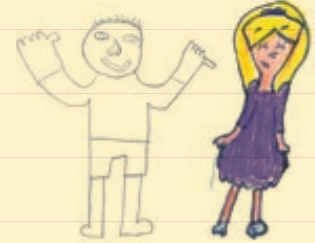


THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

What children in Southern 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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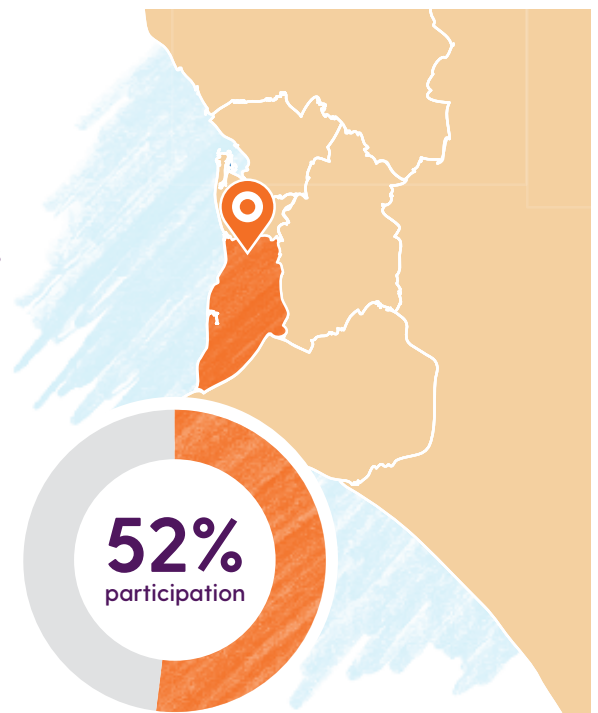
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **2,649** postcards from children attending **53** schools across **Southern Adelaide**.

The **53** participating schools in Southern Adelaide included:

- **40** out of 64 Government schools
- **7** out of 17 Catholic schools
- **6** out of 21 Independent schools

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

- City of Holdfast Bay
- City of Marion
- City of Mitcham
- City of Onkaparinga





Views on their local community

Children in Southern Adelaide have many ideas about what would make their local communities more fun, better, and safer. They want more ‘playgrounds and ovals everywhere we go’, ‘more pet friendly parks’, ‘more nature play, like glenthorne’, ‘more nature paths’, and ‘more trees to climb’. Others want there to be free Wi-Fi and free public transport. Some children want it to be safer to ‘walk throughout my suburb’ or ‘in the city at night’.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that in my area there are not a lot of street lights because sometimes when my parents and I go home we cant see much in the night.” (11, boy)

Children want more sporting clubs for a variety of sporting activities and in a range of suburbs across Southern Adelaide, including ‘more footy and cricket ovals because my club Keswick dosent have a home ground’ and ‘more soccer pitches, especially Mitchell park’.

They shared that the world would be better if there were more bike tracks and skate parks, particularly in Willunga, Aldinga, and McLaren Vale, and if ‘good young skaters are allowed to skate past 6pm’. Others wrote about needing ‘more aquriums and marine reserves’, ‘more amusement parks and rollercoasters’, ‘more maroon [macaron] shops’, and a ‘dinosarus museum in mopheet vale’.



Views on the environment

Looking after the environment is a top concern for children in schools across Southern Adelaide. They wrote that the world would be better if there were ‘more strict laws to help protect the environment’ and more renewable energy, including electric cars. They also want grownups to ‘invest in solar panels for local schools!’ They worry about the future of the planet, linking this to the need to ‘make the planet safer’ and to ‘keep water safe’.

“ [I worry about...] species becoming extinct and single use plastic because our future is being affected and I dont want to live in a polluted future.” (11, boy)



Views on rights and ideas

Children in Southern Adelaide shared that kids have 'important ideas and rights' that 'should be respected like grown ups'. The world would be better 'if kids could vote', or 'kids aged 10 or over can be councillors as well'. They value independence and want grownups to 'trust me with more things' and to 'not look down on kids my age'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that us kids are intelligent so before adults make random choices without telling children they could make sure on what they think about it.” (11, girl)



Views on money and fairness

Not having to 'pay for things' was named as one of the best things about being a kid. At the same time, children worry about the cost of things. They shared that the world would be better if 'things were cheaper', 'food was limitless', 'no one was homeless', and 'everyone had their dream job, or even a job because the depression rate would go down'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] not having to deal with bills & taxes. Apparently Money is a Gift & a curse.” (11, girl)



Enjoyment and being me

Children attending school in the Southern Adelaide region wrote about the importance of enjoying 'our childhood while it lasts', including being able to 'eat whatever you want' and that 'you wont be Judged on watching disney and playing with toys'. They like being 'fit', 'fast', and 'energetic', and 'being able to do multiple sports', including playing soccer and cricket, and doing gymnastics and swimming. Other popular activities include having sleepovers, reading, and drawing. They also like having opportunities to learn new things, such as 'how to sing and learning Braille' or 'how to mountain bike with my dad'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] we have more oppitunities that most adualts dont, like going rock climbing and fancy oppitunities.” (10, girl)

They want grownups to know more about their interests and what they are good at, including knowing that 'I'm the best guitarist in the school' or 'that when i get angry I like to play soccer to calm down'. Others want grownups to know that 'sometimes we need more attention' or that they would like more time to play and have fun together.



Views on school

While some children across Southern Adelaide enjoy going to school to have 'a good education' and 'time to hang out with friends', they also worry about their grades and school transitions. This includes 'not being able to adjust to being in high school' or 'not being in my friends class next year'. They want grownups to 'listen when kids are talking about troubles at school' and to know 'what kids want to learn at school'.

They shared that the world would be better if 'school work could be more active and artistic', if 'kids could teleport to school to make it easier for parents' and 'school fees lowered'. Uniforms would be better if these were 'less formal', and school would be better if there was 'a calm room'. Others wrote that school would be better if there was 'more discos and sausage sizzles', 'a skate park and soccer goals', and if children were 'allowed to laugh and talk in class'. Children said they also wanted opportunities to 'play educating games like Minecraft education edition'.



Relationships, kindness, and equality

Relationships with friends and family are important to children in Southern Adelaide. They care about the health and wellbeing of their loved ones, and they worry about losing, 'growing apart from', or something bad happening to their friends and family.

They want grownups to know that relationships can be 'harder when you're younger', and that the world would be better if everyone 'was truthful', 'played fairly', and had 'a safe space to go to!'

Children in Southern Adelaide also want the world to be a kinder and more equal place, with no sickness, no bullying, no violence, and no racism or sexism.

“ [The world would be better if...] people didn't judge people just on what they looked like and be more accepting and respectful of everything and everyone around us.” (12, girl)

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