

THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

What children in Northern Adelaide 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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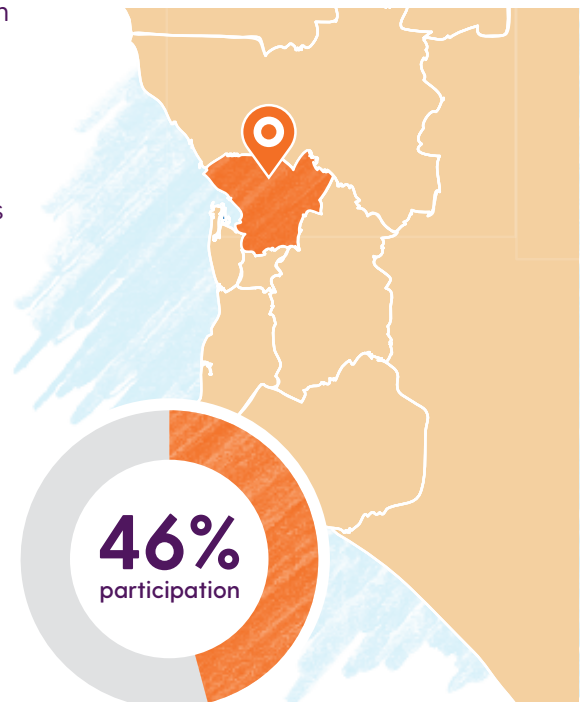
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **2,622** postcards received from children attending **50** schools across **Northern Adelaide**.

The **50** participating schools in Northern Adelaide included:

- **34** out of 75 Government schools
- **8** out of 14 Catholic schools
- **8** out of 20 Independent schools

Schools in Northern Adelaide are in the following Local Government Areas:

- City of Playford
- City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- City of Salisbury
- City of Tea Tree Gully





Views on their local community

Some children in Northern Adelaide mentioned their local communities. Some shared that the world would be better if 'there was more skate parks' and 'police don't put concrete bareay's a skatparks'. Others wanted 'more basketball parks', 'more buses', and 'more mcdonalds playgrounds'.

Others suggested the world would be better if 'We had more police and Ambalances to make a better world', there were 'more trains in Adelaide', and if Adelaide 'had more fun stuff not [only] the royal adelaide show'.

“ [The world would be better if...] there would be a basketball team for every school (including [my school]).” (11, boy)



Views on the environment

Children in Northern Adelaide worry about the environment and climate change. They shared that the world would be better 'if people stopped littering' and 'we stopped using plastic'. It would also be better if 'we didn't cut down so many trees' and that if 'you cut a tree you haf to plant a tree'. Ultimately, the world would be better if 'people actually take care of our planet'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] if you use to much Plastik it will end up in the oshen.” (9, boy)

“ [The world would be better if...] there was no pollotion and the world woulnt have climate change.” (12, girl)



Views on rights and ideas

Children expressed their desire to be heard and for grownups to support their rights. They want grownups to know that their 'here, pay attention', and 'that kids have a voice and feelings too', and 'deserve a good childhood'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that we have our own rights.” (9, boy)



Views on money and fairness

Children in Northern Adelaide enjoyed having no adult responsibilities such as no bills or taxes to pay, no need to go to work, and not having to pay for anything. They also wrote that the world would be better if there was no poverty and no hunger, and if ‘things cost less’, ‘rent was free’, and ‘money grows on trees’.

“ [I worry about...] kids and adults living in Poverty and not completing the 17 sustainable goals.” (11, girl)



Enjoyment and being me

Children going to school in the Northern Adelaide region enjoy playing and having fun, including playing with toys, Lego, and Pokémon cards, and on an iPad. They also liked computer gaming, imagination games and playing sport, drawing, being outside, and going to the park. Children wrote the best thing about being a kid was ‘having fun and going to fun places’ and ‘having fun in every second’.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] having more free time to yourself.” (10, boy)

They want grownups to know more about who they are. They shared their feelings about what they like to do and what they are good at, such as playing basketball, solving Rubik’s cubes, and creating art. However, some children want grownups to know that ‘it’s not easy being a kid all the time’.



Views on school

Some children in Northern Adelaide enjoy school and viewed it as one of the best things about being a kid. They wrote that ‘you have very good times in school’ and it was good ‘learning about math’ and ‘learning new things’.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] learning at school! I love learning all the subjects!” (8, girl)

For other children, school and school transitions were a worry. They worried about ‘my grades and my handwriting’, ‘when I struggle with my work’, and ‘Studies and test’. Some wanted grownups to know ‘I try my Hardest in school’ and shared the world would be better if ‘School was fun and exciting’, ‘every teacher had my back’, and ‘We had more things to play with on the oval’.



Relationships, kindness, and equality

Friends and family were viewed by many children in Northern Adelaide as one of the best things about being a kid. Children wrote the best thing was 'I still have my parents' and 'Being LoveD by my family Lot's'. They also worry about the health and welfare of their family. Several children wrote the world would be better with no sickness or disease.

Some shared that the best thing about being a kid was their friends, where 'I get to play with my friends' and 'I hav lots of friends'. Some children worry about friends and bullying, like 'people bullying and being mean', 'getting new friends', and 'Being Picked on at high school'.

**“ [The world would be better if...] there was no Bullying and also if the world was fullled with kindness and if the world was filled with peeice.”
(11, girl)**

For many children, the world would be better with more kindness, if 'there was more kind hearted people', 'we accepted each other', and 'There was no mean people in the world'. Children envisage a world in which 'every one was equal', 'everyone Respected other cultures', and 'racism was gone'. Others wrote about no war and 'people Just listened and work together'.

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

