



09 November 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONERS CONVENE IN ADELAIDE

Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG) will be in Adelaide next week for their bi-annual conference. Sixteen children's Commissioners and Guardians will attend, including the New Zealand Commissioner and three Aboriginal Children's Commissioners. It will be the first such meeting for the new South Australian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, April Lawrie.

The meeting will strengthen ANZCCG collaboration and strategic advocacy to promote and protect the safety, wellbeing and rights of children, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

During the conference the Commissioners and Guardians will –

- discuss how to best reflect and embed connection with culture within our systems and practices
- discuss a number of Youth justice issues, and have the opportunity to listen to one young person about his journey through the youth justice system
- engage with people who are working in Adelaide's south about their work to create a child-centred community to ensure that young children are safe, healthy, active, ready to learn and engaging properly
- listen to young former refugees about their experience of establishing a new home in Australia
- discuss working together to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard in the family law system; and
- discuss the findings contained in the [children and young people](#) chapter of the recent *The Justice Project Report* with Adelaide Lawyer Morry Bailes, President of the Law Council of Australia and,
- possibly, most importantly, discuss how to work together in 2019 to ensure that the voices of Australian and New Zealand children and young people are heard and listened to.

Penny Wright, Training Centre Visitor, will convene an associated workshop on November 15 that will consider best practice, independent inspection and visiting functions for youth detention facilities across all these jurisdictions. This will include discussion of what Australian jurisdictions

For more information

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need to do to become compliant with the UN *Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT) which was ratified by the Commonwealth Government on 15 December 2017.

Helen Connolly, the Commissioner for Children and Young People said -

“At the forefront of the agenda will be giving a voice to the views of children and young people on matters that affect them. It’s an honour to be able to host this important group of child right’s advocates in Adelaide for the first time since our Office has been in existence.”

Penny Wright, the Guardian for Children and Young People and Training Centre Visitor said -

“This unique forum allows Australia’s statutory advocates for children and young people to get together and put kids’ interests front and centre. We see that, too often, children and young people are overlooked and yet bear the brunt of political, economic and social decisions that affect them. We want to ensure that our communities hear their voices and heed them.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For further information the work of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (SA) go to www.ccyp.com.au

Notes to editors:

The Commissioners and Guardians will meet in Adelaide on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th November.

For more information

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