

THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

What children in Western 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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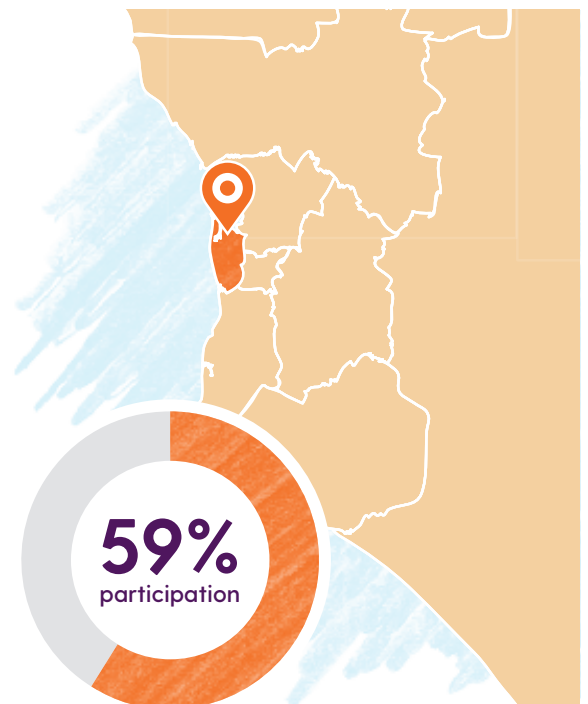
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **1,573** postcards from children attending **34** schools across **Western Adelaide**.

The **34** participating schools in Western Adelaide included:

- **23** out of 34 Government schools
- **10** out of 20 Catholic schools
- **1** out of 5 Independent schools

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

- City of Charles Sturt
- City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- City of West Torrens





Views on their local community

Children in Western Adelaide wrote about their local community when suggesting what would make the world better. This included suggestions such as 'if we had more playgrounds', and 'there [was] a soccer feild every were', and 'roads for bike riding' with no cars. They also wrote the world would be better if 'there was a bigger water park', and 'Sushi shops everywhere you go'. One child wanted grownups to know 'about Hendrie St. Park', an inclusive playground outside Western Adelaide.

“ [The world would be better if...] if we have more Water Parks in SA and diffuient fast food place that we don't have in SA.” (11, girl)



Views on the environment

Children in Western Adelaide shared that the world would be better if more care was taken of the environment, there was less pollution and plastic, and more recycling. They wrote it would be better if 'The government payed more attention to the polution', that 'People stopped throwing rubbish on the grownd', and 'we clean the world'.

“ [The world would be better if...] everyone cares about the emivormentnt so that means to stop littering and to care about the animals.” (9, girl)

“ [The world would be better if...] we recycle more, and try to re-use things, instead of using a thing only once.” (10, girl)

They also want 'green energy' and 'less coal mines and more wind turbines', along with electric cars instead of 'petrol and disel cars'.



Views on rights and ideas

Children in Western Adelaide want grownups to know that children have rights and should be asked what they want. They want grownups to know 'That we are not THAT insignifigant' and 'That Im the Boss of my self'. They also want grownups to know 'that we need grownUPS to listion more', 'That kids can put their choices into arguments', and 'that kids deserve more privacy'.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that sometimes they have to let us kids talk and tell them what we know.” (10, boy)

“ [The world would be better if...] every country has democracy and citizens including children and teenagers can vote.” (12, girl)



Views on money and fairness

Some children wrote the best thing about being a kid is having no adult responsibilities 'like no bills, work, tax, or rent'. This included not having to worry about, or earn money, and not having to pay for anything.

“ [I want grownups to know...] that taxes, bills, rent, Petrol and food are OUT OF THIS WORLD CRAZY EXPENSIVE.” (11, girl)



Enjoyment and being me

Children attending school in the Western Adelaide region named many best things about being a kid, relating to things they like to do. They enjoy playing video games and boardgames, reading books and magazines, listening to music, making things, and playing with their toys. They also like riding their bikes and skateboards, playing on the playground, and 'bouncing on the trampoline'.

Some children named their favourite sports and activities such as rugby, basketball, gymnastics, soccer, swimming, ice hockey, surfing, and cheerleading. Others like 'going bowling', 'messy play', 'doing cartwheels', and 'watching k-pop and learning the dances'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] computer trampoline TV Lego puzzle play outside read ride a bike treasure map puzzle video game headphones.” (9, boy)

Children also want grownups to know 'a little bit about me'. They want them to know what they like and what their interests are, as well as what kind of person they are. Some children wrote that they want adults to know they 'like drawing', that they're 'a sporty kid', and 'a really creative person' or 'love doing coding and robotics!' Others shared that they are 'very sensitive', 'can solve the rubix cube', and 'love to make my brother and other kids laugh'.



Views on school

School was an area which some children in Western Adelaide wrote positively about, whereas others were less positive. Some viewed school as the best thing about being a kid. They wrote that it was a place where 'you get to go to lovely school' and 'you get to learn in school from fabulous teachers'. They liked playing at school, doing worksheets, and 'going to school and seeing my SSOs'.

“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] to have fun and learn new things that I never did before for my year level.” (10, girl)

Other children worry about aspects of school like exams and tests, ‘Grads and spelling’, and ‘getting C, D, E & Fs for my report’, and ‘Not getting such things as homework or projects up on time’. Some also worry about high school, including being bullied.

Children in Western Adelaide want grownups to know about their school experiences and what would make school better for them. For some, ‘school is too easy and needs to be harder’, while others found school ‘boring’ or ‘way too long’ and need help with school or ‘don’t want to go’ to school.



Relationships, kindness, and equality

Family and friends were important to children in Western Adelaide. Some wrote that the best thing about being a kid is getting to ‘hang out with my family’, ‘being a big brother’ or ‘play[ing] video games with my friends’. Some children worry about their family, including their parents, siblings, and grandparents, while others worry about friends and the possibility of ‘losing friends that I absolutely love’.

Children also wrote about their desire for kindness and a world where ‘we would be one big family’. The world would be better if ‘everyone listened’, ‘people did kind actions’, and ‘you could help people more often’. Children in Western Adelaide wrote that they want to live in a world where everyone is nice and gets along, and that ‘the world had Peace’. They also want a world without racism or sexism.

“ [The world would be better if...] everyone was nice to each other. And fighting wasn’t even a thing.” (9, girl)

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