

Media release



07 November 2018

Listening to the hopes and dreams of children and young people in the Mid-Murray

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly will be visiting the Mid Murray region for a day of consultations on **Friday the 9th of November** as part of her *'2018 Hopes and Dreams Regional Tour'*.

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.cryp.com.au

Notes to Editors

The Commissioner Helen Connolly will be holding consultations with children and young people on **Friday 09 November at:**

- Swan Reach Area School
- Cambrai Primary School
- Mannum Community College

Since February this year, the Commissioner has been to Murray Bridge, the Riverland, Adelaide Hills, Yorke Peninsula, Ceduna, The Barossa and Whyalla.

For more information

Contact the Office for The Commissioner for Children and Young People

Telephone: (08) 8226 3355

Email: CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au



Instagram/ccyp_sa



Facebook.com/ccypsa



LinkedIn/ccyp-sa