

What children in Barossa, Light and Lower North regions 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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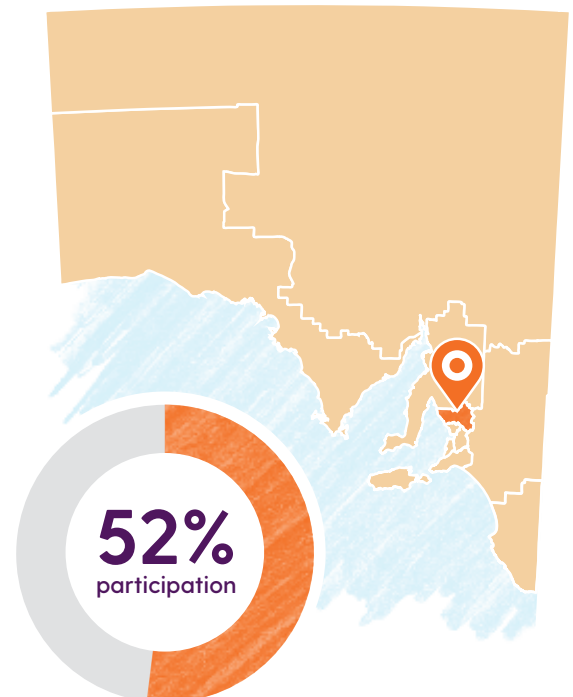
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **942** postcards received from children attending **15** schools across **Barossa, Light and Lower North**.

The **15** participating schools in Barossa, Light and Lower North included:

- **11** out of 21 Government schools
- **1** out of 1 Catholic schools
- **3** out of 7 Independent schools

Schools in Barossa, Light and Lower North are in the following Local Government Areas:

- Adelaide Plains Council
- Barossa Council
- Light Regional Council
- Town of Gawler





Views on their local community

Children in the Barossa, Light and Lower North wrote about their local community. One child suggested the world would be better if 'there was more candy stores in Kapunda'. Others wanted grownups to know 'farming is fun'.

“ [The world would be better if...] I had a horse and some propity for me and my family.” (10, girl)



Views on the environment

Like many other children in South Australia, the environment is also a concern to children in Barossa, Light and Lower North. They want there to be more recycling and less littering and pollution, and for people to 'plant more trees' and care for the ocean.

“ [I worry about...] the Environment. Even my mum says she likes how much I care about the Environment.” (10, girl)

“ [The world would be better if] everyone picked up one piece of rubbish everyday.” (9, girl)

They worry about 'Climate change for the next generations' and want grownups to know that 'gretta is right!' According to these children the world would be better if the environment was cared for and 'everyone was kind to animals'.



Views on rights and ideas

Children in Barossa, Light and Lower North want grownups to know that children have rights and that they are responsible and mature. They want grownups to 'trust us' and respect that 'I have my own opinion'. They also wrote 'that kids are capable of great things' and that 'kid's are better listener's'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that kids have rights. And a say.” (10, boy)



Views on money and fairness

Children in Barossa, Light and Lower North often wrote that the best thing about being a kid is having no adult responsibilities. This was particularly in the form of no work, bills, or tax, not having to clean, and not paying for housing (rent or a home loan), or fuel. Overall, being a kid is good because of 'not having to worry about money'.

At the same time, the cost of living is a concern for some children. They worry about their parents running out of money and needing to pay bills. The world would be better if the 'price of stuff [would] go down' and 'rent was cheaper'. It would be better if 'more thing[s] were cheap' like food and if 'money was unlimited'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] I don't have to pay for the food shopping and the bills at our house.” (9, girl)



Enjoyment and being me

Many children in the Barossa, Light and Lower North region shared that they are enjoying life and having fun. They like playing video games, board and imagination games, and sports like soccer, cricket, basketball, and netball, and 'having a kick of the footy with mates'. They also enjoy playing with toys, going on their iPads, 'collecting teddies', drawing, going fishing, going to the beach, climbing trees, and riding motorbikes.

They want grownups to know more about them, such as what their favourite sports and animals are. Other children want grownups to know that they are 'shy' and that they 'try my best'.



Views on school

School is also a topic of focus for children in Barossa, Light and Lower North. For some children, school is the best thing about being a kid, with some sharing 'I love school' and enjoying learning new things.

For others, school is something that worries them, particularly passing their grade or failing at school, doing tests, getting in trouble, and starting high school in the future.

“ [The world would be better if...] school was less stressful, and there was less assignments. Then, there would be less conflict (kids) and more time to have fun!” (11, boy)



Relationships, kindness, and equality

Family and friends are important to children in the Barossa, Light and Lower North. Having family and friends is one of the best things about being a kid, including 'having a great mum' and 'Getting hugs from my parents'. For some children, 'my family is my First thing i care about'.

Children worry about parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends getting hurt, being sick, and/or dying. They also worry about their pets and animals like dogs, cats, ducks, and guinea pigs. And they worry about things like 'my dog getting stolen'. Some worry about their friendships and being bullied.

“ [I worry about...] being split up from my friend and family.” (12, girl)

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] you get to go to school play all the time and you get to hang out with friends.” (12, girl)

Children in Barossa, Light and Lower North noted the importance of kindness and want a world where 'Wee Smile Be Kind We Share Say Hello', 'every one was nice to everyone', and 'everyone was equal'. This world includes no war, no fighting, and 'we all conquer bullying together'.

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

