – 27 August 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Independent-inquiry-into-DoE-response-to-child-sex-abuse-270820-FINAL.pdf>

CAHMS Review Welcomed – 8 September 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-CAHMS-Review-Welcomed-0920.pdf>

Draft Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan for Children and Young People – 20 September 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Draft-Tas-Renewable-Energy-Action-Plan-210920.pdf>

New Zine by Children and Young People – 25 September 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/20-09-25-CCYP-Media-Zine-Launch-250920-website.pdf>

Searches in Custody – 30 September 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-9-30-CCYP-Media-Searches-in-Custody-0920-Final.pdf>

Many Colours 1 Direction – 30 September 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-09-30-CCYP-Media-MCID-0920-FINAL.pdf>

Children, Poverty and a Pandemic – 12 October 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-12-CCYP-Talking-Point-Anti-Poverty-Week-1020.pdf>

Many Colours 1 Direction - Public Debate – 14 October 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-14-CCYP-Media-MCID-141020.pdf>

Student Wellbeing Survey – 20 October 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-20-FINAL-CCYP-Media-Wellbeing-Survey-1020.pdf>

CCYP Annual Report 2019-2020 Released – 10 November 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-11-10-CCYP-Media-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

CAMHS Funding Welcomed – 10 November 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-11-10-CCYP-Media-CAMHS-Funding-FINAL-1120.pdf>

Ashley – 19 November 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-11-19-CCYP-Media-Ashley.pdf>

Commission of Inquiry – 23 November 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-11-23-CCYP-Media-Commission-of-Inquiry-1120.pdf>

Tasmania Project - Children and Young People's Voices Survey – 10 December 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-12-10-CCYP-Media-Tasmania-Project-FINAL-1020.pdf>

Commission of Inquiry – Draft Terms of Reference – 17 December 2020

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020-12-17-CCYP-Media-Commission-of-Inquiry-%E2%80%93-Draft-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>

Hearing the Children that Need it Most – 30 December 2020

<https://connect42.org/blog/blog-post-four-g6j6f-6eegr-lmr3l-dt62w> (originally printed in The Mercury, no longer available at source).

Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – 19 January 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-01-19-CCYP-Media-Launch-of-Wellbeing-Consultation-190121.pdf> (childcomm.tas.gov.au)

Physical Punishment – 20 January 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Talking-Point-Physical-Punishment-FINAL.pdf>

Children and Criminal Responsibility – 13 February 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-Criminal-Responsibility-Forum-0221-Final.pdf>

Election Policies – 1 March 2021

Not available online

Australian Children's Book Laureate – 22 April 2021

Not available online

Children's Commissioners and Guardians Unite in Opposing NT Legislation – 11 May 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-05-11-MR-NT-youth-Justice-amendments.pdf>

Children's Wellbeing Book Launch – 24 May 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-05-24-CCYP-Media-Release-Launch-Childrens-Wellbeing-Book-0521-FINAL.pdf>

Wellbeing Report Launch – 1 June 2021

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CCYP-Media-release-Wellbeing-Report-Launch-240521.pdf>

Appendix D: Speeches, presentations and events

- Kennerley Kids Sausage Sizzle – 8 September 2020
- Foster and Kinship Carers Association Tasmania's Foster Care Week celebration – 18 September 2020
- True Trails visit – 18 September 2020
- Children and Young People's Consultation on the Tasmanian Renewable Action Plan, Joint Launch – 22 September 2020
- CCYP Ambassador State-wide Event – 25 September 2020
- Future Tasmania, CCYP Ambassador Zine, Launch – 25 September 2020
- CREATE resource, Launch – 28 September 2020
- Don College – Talk on the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) – 30 October 2020
- Department of Education Field Studies Centre Planning Day – 30 October 2020
- Ogilvie High School Alumni Assembly – Speech – 9 December 2020
- Launch of the Young People Survey - Mt Stuart Primary – 10 December 2020
- Inspire @Home, CatholicCare Christmas Picnic – 10 December 2020
- Kennerley Kids Moving on Program – 11 December 2020
- Just Time Prison Program Graduation Award Presentation, Risdon Prison – 18 December 2020
- Child & Youth Wellbeing Strategy Consultation, Launch – 19 January 2021
- Your Say, Advocacy Tasmania, Speech – 9 February 2021
- Age of Innocence: Children and Criminal Responsibility, Joint University of Tasmania/CCYP webinar, Speech – 25 February 2021
- Communities for Children Online Conference, Welcoming Address – 2 March 2021
- Hobart College Graduation Awards, Speech – 11 March 2021
- Festival for Children & Young People, TMAG, Opening – 13 April 2021
- Practice Framework and Learning and Development Framework, Ashley Youth Detention Centre, Launch – 16 March 2021
- CCYP's Australian Children's Laureate School Book Event, Glenorchy Library – 23 April 2021
- CCYP/Australian Children's Laureate Professional Development Session for Librarians, 'The Importance of Early Childhood Literacy' – 23 April 2021
- Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's mapiya lumi exhibition opening – 30 April 2021
- Sexual Assault Support Services' Raffle Draw – 30 April 2021
- National Day to Remember Those Who Have Died as a Result of Domestic and Family Violence – Candlelight Vigil, Speech – 5 May 2021
- Just Time Women's Prison Program Graduation Award Presentation, Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison – 17 May 2021
- Foster and Kinship Carers Association Tasmania Conference, Launceston, Speech – 21 May 2021
- Foster and Kinship Carers Association Tasmania Big Day Out, Speech – 22 May 2021
- Just Time Prison Program, Risdon Prison Presentation – 25 May 2021
- Amnesty International's 60th Birthday Event, Speech – 28 May 2021
- Director of Public Prosecutions' Continuing Legal Education Presentation – June 2021

Appendix E: Membership of groups

- Australia and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians Commissioner McLean only
- Australia and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians Policy Officers Network
- B4 Early Years Coalition
- Community Consultative Group on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
- Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity (COPMM) Commissioner McLean only
- Expert Panel Therapeutic Care - Commissioner McLean only, Independent Chair
- Family and Sexual Violence Community Consultative Group
- Glenorchy Action Interagency Network (GAIN) and Youth Action Network Glenorchy (YANG) - now Thrive to 25
- Hobart City Vision Community Panel
- Magistrates Court Hobart Court Users Group
- Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) Commissioner McLean only
- Reconciliation Tasmania Collective
- Research Assessment and Approval Committee (RAAC), Education Performance and Review, Department of Education
- Southern Regional Mental Health Group
- State-wide Youth Collaborative Group
- TasCOSS COVID Recovery Statewide Meetings
- Tasmania Legal Aid Independent Children's Lawyers Project Steering Committee
- Tasmania Legal Aid Separate Representative Project Steering Committee
- Tasmanian Collaboration for Health Improvement
- University of Tasmania Research Advisory Panel, Regional Recovery after COVID-19
- Youth Action Priorities (YAP)

