

# What children in the Far North 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.

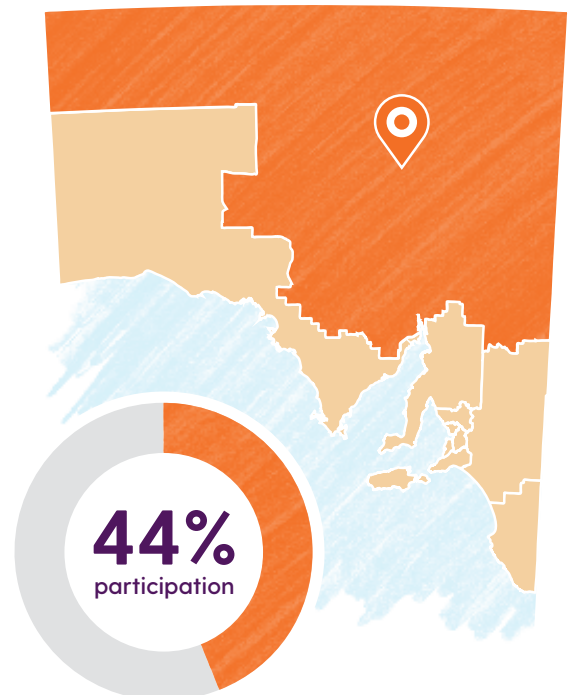


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In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **541** postcards received from children attending **12** schools across the **Far North**.

Schools in the Far North are in the following Local Government Areas:

- District Council of Coober Pedy
- Flinders Ranges Council
- Port Augusta City Council
- Municipal Council of Roxby Downs





## Views on their local community

Some children in the Far North suggested improvements for their local area. They shared that they wanted a 'bigger shop in Mimili with candy bigger playground', 'a water slide' and 'a city' in Port Augusta, and a 'Bigger skatepark at roxby downs'. Others more generally shared that the world would be better if 'we had a waterpark', 'we had a better gokart track', and we had 'more pools'.

Others shared things relevant to their local communities, such as enjoying 'going for goanna' and 'getting to find lizards', as well as 'play footy with Roxby downs football association'. One child wanted grownups to know they 'went to Pukatja'. Some children also made comments about the weather, noting that the world would be better if 'Roxby would not be so hot' and 'Ther was rain in mt lyndhurst'.



## Views on the environment

Children in the Far North wrote about their concern for the environment, where the world would be better if 'people care about the environments'. In particular, the world would be better if 'everyone picked up their rubbish' and 'every thing was recyclable or reusable'. Some shared that the world would be better if 'Climate change was not a thing'.

**“ [The world would be better if...] everyone stopped littering and there were no war and no people died in the war and if everyone were kind and very nice and not being a bully all the time.” (8, girl)**



## Views on rights and ideas

Children in the Far North want grownups to know that children are responsible and have ideas and rights. They emphasised 'that I am responsabal', 'My oppinion matters', and 'I am old enough to do stuff by myself'. Others wanted grownups to know that 'Some kids can change the world'.



## Views on money and fairness

Having no adult responsibilities was frequently mentioned as the best thing about being a kid by children in the Far North. Children wrote about 'not paying the bills', 'Not having a job', and not having to 'worry about money'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] I can go to the shops to buy things i like instead of paying bills.” (10, girl)**

They want to end homelessness and hunger, where everyone has access to housing and 'infinite food and water'.

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## Enjoyment and being me

Children in the Far North region wrote about the enjoyment and fun they have in their lives, and the things they like to do. They often wrote the best thing about being a kid is playing and 'you can have so much fun'. This includes 'playing lots of games', playing sport, and playing on the playground, as well as watching TV and listening to music.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] fun, play 4 square, going for a walk, going to the horse yard, going for goanna + lizard.” (11, boy)**

They want grownups to know more about them, including things they enjoy or are good at like 'playing cricket', 'Playing in the sandpit', and 'Running fast through the air'. They want adults to know their favourite sports, hobbies, and food, as well as their names and their allergies.

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## Views on school

Some children in the Far North enjoy going to school and 'learning stuff', while for others school causes them to worry. Their worries relating to school include 'being late for school', as well as failing and 'getting good grades'.

Children want grownups to know a range of things about school, with some writing they 'love' school and some writing they 'hate' school. While some children want grownups to know 'that i'm doing well in school' and they like subjects like 'pe and art', others wrote that 'school is boring', 'school is hard', and 'homework sucks'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] that it is easier to learn new things and get better at school subjects to get an A.” (11, girl)**



## Relationships, kindness, and equality

Children in the Far North care for, and worry about, their family and friends. Children enjoy having and spending time with friends and family. They like ‘being with my friends’, ‘playing sport with my friends’, and ‘having a loving family’.

Family is a main worry for children in the Far North. They worry about ‘My family dying’ and ‘losing family members’, as well as ‘my brothers and sisters, if they get hurt’.

**“ [I worry about...] my Tjamu (grandfather) because he’s sick in Port Augusta. He take me to the shop.” (9, girl)**

They also wrote that the world would be better if there was more kindness, where ‘everyone could get along’. They want no bullying or fighting and ‘we don’t hurt each other’. They also wanted ‘no racism, sexism and mean people’.

**“ [The world would be better if...] there was no violence or cruelty and treating people with respect.” (9, girl)**

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

