

Kids hope life better after the pandemic

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SOUTH Australia's young people believe that their lives have been forever changed by COVID-19 – but they hope that it can be for the better.

A new report by South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, pictured, has found local kids are hopeful political leaders and decision makers continue to listen, trust and act upon the advice of experts and professionals beyond coronavirus to other issues such as climate change.

Ms Connolly said the report was created after documenting the experiences of hundred of SA young people during one of the most formative experiences of their lives.

"Their reflections demonstrate how the experience redefined their outlook and priorities as they coped with interruptions to travel and study plans, loss of jobs and incomes, social distancing and isolation constraints, and learning via digital interfaces that relied upon state-of-the-art access to technology," she said.

"They are calling upon us to take a sharper focus through a lens that integrates economic, social and environmental issues with their input and ideas.

"They want respect shown for future generations, challenging those with 'short termism' to apply thinking which considers the impact post-COVID decisions will have on future generations of young South Australians – not just those alive now.

"Although they fear a business as usual approach may prevail, they're hopeful we will take this moment to look with fresh eyes at the ways in which we plan, create and sustain our economy and society, so that it is more grounded in kindness, fairness, listening and trust – values they hold high."