

Commissioner urges leaders to listen to South Australia's regional young people

The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly says that many young people in regional South Australia are not hopeful about achieving their dreams because the opportunities they need are not available. She has urged community leaders to support young people so they can feel connected to their communities and can help make their towns more sustainable.

The Commissioner this week released her 'Hopes and Dreams' report, which will be delivered to all leaders in the communities visited. She asked young people in regional areas what their aspirations were, what they wished for by the time they're 25, and what decision makers could do to help them achieve their dreams.

As part of the Commissioner's regional engagement tour Helen Connolly visited the Riverland, Murray Bridge, Yorke Peninsula, Ceduna, the Barossa Valley, Whyalla, the Adelaide Hills and the Mid-Murray regions. The feedback gathered from young people in these locations built on that received from earlier visits to regional communities undertaken on her 2017 Listening Tour.

Emerging themes detailed in the report will be shared with local leaders and decision makers. Further work will include discussions with government and non-government organisations to provide more opportunities for the voices of children and young people to be heard in key decision-making forums to help create regional communities in which children and young people want to build their futures.

Quotes to be attributed to Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly:

There were common themes across regions and ages. Most wanted to have a good home, live with people they cared about and get a good job. But when asked to describe what these things meant to them as individuals we learnt that they know they are part of a global youth generation. These young people know more than prior generations about what they can achieve, and they know what support they expect from leaders, and how they want to be treated.

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. For more information about the work of the Commissioner for Children and Young People visit www.ccyp.com.au

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