

# Media release



04 September 2018

## **Listening to the hopes and dreams of children and young people in Whyalla**

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly will be visiting Whyalla for two days of consultations on **Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of September** as part of her *'2018 Hopes and Dreams Regional Tour'*. The Regional tour takes in 10 regions of South Australia in 10 months.

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 many didn't want to leave their towns when they were older, but felt there would be more opportunities if they did," said the Commissioner.

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

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 wellbeing 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 children and young people who aren't usually heard.

For further information on the work of the commissioner go to [www.ccyp.com.au](http://www.ccyp.com.au)

## Notes to Editors

The Commissioner Helen Connolly will be holding consultations with children and young people on

***Monday 10 September at:***

- Whyalla High School
- D'Faces of Youth Arts Inc.
- Whyalla Council Youth Advisory Committee

And on ***Tuesday 11 September at:***

- Memorial Oval Primary School
- Samaritan College Senior Campus

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

Fleurieu Peninsula: 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October

Coober Pedy: TBA November

## For more information

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