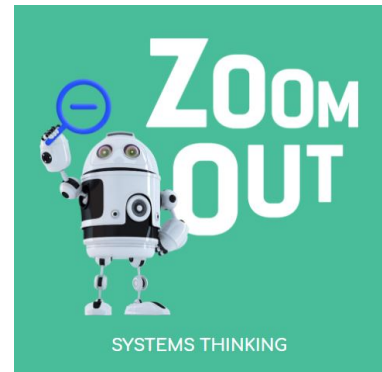


COMMISSIONER'S DIGITAL CHALLENGE



Commissioner's Systems Thinking Challenge a World First

SA Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, has today launched **Zoom Out** – a systems thinking challenge believed to be the first of its kind anywhere in the world. Designed to equip young South Australians with the skills they'll need to be successful 21st Century Citizens **Zoom Out** is offered throughout schools in South Australia and is aligned with the Australian Digital Technology Curriculum.

South Australia's Chief Scientist, Professor Caroline McMillen has commended the Commissioner for producing a resource for SA school students that emphasises the importance of taking the big picture view.

Building capacity in children and young people to apply a big picture mindset was key to development of **Zoom Out**. After seeking advice from digital education experts both here and overseas, it became clear that educational resources for children and young people teaching the basics of systems thinking are lacking, and so the Commissioner set about filling this gap.

Working closely with the not-for-profit Grok Academy (the joined up Australian Computing Academy and Grok Learning) **Zoom Out** takes children and young people through a series of interactive activities that explain in simple terms what systems thinking is all about.

Suitable for students of all ages, **Zoom Out** can be undertaken both at school and outside of school, at home, at local libraries, or through community groups such as Girl Guides and Scouts.

Like the Commissioner's other two Digital Challenges **Learn to Speak Robot** (2019) and **Space to Dream** (2020), **Zoom Out** has been designed to build a full toolkit of digital skills and knowledge that young people can apply to help solve the world's increasingly complex problems.

All three Digital Challenges come with a curated set of extended learning resources for those who would like to take their digital learning journey further.

Designed to increase digital opportunity for all children and young people in South Australia, it is estimated that more than 20,000 students successfully completed the Commissioner's **Learn to Speak Robot** and **Space to Dream** Digital Challenges last year. Both Challenges are on offer again in 2021, alongside **Zoom Out**.

Quote attributable to Commissioner Helen Connolly:

Our future depends on developing 21st Century Citizens who are bold thinkers that know how to create intelligent out-of-the-box solutions. **Zoom Out** teaches children and young people the benefits of approaching problems with a big picture mindset. It introduces students to the idea of tackling problems by applying a systems thinking lens to the design of solutions, so that better and brighter ways of doing things will become their legacy.

Quote attributable to Associate Professor James Curran, CEO, Grok Academy:

Today's kids are growing up in an interconnected world: seeing those connections and understanding the systems that make up their world is an invaluable skill. It will help them solve complex problems better and think critically about what is happening around them and how they can make an impact.

Quote attributable to Caroline McMillen, Chief Scientist, South Australia:

A generation that naturally harnesses a diversity of view-points and insights from different fields to develop world-first solutions to major challenges allows us to be confident that our future is in great hands.

Quote attributable to Dr Jordan Nguyen, Engineer, Inventor, Presenter & Author

When you can break down any system, big or small, into its components you can start to learn more about how things work, and it can even change the way you look at the world. No system is perfect, so think about how you can improve those around you – making them more energy efficient, using sustainable materials, creating less waste, performing the function better, or even helping improve lives – as bit by bit, this is how we build a better future!

BACKGROUND

The Commissioner's Digital Challenge is an initiative of the South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People. It has been devised to engage and empower young digital citizens and to promote inclusive digital opportunity throughout the State. **Learn to Speak Robot** and **Early Learning Unplugged** were launched in 2019. **Space to Dream** was launched in 2020. All three of these Digital Challenges are on offer again in 2021, along with **Zoom Out**.

To access Zoom Out visit the Commissioner's Digital Challenge website:
<https://commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au/>

South Australian Schools that register before **2 July, 2021** and submit their school's *Zoom Out Challenge Completion Form* before **24 September, 2021** will be eligible to win digital rewards, including a full school program of Coding in Minecraft donated by award winning global EdTech provider, Prodigy Learning, or a new school website donated by Education Web Solutions. There are also double pack VEX IQ Super Kits donated by VEX Robotics with training donated by Building Bots and many more.

For further information about the work of the Commissioner visit:
www.ccyp.com.au

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