

Strategic Directions 2011–2014

Our Mission: Together, making NSW a better place for children and young people.

Our Principles

The Commission's work is guided by the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*. The Act outlines the principles and priorities of the Commission. In accordance with our statutory obligations, we:

- Make the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people our paramount consideration
- Consult with and listen to children and young people, take their views seriously and promote their interests
- Believe strong relationships between children, families and communities are important
- Focus on things that make a positive difference to children and young people, giving priority to vulnerable children and young people
- Work cooperatively with other agencies and organisations to achieve our objectives

Our Purpose

Section 11 of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* details the principal functions of the Commission. In summary, the Commission:

- Conducts, promotes and monitors discussion and decision making on issues that affect children
- Provides advice and recommendations to government and non-government agencies to improve legislation, policies, practices and services impacting on children
- Promotes the participation of children in the making of decisions that affect their lives
- Guides and operates the Working With Children Check
- Encourages organisations to develop their capacity to be safe and friendly for children

Our Objectives

To achieve our mission and purpose we strive to:

- Promote the rights and wellbeing of children and young people
- Promote the views and participation of children and young people in their communities and in decisions that affect their lives
- Positively influence legislation, policies and programs that impact on children and young people
- Encourage a shared understanding of children's lives
- Make sure children and young people are safe in their communities and
- Work ethically, efficiently, effectively and be accountable

Our Values

Our shared values guide every aspect of making NSW a better place for children and young people and our relationships within our work teams and with external stakeholders. Through values we seek to increase our reputation and professionalism, the quality of our services, our capacity for collaboration with colleagues and stakeholders and develop our most valuable resource – our staff.

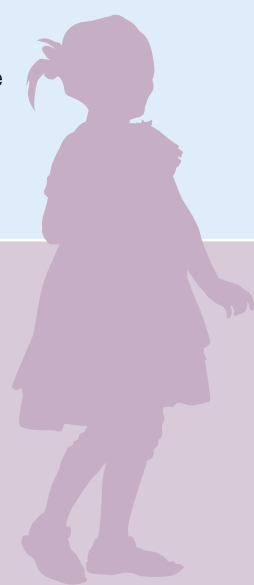
Our values are based on:

