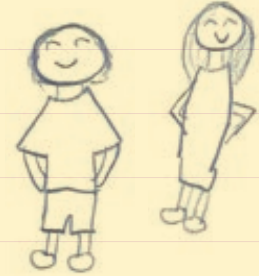


What children in the Adelaide Hills say about their communities



The **Commissioner's Student Voice Postcards** initiative enables civic, political and community leaders across South Australia to hear directly from primary school students in Government, Catholic and Independent schools.



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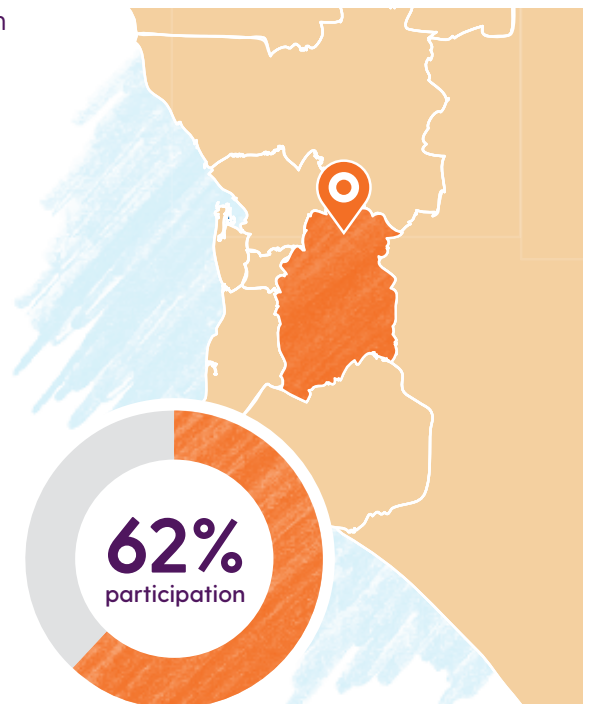
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **888** postcards received from children attending **23** schools across the **Adelaide Hills**.

The **23** participating schools in the Adelaide Hills included:

- **19** out of 27 Government schools
- **2** out of 3 Catholic schools
- **2** out of 7 Independent schools

Schools in the Adelaide Hills are in the following Local Government Areas:

- Adelaide Hills Council
- District Council of Mount Barker





Views on their local community

Children in the Adelaide Hills have many ideas for ways to improve their local community, such as having ‘more things to do’, ‘more rubbish bins’, more ‘fun equipment to play on’, and ‘more mountain bike trails’.

“ [The world would be better if...] the government didn’t destroy mtb [mountain bike] jumps that we make and the next day when we come back all the jumps we buit were destroyed.” (11, boy)

Some children from the Adelaide Hills shared their concerns about bushfires, including their fears that fires will get worse in the future, or ‘come into school’ and ‘that the mount torrens CFS wont exopt anymore cadets’.

“ [I worry about...] That if the bushfires do come back, they will be even bigger than in 2019.” (10, girl)

Some children shared that they worry about ‘stepping on snakes’. A smaller number worry about road safety and ‘people speeding on my street’, including some suggestions to address this, such as installing a ‘crossing light at the crossroad’.



Views on the environment

Children across the Adelaide Hills care about their environment and worry about the amount of rubbish, plastics, and pollution they see. They worry about animals ‘going extinct or [becoming] endangered’.

The world would be better if people ‘took action on climat change and polootion’, stop littering and deforestation, start recycling, and ‘respect the earth’ so people, plants, and animals are in a ‘more safe’ environment.

“ [I worry about...] going to school and people beating me up. The world turning into one big concrete house. All you can see is rubbish.” (10, boy)



Views on rights and ideas

Children in the Adelaide Hills shared that ‘children have a sence of the world as well’, are ‘capable of doing things’, and can be trusted. They want grownups to know that kids should be taken seriously and have more of a say about what happens at home, at school, and in relation to the environment.

“ [The world would be better if...] children have a say for saving our planet and that chilren that are diffrent get treated the same.” (11, girl)



Views on money and fairness

Children in the Adelaide Hills wrote about being 'free' from adult responsibilities such as working or paying for food, bills, or taxes. They shared that the world would be better if 'they brang prices down in the shops' and if there was no poverty, no homelessness, and no hunger. They also want healthcare and food to be cheaper and schools to be more affordable 'so it is easier to keep going'.

“ [The world would be better if] goind to the doctors was free and going to the hospital. because some people need to go and it is not fair that thay have to pay.” (10, girl)



Enjoyment and being me

Children in the Adelaide Hills enjoy having freedom, time, energy, and 'a big imagination' with which to play and have fun. Some popular activities include playing sport, playing video games, and playing outside riding bikes and being able to 'get muddy'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] that we get to goof of and dont have to make dinner, lunch or breaky.” (9, girl)

Children want grownups to know more about how they feel, what they like and dislike, what they're good at, and what they need help with. Their examples included the following: 'I like books', 'I like high jump', and 'I am good at drawing'.



Views on school

Children want grownups to know their 'opinions about school', including what they enjoy, what they find difficult and what they'd like to change. They shared a range of worries about their grades, 'not fitting in at school', and moving schools.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that we try our best every day at school and if we are naughty that we dont usually mean it.” (11, boy)

They also shared their ideas for improving school, which include giving schools more money and making school more affordable. They wrote that children want to have more choice over their subjects, including 'maths to be every lesson', 'more "real world" training' and more opportunities to 'play sport, be active', and have 'drama classes' in primary school.



Relationships, kindness, and equality

Children in the Adelaide Hills wrote about the importance of their relationships with family and friends. Some children shared worries about something happening to their loved ones. This included their pets – particularly their chickens, cats, dogs, and lizards – and their fear of them escaping or dying. Others shared worries about losing friends, particularly when transitioning between schools. Or they worried about friends ‘being sad’ or ‘being mean’.

Other children wrote that the world would be better if there was more kindness and peace, and if everyone – including ‘the leaders and country’s’ – respected and looked after each other and the environment. They wrote about their desire for no bullying, no racism, no violence, no war, no sickness, and no smoking.

“ [The world would be better if...] everyone understood each other, everyone was kind and was fair.” (10, girl)

See the full report at <https://commissionerspostcards.com.au/reports/>

