



20 February 2018

Commissioner for Children and Young People to visit Riverland on first stop of Hopes and Dreams Regional Tour

SA's Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly will be visiting the Riverland on the 26th and 27th of February as part of her '2018 Hopes and Dreams Regional Tour' where she will travel to 10 regions in 10 months talking to young people about their hopes and dreams.

The Commissioner will listen to the aspirations of local children and will be holding consultations with small groups in organised sessions with agencies, youth groups and schools.

Ms Connolly says the idea for the Hopes and Dreams regional tour came out of her Listening Tour in 2017:

"During the Listening Tour young people talked a lot about what they wanted in the future, what type of job they would like or what their sporting aspirations were.

"On the regional visits many children and young people talked about the importance of feeling proud of where they lived. We heard that they didn't want to leave their towns when they were older, but many felt there would be more opportunities if they did.

"I want to share any emerging themes with local leadership and build strong relationships between young people and local decision makers," said the Commissioner.

The consultations will use creative and engaging approaches to facilitate the discussion. Helen Connolly hopes that after the tour she will know more about what is needed to help children and young people in regional areas realise their dreams.

Background

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly was appointed in April 2017 and is responsible for promoting and advocating for the rights, interests and well-being of children and young people across South Australia.

Shortly after taking office, the Commissioner went on a 'Listening Tour' and met with over 1400 children and young people across South Australia to find out what was important to them.

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

For more information

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For further information on the listening tour and the work of the commissioner go to

www.ccyp.com.au

Notes to Editors

On her two day visit to the Riverland, the Commissioner will be stopping at Mission Australia Loxton, St Joseph's School Barmera, Girl Guides Barmera, Riverland Special School Berri, and Glossop High School.

The commissioner will be in the following regions at the dates outlined below. Please note some of these dates are subject to change.

Riverland: 26th – 27th February

Murray Bridge: 21st March

Yorke Peninsula: 10th – 12th April

Adelaide hills: 29th May

Ceduna: 19th – 20th June:

Whyalla: 25th – 26th July

Barossa Valley: 14th August

Ernabella: TBA September

Naracoorte: 17th – 18th October

Kangaroo Island: 20th – 22nd November

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