

## Let's stand with SA young people says Commissioner

South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People has chosen **International Human Solidarity Day (20 December, 2020)** to launch a new set of resources that highlight the views of young people. Commissioner Connolly is calling on SA adults to stand in solidarity with young people in their efforts to create a better world.

Standing in solidarity with one another was identified in the United Nations' Millennium Declaration as one of the fundamental values of international relations in the 21st Century, that 'those who suffer most or benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most'.

Christmas is an ideal time in which to strengthen relationships between adults and young people. For many, 2020 is likely to be remembered as one of the most formative years of their lives. Standing in solidarity with young people is essential if we are to properly acknowledge their achievements this year, despite the challenges they faced. Young South Australians have risen to the challenge. They have remained optimistic and determined. It is essential we afford them the respect and courtesy of listening to what they have to say, and to commit to working with them to address the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues that concern them most.

Young people want respect shown for future generations, challenging those with 'short termism' to apply thinking that considers the impact post-COVID decisions will have on generations of young South Australians. This begins with us standing in solidarity with their concerns and believing all that they have told us about what worries them most, as well as listening to how they would recommend real and lasting improvements be achieved.

The resources titled *"What SA Kids Have Told Us About..."* consist of a series of six fact sheets, with accompanying videos produced in partnership with Carclew Creatives, to present the views of young South Australians in relation to **Civics & Leadership, Learning, Play, Diversity and Inclusion, Environment, and Work** with additional topics in the series being added over time.

They have been created by collating views sourced directly from conversations the Commissioner has had with young South Australians as part of her work to promote

and protect young people's rights. They demonstrate high levels of resilience and determination in what has been a challenging year, particularly for young people.

Designed to inform leaders, decision makers, researchers, policy makers, educators and parents and guardians, the resources offer insight into what matters the most to young South Australians. They make clear what young people believe our priorities should be, highlighting what they would like adults to focus on fixing for the benefit of future generations, as well as themselves.

The underlying message young people are sending adults is that there are many things that need to be done differently, and that they are ready, willing and able to make the changes necessary to ensure issues of inequality are addressed through kindness, fairness, listening and trust – values which young people hold high. They also expressed the strong desire that the lessons learned through COVID-19 be applied to other critical issues the world is facing such as climate change, poverty, racism and discrimination.

### **Quotes attributable to Commissioner Helen Connolly:**

We have an opportunity to do the right thing by our young people and earn their trust. Doing the right thing requires us to listen to what they are telling us. Our young people must be connected, engaged and able to participate in society. They are calling upon us to take a sharper focus through a lens that integrates economic, social, environmental and humanitarian issues with their input and ideas.

To download the "What SA Kids Have Told Us About..." series of Fact Sheets go to:  
<https://www.ccyp.com.au/guides-and-fact-sheets/>

To view the accompanying videos go to:  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3mmEne\\_NJPGdK354M6OPwFxu9stFEe2L](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3mmEne_NJPGdK354M6OPwFxu9stFEe2L)

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more information about the work of SA Commissioner for Children and Young People go to:  
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