

05 February 2019

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN ARE CHALLENGED TO LEARN HOW TO SPEAK ROBOT IN 2019**

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is launching her inaugural Digital Challenge with the help of her robot Cody Buttons and local primary school children.

More than 90 schools across the state have already signed up for the Commissioner's Digital Challenge – from Coober Pedy Area School to Mercedes College to Victor Harbor School to the Australian Islamic College Adelaide.

Children taking part in the Challenge are required to complete four of the free step-by-step Challenge activities over the course of a year.

In 2019 there are hundreds of free digital thinking activities on offer along with a library of resources for extended learning. In its first year the Challenge is all about digital thinking, because when children learn to think and create with a digital mindset they are learning to 'speak Robot'. The Challenge can be accessed by schools, community groups and families at home and will take place every year, evolving to explore the various areas of digital learning.

Schools are invited to register for children in Years 3-6, and children of all ages are able to take part outside of school. Children can take the Challenge at home with parents or other family members, they can use the free computers and WiFi at their local library (with some libraries are offering after-school and school holiday programs), through Scouts, Girl Guides or as a Children's University accredited activity.

### **Helen Connolly, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, commented -**

On my 2017 Listening Tour, the children of South Australia asked for more ways to be creative, to prepare for jobs of the future and to start learning the things they are going to need to know now. These voices of South Australian children formed the basis of my agenda which has led to part of my role being about engaging and empowering young digital citizens. I've introduced a Digital Challenge designed to spark curiosity and instil a sense of possibility around the various areas leading to digital empowerment. This year I'm encouraging children to make the most of the free, quality resources already out there to start learning some practical digital skills.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

There are digital rewards on offer for schools and libraries getting involved including a brand new website for one school, Xboxes, camera drones and class sets of micro:bit devices.

The free step-by-step activities are from a variety of sources including Code.org's Hour of Code™, Grok Learning™, Code Club®, Microsoft's MakeCode™, the Digital Technologies Hub™ and there are lots of options requiring no devices - just paper and pen - from CS Unplugged®.

Learn more at: <https://commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au>

For further information about the work of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (SA) go to [www.ccyp.com.au](http://www.ccyp.com.au)

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly and robot, Cody Buttons will be at **Prospect Primary School on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 11am** where students will be some of the first to have a go at the digital challenge activities.

Media are invited to attend for photographs and interviews. Please contact Communications Officer Jenny Rea at [jenny.rea2@sa.gov.au](mailto:jenny.rea2@sa.gov.au) for more details.

#### For more information

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