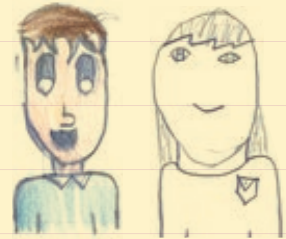


## THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

# What children in Murray and Mallee 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.



ccyp.com.au

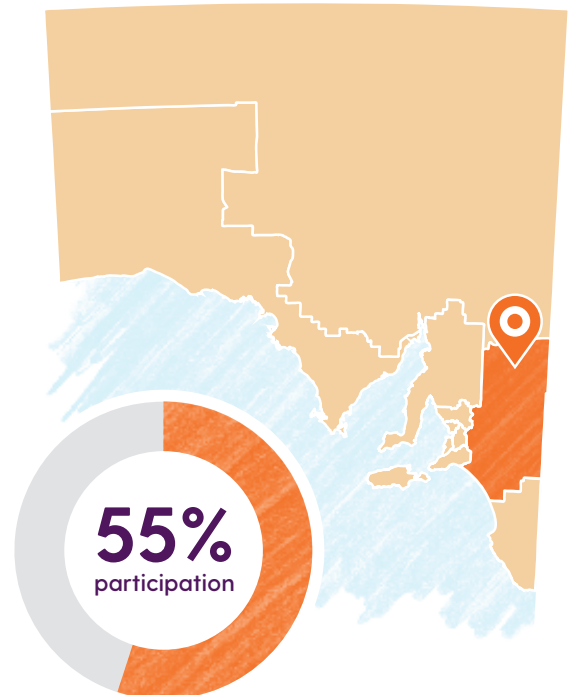
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **1,218** postcards received from children attending **28** schools across **Murray and Mallee**.

The **28** participating schools in Murray and Mallee included:

- **25** out of 40 Government schools
- **1** out of 5 Catholic schools
- **2** out of 5 Independent schools

Schools in Murray and Mallee are in the following Local Government Areas:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Southern Mallee District Council
- UIA Riverland





## Views on their local community

Many local examples were given by children in Murray and Mallee. They want 'more places like parks and nature areas', 'a finished bmx track', and that 'each town had a skate park to keep kids healthy'.

**“ [The world would be better if...] there were more public parks, community centres, Racing tracks ect.” (8, boy)**

They also want grownups to know they 'would rather drive a tractor than go to school', 'I should spend more time in front of the TV than on the farm', 'I want to open a farm', and 'that I'm the first boy in the RMNA [River Murray Netball Association] to play netball'.

**“ [I want grownups to know...] about how lucky I am to live on a farm and I go on my farm almost every day after school!” (8, girl)**

Children also worry about local things like 'going on my own farm without Dad', 'Harvest', and 'seeing the Murray Bridge Bunyip'.



## Views on the environment

Children in Murray and Mallee shared that the world would be better if people cared more for the environment. They want no plastic or 'junk' in the oceans, and wished 'plastic never existed', including plastic bags. The world would be better if 'it was cleaner'. They worry about sea life and 'climate change becoming a problem for us'.

**“ [The world would be better if...] people would clean up the ocean and Earth instead of it being all trashy.” (11, girl)**



## Views on rights and ideas

Children in Murray and Mallee want grownups to know that they have rights. They want grownups to know that 'kid's do mater' and 'kids have ideas too'.

**“ [The world would be better if...] young voices had a important say before the rules become rules.” (11, girl)**



## Views on money and fairness

Children in Murray and Mallee described the best thing about being a kid as having 'no bills and stuff like that', including no taxes, and not having a job or needing to cook food. At the same time, some children worried about 'the cost of living going up' and 'the price for everything'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] you get a free meal from the Loxton Club.” (11, girl)**



## Enjoyment and being outdoors

In the Murray and Mallee region children wrote about enjoying life and having fun. They like sports and physical activities including football, soccer, basketball, cricket, running, swimming, and karate, along with riding motorbikes, dirt bikes, push bikes, and horses. Some wrote that they enjoy farming, climbing trees, playing on the playground, going to the skate park, and playing on the trampoline. They enjoy playing with toys and playing games, gaming, playing with Lego and Play Doh, and having sleepovers.

Others like fishing, feeding their dog and chickens, cooking, arts and crafts, singing and music. Some wrote about growing up in the country, where they 'can go on the tractor with dad' and 'have more time to spend with my goats'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] if you live in the country most kids get to be free. and ponies.” (9, girl)**

They want grownups to know more about them including 'that they are good at writing, acrobatics, and tennis, and 'excellent at maths'. They also want grownups to know that they 'like wildlife and the farm', and that they 'know karate' and 'do dance'.



## Views on school

Some children in Murray and Mallee enjoy school, while others find it challenging. Some children view the best thing about being a kid as 'learning' and 'You can go to school', and enjoy activities like Athletics.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] is the fact you can be educated like at school because I think learning is wonderful.” (10, girl)**

Other children worry about going to school. In particular children shared that they worry about school work, 'getting bad marks at school', doing 'spelling tests and math tests', and 'getting Fs on tests at school'. They also worry about getting to school on time and about going to high school.



## Relationships, kindness, and equality

Friends and family are important to children in the Murray and Mallee. For some children the best thing about being a kid is 'you have good friends to play with', 'having a lot of friends', and 'living with my parents'. They also worry about their friends and family, particularly their parents and siblings.

**“ [The world would be better if...] there was more kids because then I could make even more friends.” (7, girl)**

Many children shared that the world would be better with more kindness, no bullies, and 'no mean people'. It would be better if 'the world would be Nicer', 'all the world was kind', and 'everybody included every one and be kind'. Ultimately, 'people need to care about each other'.

**“ [I want grownups to know...] that we should not just think about just ourselves we should think of others around us!” (10, girl)**

Children also wrote that the world would be better if there was no war, and that 'countrys didn't go to war!' Others expressed the need for 'equal right's' and how it would be better if 'People with disabilities were treated like humans and treated equalaly'.

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

I want more skate Parks in towns.