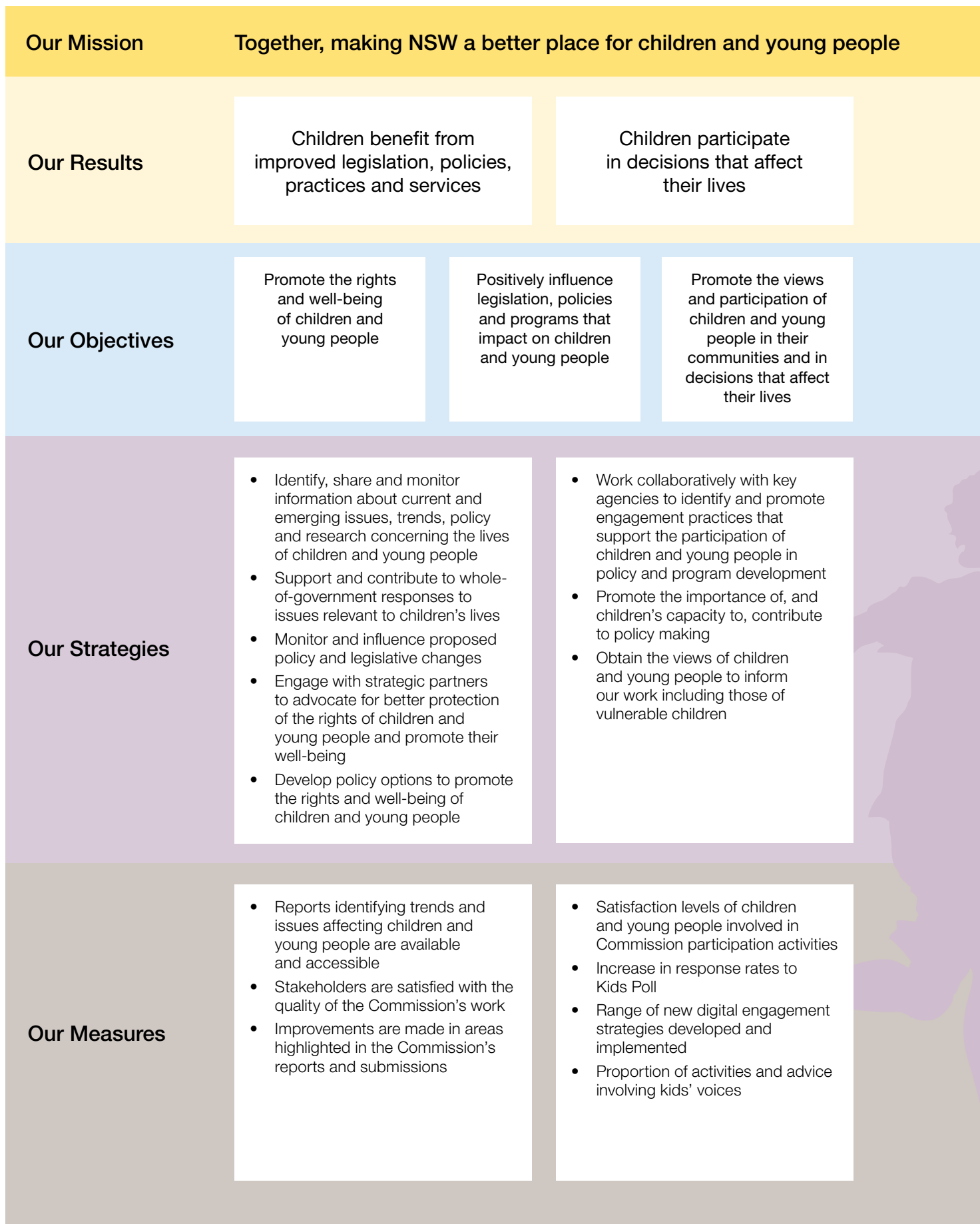
Respect

Communication

Honesty, trust
and integrity

Performance







Children are safe in organisations and their communities

The Commission is accountable, responsive and adaptive

Encourage a shared understanding of children's lives

Make sure children and young people are safe in their communities

Work ethically, efficiently, effectively and be accountable

- Strengthen child protection risk management strategies within child-related employment through state-wide education and capacity building programs
- Contribute to the implementation of a nationally consistent approach to working with children checks
- Collaborate and work with relevant government and community organisations on streamlining and building understanding of the Working With Children Check
- Improve the WWCC process and system
- Develop whole-of-government advice to prevent childhood injury

- Provide timely, accurate and relevant information to stakeholders
- Promote and publicly report on the work of the Commission
- Develop the capacity of staff through learning, continuous improvement, sharing of knowledge and providing a safe and satisfying workplace
- Monitor performance to ensure work quality, organisation development, good governance and effective resource management
- Statutory requirements for operating the WWCC are met and reported on

- Proportion of background checks completed on time
- Proportion of prohibited employment exemption application decisions supported by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT)
- All employers engaging applicants assessed as high risk followed up
- Proportion of attendees at Child Safe Organisations training rate the course as satisfactory or above

- Proportion of correspondence completed within 14 days
- All staff complete performance development reviews and 90% are rated satisfactory or better
- Annual report prepared and tabled by due date
- Unqualified audit for annual financial statements
- Proportion of audit recommendation implemented within 12 and 18 months
- Website visits and pages accessed

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People is an independent statutory organisation within government that advocates for the children and young people of NSW.

The Commission works to influence and initiate positive change for children and young people.

In NSW, there are approximately 1.6 million children aged 0–17 years living; 24 per cent of our population.

Three quarters of our children live in the major cities of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong and their surrounding areas. Children make up nearly a third of the population in Outer South Western Sydney and Blacktown.

Our population is ageing with the proportion of children estimated to decrease by nearly five per cent by 2056.

Our children are diverse. Approximately:

- 4.3 per cent are from an Aboriginal background
- 7.4 per cent were born outside of Australia
- 17.7 per cent live in households where English is not the main language spoken
- 8.0 per cent live with a disability
- 69,311 children migrated to live in our state between January 2003 and June 2010
- the majority of our children live at home with their families in households with an average of 1.9 children.

Nearly 11 children in every 1,000 were living in out-of-home care on 30 June 2010.

Children in some families are in difficulty. Approximately:

- 14.1 per cent live in overcrowded households
- 6.3 per cent have run out of food and could not afford to buy more at some stage in the last 12 months
- 7,902 are homeless.

Source: *A picture of NSW children*

Note: *The data on children and families is derived from a range of different years and data sources.*

NSW Commission for Children and Young People

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