

THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

What children in Eyre and Western 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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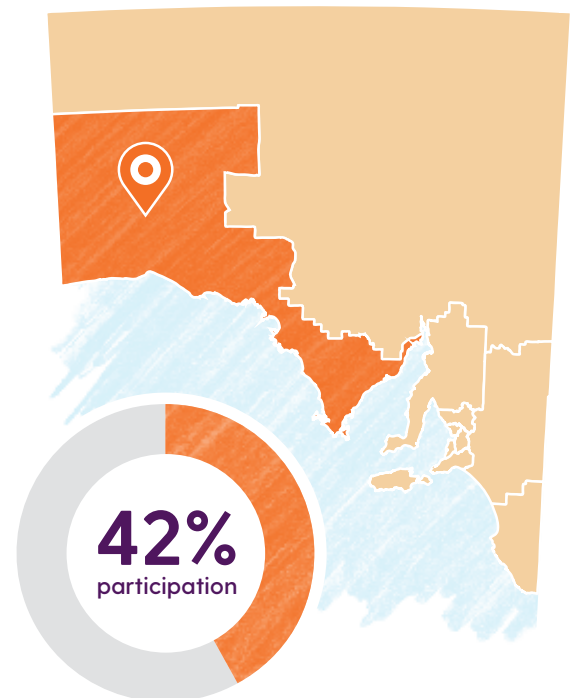
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **465** postcards received from children attending **16** schools across the **Eyre and Western**.

The 16 participating schools in Eyre and Western included:

- **15** out of 34 Government schools
- **1** out of 2 Independent schools

Schools in Eyre and Western are in the following Local Government Areas:

- City of Port Lincoln
- City of Whyalla
- District Council of Ceduna
- District Council of Cleve
- District Council of Elliston
- District Council of Franklin Harbour
- District Council of Kimba
- District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula
- District Council of Streaky Bay
- District Council of Tumby Bay
- UIA Whyalla
- Wudinna District Council





Views on their local community

Some children wrote about their local community. One child wanted grownups to know 'tumbly is a good place to live'. Others wrote about their local football team in Port Lincoln, worrying 'if Bostons win their grand Finals' and 'if Bostons win or lost', and writing that the world would be better if 'evrer one to go for Bostons'.

Children also wrote that the world would be better if 'we had more playgrounds' and 'more swings', and 'There were more people at my school'. They also want grownups 'to take over-fishing seriously'.

“ [The world would be better if...] we had a grand stand around our oval.” (8, boy)



Views on the environment

Caring for the environment was a focus for many children. They wrote that the world would be better if 'it was cleaner', 'people did not liter and hurt the planet', and we 'help sea animals'. The world would be better if 'we stop putution together' and 'we go full green energy'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] to stop littering rubbish so when us kids become Adults we have a good future.” (9, girl)

“ [The world would be better if...] we could keep our oceans clean so the fish and sea animals don't die.” (9, boy)



Views on rights and ideas

Having more rights and responsibilities was a desire for some children in Eyre and Western. They want grownups to know 'that kids are rasponsabal' and 'kids can make their own decisions'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that we should get a bit more responsibility in life. Like getting trust more often or staying up a little later.” (10, girl)

“ [I want grownups to know...] that children have a voice too, and want to be heard too.” (12, girl)



Views on money and fairness

Children in Eyre and Western enjoy the freedom they have, without having to pay bills or taxes, or have a job. They also shared the best thing about being a kid is 'you dont have to worry about money' and 'That the adults pay for you'. Some wrote that the world would be better if 'ther was free food', 'less money for petral', and 'shops Are Free'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] you don't haft to pay for food and the house bills.”
(10, girl)



Enjoyment and being me

Children in the Eyre and Western region enjoy playing, having fun, and 'chilling'. Many named different activities they view as the best thing about being a kid, including sports like football and tennis, playing games, and playing with toys, reading, playing video games and watching TV. Others liked swimming, playing on the swings, 'going camping and caching tad pols' and 'Building with pillow and blankit'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] playing sport, being with friends and playing games.”
(11, girl)

Children also want grownups to know more about them, including their hobbies and interests. They want them to know that they like gymnastics and playing basketball, and that they're good at art and maths.



Views on school

Children in Eyre and Western shared their experiences of school, with some positive and some negative comments. Some enjoyed 'that we go to school and get to learn' and that they get to see their teacher.

Some children worry about 'being a failure in school' and some viewed the world as being better without school or homework. Others worry about starting high school in the future.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] going to school and making new friends and having fun.”
(8, boy)



Relationships, kindness, and equality

Relationships with others are important to children in Eyre and Western. For some the best thing about being a kid was playing sports together, having 'sleepovers with besties', and 'cracking jokes with friends'. Others noted friendship issues, 'having no friends to play with', and their worries about bullying.

Family was also important, with some children appreciating being able to live and spend time with parents, siblings, and other family members. Children also worry about something happening to their family members.

“ [I want grownups to know...] I love my family, grandparents, parents, and dogs.” (10, boy)

“ [I worry about...] my family because my family is my world.” (8, girl)

Children’s concerns with relationships stretch more broadly, with several wanting more kindness in the world. Some wrote the world would be better if ‘everyone got treated equally’, ‘racism wasn’t a thing’, ‘People were nice to each other’ and ‘everyone was kind’. They wanted no war and shared that the world would be better if ‘countries talk about peace’.

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

