

THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

What children in Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island 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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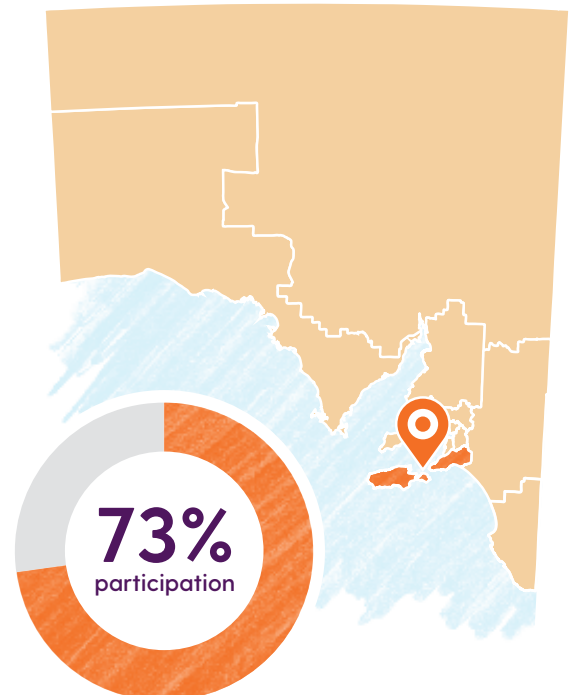
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **438** postcards received from children attending **11** schools across **Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island**.

The **11** participating schools in Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island included:

- **9** Government schools
- **2** Independent schools

Schools in Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island are located in the following Local Government Areas:

- Alexandrina Council
- Kangaroo Island Council
- City of Victor Harbor
- District Council of Yankalilla





Views on their local community

Several children in Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island wrote about 'living on a farm' or 'farm work!!' as some of the best things about being a kid. At the same time, some children worry about 'falling off my moter bike' or 'crashing my padoc car and motorbikes badly'. Others shared worries about the future of their farm, including whether they will 'always having my houses' or the impact of 'Dangerous disasters' like bushfires or floods on their animals or paddocks.

“ [I worry about...] my family farm for 6 genarashions will stop because me and my brother don't want to work on the farm.” (11, girl)

Sport was another focus of responses in this region, with several children drawing pictures of their local teams or leagues. They would like there to 'be more football, basketball and cricket' and if 'people respected sport more' and 'if every country playd afl'. They also worry about their teams 'not making the finals'.

Other children want greater respect for animals and the environment in their local areas, sharing that the world would be better if there were 'more horses', 'more animal centres', 'more plant, animal and trees', 'less buildings and more nature' and if 'People stopped letting cat\dogs on granite island'.



Views on the environment

Protecting the environment is important to children in Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, with many wishing that 'Globe warming/Climate change was nothing to worry about', and that there was less pollution. They want people to 'care more about the wild life, on land and in sea', and 'put there rubbish in the bin every day'. They also care and worry about endangered animals and native animals, as well as their own animals, particularly horses, 'sheep and rams'. Some children worry about getting bitten or 'eaten' by a snake or spider, while others want to be able to 'speek animal langig' or 'get a Brother or sister for my puppy'.

“ [I worry about...] when climate change is gonna stop. I also worry about Homework.” (9, boy)



Views on rights and ideas

Children across Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island shared that the world would be better if 'children had rights' and if grownups 'would listen and understand what kids are concerned about in todays world'. This included understanding that children 'have the same rights as anyone', that 'kids have changed and need more privacy', and that they 'can make some good decions and arnt always silly'.



Views on money and fairness

While some children wrote about 'not having to work or worry about money' as one of the best things about being a kid, others worry about the cost of things, 'everybody not having a fair life', 'not having enough money for my future chicks' and 'having to pay bills when I grow up'. They wrote that the world would be better if the 'cost of living would be lower' and if 'you could go to a country or continent for free'. They shared that the world would be fairer if 'everyone had the same money' or if there were 'money trees' or 'no such thing as money'.



Enjoyment and being me

Children in the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island region wrote about enjoying having free time to have fun with friends, family, pets and other animals. They like playing a range of games, sports and outdoor activities, including horse riding, camping, fishing, and motorbike riding. They enjoy 'reading and learning things to make us smart', being able to 'dream big things', and having 'a lot of time for new hobbies' and to 'see new and cool things' in a range of places, including at school or on the farm. They also like having holidays, 'having the best desert' and 'not being sore'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] being able to do all my cool tricks and doing cheerleading.”
(9, girl)**

They want grownups to know more about what they enjoy or are good at, including 'sheep work', climbing, and music. They also wanted grownups to know what they want to do in the future, including to be a farmer, an AFL player, or a gamer. Some children would like more time to relax and 'to lose energy', including being able to 'play longer' and 'draw more pictures and write more stories'.



Views on school

Children across Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island want grownups to know more about school, including that 'I like school when my friends are there' and 'that I sometimes do fabulous work'. They also wrote about how stressful and challenging work and homework can be, how they are trying, and which high schools they want to go to. Their ideas about what would make school better included 'better school bullying management', if 'schools taught video games', and if 'we had pe once a day'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] school should not just be about being smart.” (11, boy)



Relationships, kindness, and equality

Children across Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island wrote about a range of important people and animals in their lives, including their family, friends, and pets. They want grownups to know that they ‘care lots about them’ and ‘that we appreciate all the sacrifices they make for us’. They also want grownups to know it can be ‘hard making friendships’ and that ‘everyone Deserves to be happy’.

They shared that the world would be better if people ‘didn’t discriminate against looks’ and if everyone would ‘know everyone is equal’, listen to each other more, and ‘get along no mater what the gender or culture’.

“ [I want grownups to know...] there is no need to divide people because of their religion, colour or sexuality. always be there for children.” (12, girl)

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

