



Office of the
Commissioner for
Children and
Young People

MediaStatement

Date: Wednesday 9 August 2017

Re: **SA's Commissioner for Children and Young people
is listening to the young voices of Port Lincoln**

Contact: Divya DSilva – 0409 918 303; 8226 3389

The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, was appointed recently and is responsible for promoting and advocating for the rights, needs and wellbeing of children and young people across South Australia.

Since the official launch of the 'Listening Tour' on 15 June 2017, the Commissioner has held 30 face-to face consultations and met with and heard directly from more than 600 children and young people to gather information on important issues that affect them.

"Over the many trips in the past few weeks, we have heard a wide array of ideas, perspectives and opinions, affording me the opportunity to reflect and listen. I look forward to continuing these constructive conversations with many more children and young people across the state" Commissioner Connolly said.

Helen is speaking and meeting with a diverse group of children and young people, including those whom often don't get the opportunity to have their voices heard through meetings, surveys and events. The information gathered helps her to understand what is important to them, what they would change to make life better and more importantly what they think the Children's Commissioner should do to help make life better for young South Australians.

The Commissioner is taking her Listening Tour to the town of Port Lincoln from Thursday 10 – Friday 11 August.

Children and young people of South Australia are experts in their own lives and want to have their opinions heard, treated with respect and taken seriously.

"By asking, listening and hearing, we can embed the needs and views of children and young people in our laws, systems and attitudes", she said.

The Commissioner is committed to supporting SA children and young people to be involved in decision-making that affects them, giving particular consideration to the needs and voices of vulnerable and at-risk children and young people.

The Listening Tour will conclude end of September. A report on the voices of children and young people will inform the work produced by the office of the Commissioner.

For further information about this event or to arrange an interview with the Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly, contact Helen on 0411 604 506 or email at helen.connolly@sa.gov.au .

END

MORE INFORMATION

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