

## THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHILDREN

# What children in Yorke and Mid North 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.



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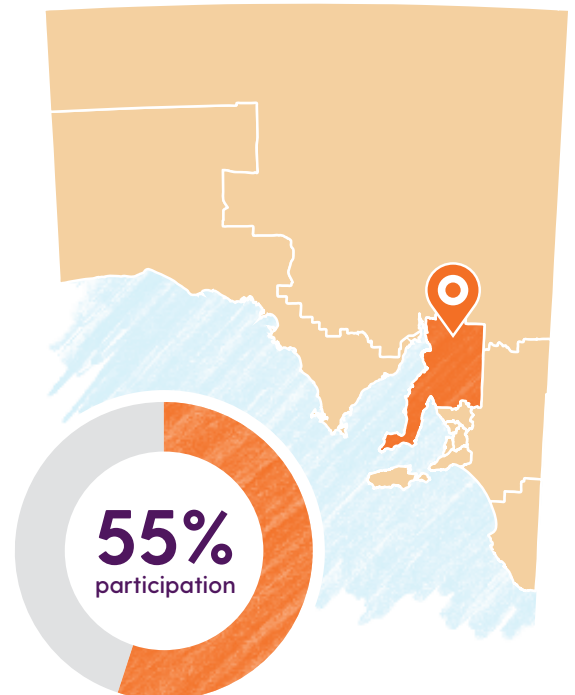
In 2022, 336 schools and 16,007 children participated, including **1,363** postcards from children attending **34** schools across **Yorke and Mid North**.

The **34** participating schools in Yorke and Mid North included:

- **27** out of 49 Government schools
- **3** out of 7 Catholic schools
- **4** out of 6 Independent schools

Schools in Yorke and Mid North are in the following Local Government Areas:

- Barunga West Council
- Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
- Copper Coast Council
- District Council of Mount Remarkable
- District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
- District Council of Peterborough
- Northern Areas Council
- Port Pirie Regional Council
- Regional Council of Goyder
- Wakefield Regional Council
- Yorke Peninsula Council





## Views on their local community

Children in Yorke and Mid North wrote about local places, including ‘running really fast one lap around the block in Port Clinton’. Some children worry about leaving their town, sharing that the world would be better if there were ‘more country towns’.

Children wrote that the world would be better if ‘there was a horse riding club in Maitland’, ‘more skate parks and playgrounds’, and ‘more volunteers and more Basketball Courts & footy ovals’. Some children in Yorke and Mid North worry about ‘not getting into the country cup’, while others want ‘more sporting opportunities’.

**“ [The world would be better if...] more pathways to play cricket for Australia from the country.” (10, boy)**

They want ‘better shops’, ‘more food places’ and ‘swimming pools at all the schools’, particularly in Moonta and Saddleworth. Others would like ‘better dentists’ and ‘bakeries with longer opening hours’. Some children enjoy going to the Adelaide Show and they would like it if there was ‘a Show in Bute’.

**“ [The world would be better if...] Wallroo had a bigger skate park. At the moment the one we have is small, old and broken. If we had a bigger skate park kids could be more active.” (12, boy)**

**“ [The world would be better...] if Edithburgh had a IGA.” (10, boy)**

They shared that the world would be better if ‘we apprehended farmers’ and ‘people actually paid attention to farmers’. Some shared worries about bushfires and droughts, ‘the farm’ or ‘people not wanting to work in dad’s shop’. Others wrote that the world would be better if ‘there was no snapper ban’ or if there ‘were tuna in the Spencer Gulf’.

While children in Yorke and Mid North enjoy riding bikes and living on a farm, they also shared worries about car crashes, ‘falling off’ motor-bikes or horses, and lawnmowers ‘blowing up’.

**“ [I worry about...] my parents getting in a car crash (there’s a lot of kangaroos where we live.)” (10, girl)**



## Views on the environment

The environment is important to children across Yorke and Mid North. They shared that the world would be better if ‘the carbon foot-print was smaller’, and if we ‘stop talking about climate change and the future, and do something about it’. They want people to ‘use eco-friendly things’, and to stop fossil fuel burning and habitat loss.

They worry about bushfires and animals that are ‘almost extinct’ including white rhinos. Some children want a transition to electric vehicles, while others shared that the world would be better if ‘we kept diesel cars’.

**“ [I worry about...] the enviroment, we litter alot and it hurts the enviroment so we Should Stop.”  
(9, non-binary)**



## Views on rights and ideas

Children in Yorke and Mid North shared that the world would be better if ‘kids got a say in rules that we don’t really get a say in but have to follow’. They want grownups to know that ‘kids have great ideas’ and the ‘same rights as adults’.

**“ [I want grownups to know...] that sometimes adults need to look in children’s brains and realise that we have alot to offer to the world and that all the things we do are for a reason.” (12, girl)**



## Views on money and fairness

Children in Yorke and Mid North are aware of the cost of living and the impact of ‘money problems’. They shared that the world would be better if all kids ‘have the same opportunitys’ and ‘the right to education even if u can’t afford it’. They also want ‘everyone to have a home’, as well as ‘free internet’, ‘unlimited fruit/veg’ and ‘access to all the toys they wanted’.

**“ [The world would be better if...] Australia’s internet was better and cheaper Because it will help small buisnesses that rely on it and new buisnesses.”  
(11, boy)**



## Enjoyment and being me

Children in the Yorke and Mid North region enjoy being able 'to live life to the best' and 'make memories that will last forever'. They like 'playing outside wherever and whenever I want', including climbing trees, riding bikes, camping, and 'staring at the moon!' They also wrote about getting 'kids meals at restaurants' and 'money from the tooth fairy'.

**“ [The best thing about being a kid is...] I am fit I get to go on bike rides and I can go fishing.” (10, boy)**

They want grownups to know what they are good at and what they enjoy, including that 'I can count to a hundred in Auslan', and 'Youtube is the best'. They shared that the world would better if 'we had more time to be curious', and there was more sport and 'MORE BOOKS!'



## Views on school

For some children in Yorke and Mid North, the best thing about being a kid includes seeing friends at school and 'learning with the best teacher'. Children also shared worries about 'covid making school unfunner' or having hard subjects and 'all different teachers' at high school. Some children at Warooka Primary School worry about 'changing bus to go to high school'.

They shared ideas to make school better and 'more fair and improved'. This included if 'kids should chose what lesson they want to take', 'if we could have phones at school', and if there was 'free fruit for kids in school'. Others wrote that 'homework doesnt help our learning' and that 'if school isn't a place for sleeping, home isn't a place for work'.



## Relationships, kindness, and equality

Children in Yorke and Mid North value their relationships and enjoy 'making new friends', 'being kind', and having 'many people that care for you'. They shared worries about loved ones, including their siblings being bullied, or their pets 'having a operation' or 'being safe'.

They shared that the world would be better if it was kinder and more equal, and if 'all countries made a peace treaty' and there were no wars, no racism, and 'no hatred', including 'if people were nicer online'.

**“ [The world would be better if...] girls could do boy things and boys could do girl things.” (11, girl)**

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