



Commissioner for Children and Young People

## Conversations with children and young people with a disability

Through my consultations with children and young people living with a disability it has been clear that given the opportunity to participate, they are keen to express their views about what matters to them, their hopes for the future, and where they think change could and should happen.

The following comments reflect a variety of things children and young people living with a disability consider important, ranging from inclusion in their community to accessing independent transport, from study options to securing future work opportunities.

### Education

A repeated area of focus was education. Some children and young people talked about the importance of school, including undertaking the activities they enjoyed. Others talked about how their schooling experience could be improved:

*“At school, do something with friends like drawing together”*

*“Completing school. [...] Good education for the future.”*

*“I would like to primarily focus on studying for my Animation so I can complete my goal of getting a dream job and to graduate with so much confidence of what the future holds for you.”*

*“More one on one at school (there’s not a lot of this)”*

### Transport

Transport was a common theme talked about by children and young people of all ages. Many children appreciated the importance of transport and also associated transport options with independence, including the role their parents often have to play as their main transport providers.

*“More transport choices, taxi and Mum.”*

*“Make it for free, taxis.”*

*“Public Transport”*

*“Public transport. Going to events restaurants.”*

### Independence

*The ability to live independently was a common theme and was often associated with access to independent transport. It was also linked to other areas of their day-to-day lives, such as their ability to independently navigate community infrastructure.*

*“Being Independent (independent)”*

*“More auto doors”*

*“More guide dogs. Less steps.”*

## Inclusive Communities

The importance of community was strongly articulated with many children commenting that they like the communities in which they live. They spoke about the need for communities to be places of acceptance, kindness and respect, irrespective of who you are.

*"I think people should accept other people with kindness respect and honour (honour)."*

*"Be kind [to] one another and be kind to you[r] love[d] ones."*

*"People, accepting, showing by their behaviour [what] acceptance looks like, kindness, helpful"*

*"I would like to stay in Victor Harbor next to the beach"*

*"I like living in Renmark because it's my place and [I] want to stay here."*

## Sport and Recreation

Sport and access to recreation facilities was a theme linked to community inclusion, health and wellbeing. Local facilities and particular infrastructure that children living with disability would like to have in their area was often mentioned.

*"Football is the best for my health, Music is the best for concentration (concentration)."*

*"I like BMX bikes on track"*

*"A skate Park"*

*"Scooter Park"*

*"What's important movies and music and games"*

## Jobs

Conversations about the future focused on a desire to continue to work towards dreams. This often involved further study and finding opportunities to enter the workforce.

*"Job cooking at a café"*

*"Experience – bus maintenance, cycling, basketball"*

*"Jobs, knowing with (what) is expected of you when applying."*

## Family

Many children and young people talked about the important role their families play in their lives.

*"family and friends" (what's important to you)*

*"Happy family and friends"*

*"Sit back and relax at home."*

## Pressures

Pressures placed on young people with a disability that were raised, included having a sense of the financial and emotional stress they and their families were under, as well as how this might be alleviated or overcome.

*"The money how to pay for things, because some people can't really pay for things, price it down."*

*"Children to see a psychologist to help with thier (their) mental health... managing their stress and anxy (anxiety). Managing with what they worry about keep kids safe and well."*

*"School fees should be dropped, they go higher every year, parents get annoyed and find it hard to pay. At home they get stressed, this impact on kids. It effects school more makes working hard."*