

SA's Young people determined to leave no-one behind

The **Commissioner for Children and Young People** is partnering with **UN Youth SA** to deliver the **Poverty Summit** – a first of its kind for South Australia and possibly the nation, where young people are empowered to actively engage in developing solutions designed to address the United Nations No.1 Sustainable Development Goal to 'end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030'.

More than 180 young South Australians between the ages of 14 and 18 will gather at the Adelaide Festival Centre this Friday 28 June to attend the **Poverty Summit**; an entirely youth lead event using a peer to peer approach as its delivery format.

The Poverty Summit is focused on creating real change by giving young people a voice and the opportunity to have a say about matters that affect them. It forms the centrepiece of the Commissioner's **Poverty Project**; a major investigation into what children and young people think about poverty in South Australia and how to address it.

Keynote Speaker at the Summit is **Kareem El-Ansary, Australia's Youth Representative to the United Nations**. Kareem will share his insights on the 8 Millennium Development Goals set for 2015 and subsequent 17 Sustainable Development Goals set for 2030, as well as share his insights on how the goal of eliminating world poverty by 2030 can be achieved.

Poverty Focus Groups undertaken between March and April this year with approximately 40 young South Australians who are doing it tough, enabled the Commissioner to hear the extent to which a lived experience of poverty impacts on the lives of South Australia's most vulnerable young people. Her **Poverty Survey**, distributed to South Australian schools and youth focused community organisations between January and June this year drew more than 1,000 responses from young people across South Australia. This information will be used to inform young people attending the Poverty Summit on Friday, highlighting ways that poverty impacts the day-to-day lives of many young people across our communities.

The **Poverty Summit** will combine facilitated workshop activities, interactive problem solving techniques and a community forum asking young people to identify local issues of poverty, devise recommendations on ways to address these issues, and develop an action plan to give their recommendations the best chance of success, including consideration of how these proposed actions can be implemented by politicians, decision-makers and community leaders operating at the systemic level. A panel of young leaders will discuss poverty as it relates to their areas of interest and expertise.

Guest Panellists at the Poverty Summit include:

Kynesha Temple – a proud Aboriginal woman studying international development at the University of Adelaide.

Ibrahim Ali – a young community leader and career coach for refugees and migrants.

Ellen Fraser-Barbour – a PhD Candidate who is passionate about disability and human rights with a particular focus on safety and prevention of discrimination, harm and neglect.

Doha Khan – Coordinator of the South Australian School Strike 4 Climate group and passionate campaigner for climate justice and sustainability.

Caleb Sweeting – Chair of the SA Mental Health Commission's Youth Advisory Group, Co-Founder of Yewth Magazine and coordinator of CCYP's Get-Around-It initiative that showcases South Australia's young 'Thinkers, Makers & Doers'.

Danielle Seymour – Co-owner of SouthStart (a technology festival taking place in Adelaide this November), founder of Sidestep Creations and Curator of the Adelaide Global Shapers Hub (an initiative of the World Economic Forum).

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

The inheritance we leave for South Australia's children and young people depends on the long term investment we make in their future now. Children and young people are our current and future leaders. They are the custodians of the world's economic, social, cultural and environmental assets. Children and young people have already told me how committed they are to a future that leaves no-one behind. I know the ideas they develop at the Poverty Summit to address poverty amongst young people in SA will be exceptional and I am committed to taking these forward to decision-makers for serious consideration.

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

EVENT DETAILS: Friday 28 June, Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre, 9am to 3pm.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: A **WIDE-SHOT PHOTO** opportunity will be **AVAILABLE at 12.45pm**, or alternatives by arrangement. Television News Crews welcome. Interviews with Commissioner Connolly, Kareem El-Ansary and Guest Panellists can be arranged upon request.

To arrange a supported media opportunity please phone Sharon Cleary on 0407 990983 or email sharon.cleary@sa.gov.au