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South Australia's young global leaders devise their own action plan for the 2030 SDGs

Young South Australians have a plan for the eradication of poverty by 2030, devised in collaboration with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly and UN Youth SA. It contains recommendations from young people about what they believe needs to be done to address poverty in South Australia, and ensure the State meets its commitment to the United Nation's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Their **2030 SDG Action Plan by South Australian Young People** has been launched today to coincide with the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) taking place in Davos, Switzerland, attracting up to 3,000 top leaders representing 117 countries from around the world.

The plan emphasises the need to 'take a bottom up approach' and involve those most affected by poverty when devising solutions. South Australia's young people believe that to solve an issue like poverty, 'society needs to work together to ensure no one is left behind'. They understand that 'to achieve real change requires a large scale increase in empathy across the country'.

This year's theme at the WEF is 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World' with the focus on 'renewing the concept of stakeholder capitalism to overcome income inequality, societal division and the climate crisis'. It is a theme which aligns strongly with the key focus areas identified by South Australia's young people, who believe that eradicating poverty requires us to take people, our planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships simultaneously into account.

Recommendations made by SA young people include providing free mental health care services for low income families and vulnerable members of our society; encouraging governments, companies and farmers to work more closely together to ensure sustainable agricultural practices; ensuring we address the systemic inequalities that exist by grounding business culture in equality and inclusion; creating opportunities for younger people to be seated at the negotiating tables where big decision are being made; and encouraging communities to take a more active role in supporting those who are most vulnerable.

The young people who devised the action plan represent more than 200 students in years 9 and 10 from more than 29 South Australia high schools who attended the Poverty Summit co-hosted by Commissioner Connolly and UN Youth South Australia in 2019.

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Quotes attributable to young people who contributed to the 2030 SDG Action Plan:

“We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.”

“We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.”

“We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and peace without sustainable development.

“The ability to relate to people who live in poverty across our communities will make it easier for us to prioritise poverty as an issue for children and young people in particular.”

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

It is clear that poverty exists in Australia and that South Australia is not immune. The kind of poverty that exists here is a product of the community we have created. It is therefore our responsibility to make the changes that are needed to eradicate it. Young people have a strong sense of justice around the ways in which society groups certain people; children, people living with a disability, people from a refugee and migrant background and young adults. They also see many individuals in these groups are already in disadvantaged positions, making them especially vulnerable to poverty. Young people want to be part of decision making that impacts positively on children and young people. They want the voices of those children and young people living in poverty to be heard, and they want to see an approach applied across the community that demonstrates those making big decisions have considered those who are most vulnerable first and everyone else second.

For more information about the work of the Commissioner go to www.ccyp.com.au

For more information about the work of UN Youth SA go to www.unyouth.org.au

Copies of the **2030 SDG Action Plan by South Australian Young People** can be downloaded [here](#)

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