

## THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

# What children in Limestone Coast 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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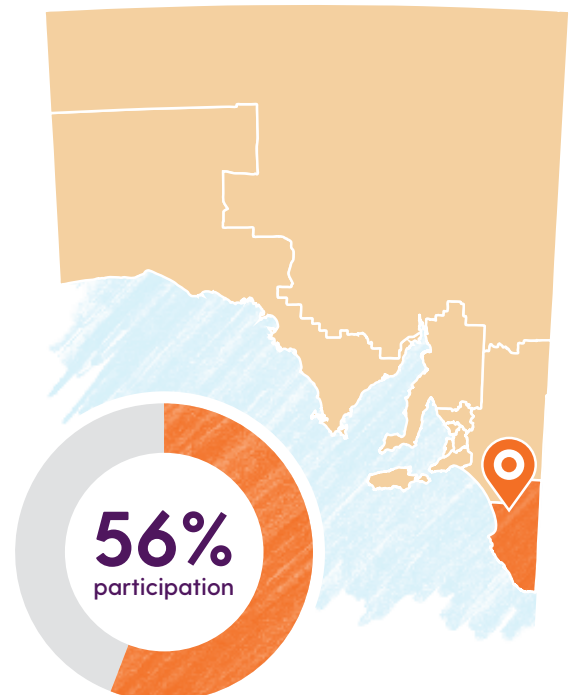
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated including **823** postcards received from children attending **22** schools across **Limestone Coast**.

The **22** participating schools in Limestone Coast included:

- **19** out of 34 Government schools
- **2** out of 3 Catholic schools
- **1** out of 2 Independent schools

Schools in Limestone Coast are in the following Local Government Areas:

- City of Mount Gambier
- District Council of Grant
- District Council of Robe
- Kingston District Council
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- Tatiara District Council
- Wattle Range Council





## Views on their local community

Some children focused on what would improve their local community, including if 'they Built the ACG (Angas cricket ground)' and 'big planes got to naracoorte areodrone'. Others shared that the world would be better if 'there were more areas for kids', 'Nearly every place had wheelchair entrances', 'we can have a big pancake shop', and there were more hospitals, teachers, doctors, and vets.

**“ [The world would be better if...] in every town we could have a local park with lots of plants and places to have picnics.” (10, girl)**

Others wanted 'more clean areas that are playgrounds shops' and wanted grownups to know 'That we sometimes don't like playground or shops because they might be dirty or to young for us'.

Others wrote about their life in the local community, including one who shared the website to their family's winery, and another who wrote the best thing about being a kid is 'getting lots of crae'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] that you get Better learning expirensing living in the country.” (11, boy)**



## Views on the environment

The environment is also important to children in Limestone Coast. They wrote about the world being better if 'people didn't litter' and there was 'less pollution'. They are concerned about trees being cut down, wildlife, and the oceans and lakes. They also want 'affordable environmentally friendly power and affordable electric cars'.

**“ [I want grownups to know...] to take care of the earth so it can be better in the fuchre.” (9, boy)**



## Views on rights and ideas

Children in Limestone Coast want grownups to know that children are responsible and have ideas and rights. Children wrote that 'we need to be heard' and 'that kids have good ideas too'.

**“ [I want grownups to know...] that us kids have our rights.” (10, girl)**



## Views on money and fairness

Children in Limestone Coast wrote that one of the best things about being a kid was not needing to worry about bills, money, or taxes, and not having a job or needing to do work around the house, such as cooking food.

Some wrote that the world would be better if everyone had money or everything was free or at least less expensive, and if 'evry thing was low price' and 'my mum was rich'. They also shared that the world would be better 'if people were'nt hungry and homeless' and 'there was no peoplo with out money'. Others wrote about the need for a higher minimum wage.



## Enjoyment and being me

Children in the Limestone Coast region like playing and having fun. They wrote about playing with toys and Lego, and playing sports, games, and video games. They also enjoy climbing trees and playing on the playground. Some wrote that the best thing about being a kid is you 'get to read Harry potter', 'I can ride My horse after school', and having teddies. Ultimately, the best thing about being a kid is 'to have all the fun'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] that we get to play games more because we don't have a job.” (11, girl)**

Several children in Limestone Coast want grownups to know 'all about me'. This includes that they are 'nice', 'helpful', and 'not good at some things'. They want grownups to know that they like a range of things, such as sport, maths, toys, Lego, and particular colours. They also want grownups to know about their feelings, including that they are happy, as well as what they worry about and that 'sometimes i need some time alone!'



## Views on school

Some children view school and learning as the best things about being a kid. This includes seeing friends at school and 'learning new stuff at school'. Others want to tell grownups 'I know my phonics because I feel proud about it'. Ultimately, all children should have the opportunity to go to school, with one child suggesting the world would be better if 'we had more public schools so people who can't afford private schools can go to school'.

On the other hand, some children worry about school, including 'getting homework' and transitioning to high school. Some children wrote that the world would be better if school was improved, including having shorter school days or weeks and if there was a school pool and 'the classes all had class pets'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] school friends and kind caring teachers that care about me.” (11, girl)**



## Relationships, kindness, and equality

Having and spending time with friends and family is viewed as a positive aspect of being a child. Children enjoy ‘being able to see my friends’ and ‘Growing up with loving families’. However, children in Limestone Coast also worry about their family, particularly something happening to them or being separated from them. They also worry about friends and bullying, with some specifying worries about ‘Making friends’, ‘being Left out’, and ‘people bullying me’.

**“ [I worry about...] my sister and family. I get scared when I don’t know if my parents are ok. I also get worried about my sister... A LOT.” (10, girl)**

Children across Limestone Coast wrote about the world being better if there was more kindness. They want a world where ‘we worked as a team’, ‘we helped each other’, and ‘we could respect each other’. They want no bullying and ‘If People didn’t Pick on other kids’. Children also want a world without racism or discrimination, and where ‘war was not a thing’ and there was ‘world peace’. Others want everyone to be happy.

**“ [The world would be better if...] every one was treated better and not bullied and If the world would get treated better because some people dont care about our planet and they end up messing our planet up!!” (10, girl)**

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

