

Commissioner launches hub – a new space for SA's young people @ hub.ccyp.com.au

South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, has today launched **hub** - a new virtual space created especially for young people.

hub is a place for young South Australians to 'visit, hang out, keep up to date, have a say, and connect' with other young South Australians their age.

At **hub**, young people can respond to a weekly big question, take part in a poll, or be inspired by a young rights champion. They can sign up to become a youth rep and join a conversation between a team of young people connecting from cities, towns and regional hubs in every corner of South Australia.

They can enter a competition, or read the opinions of others their age who will be contributing regularly to hub via blog articles on topics of relevance to young people. For fun they can dive into a range of free public online resources to help them get more creative, connected, confident and curious. Plus there's a heap of digital tools they can explore to build their own digital resume to show others the digital skills they've gained.

At **hub** young South Australians can be confident they'll be accessing trustworthy content about COVID19 to help them remain informed, calm and grounded about what is happening locally, nationally and globally throughout the health crisis.

Over the last three years, Commissioner Connolly has been asking young South Australians what matters to them most. She has been doing this through face to face consultations, focus groups, events and listening tours. But the arrival of COVID19 has changed all that. She needed a way to keep the established lines of communication with children and young people open, while also ensuring she was able to reach all parts of the state, and a diversity of young people; particularly those whose voices do not often have a chance to be heard.

hub is designed to do just that. It enables the Commissioner to maintain these crucial lines of communication with South Australia's children and young people so she can continue to promote and advocate for their rights, interests and wellbeing, based on what they say – a dialogue that is perhaps more important than ever before given the rapid and unprecedented change they face.

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

When I asked young people what they wanted, they told me they wanted spaces and places where they could hang out, exchange ideas, have a say, and have fun. **hub** is designed to be that space. It's built on a simple model that operates much like a youth club. Young people visit **hub**, hang out, connect, learn new skills, have a say, or just have fun!

I need to ensure I can maintain a direct line of communication with children and young people that is not 'filtered' by adults, carers, or service providers. **hub** allows me to achieve this. I can ask big questions, take polls and connect with young people on the issues that matter to them. We already know children and young people are put to one side during times of crisis. I am working to ensure this does not happen. This is a critical time for them to be reassured that they are valued, and that what they want, matters. There is a significant opportunity here to actually make positive change to improve many aspects of their lives. But we can't do this without our young people being part of that change conversation. To have influence and agency during this time of rapid change they need to have a voice and choice. My role is to ensure that this is what they get.

hub – a new space for young South Australians
have your say. uncover resources. be informed.

Background: South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, 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 go to ccyp.com.au

To visit **hub** go to hub.ccyp.com.au

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