



Andrew Jackomos appointed as Victoria's first commissioner for Aboriginal children; The Victorian Government has appointed the state's first Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People.

Carlyon, Peta.
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The Victorian Government has appointed the state's first Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People.

Andrew Jackomos founded, and is director of Victoria's Koori Justice Unit and has 30 years of experience in Indigenous policy.

He will work alongside Children's Commissioner Bernie Geary with service providers and the public sector, and like Mr Geary, will be independent of the government.

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria figures show the state's Indigenous children are 10 times more likely to be victims of abuse or neglect than non-Indigenous children.

Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge says Mr Jackomos is the right person to attempt to close the gap.

"Absolutely everything about child protection is incredibly distressing," Ms Wooldridge said.

"It continues to amaze me what situations some very vulnerable children and young people are placed in, often at the hands of parents of broader family members".

"Andrew is a highly respected Aboriginal man... and through the process of identifying the most suitable commissioner he clearly stood out."

Mr Jackomos was appointed by the Governor of Victoria.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs was transferred into the Department of Premier and Cabinet in this year's departmental reshuffle, and the Premier Denis Napthine has endorsed the new commissioner.

"Andrew Jackomos has got an enormous success rate in dealing with people from the Aboriginal communities," Dr Napthine said.

"I welcome his appointment, I think it'll be a significant step forward for protecting young people."

This year's Aboriginal Affairs annual report showed the number of child protection interventions for Indigenous children suffering substantial neglect or abuse grew to 960; the highest rate in a decade.

There was a 100 per cent increase in police attending repeat family violence situations in Indigenous communities.

Young Indigenous people were more than 13 times more likely to be on a community-based order than non-Indigenous young people, and more than 17 times more likely to go to prison.