

What happened
when 16 & 17 year
olds voted?

Democracy in Action



Democracy in Action is an innovative civics engagement project **giving young people practical skills in enrolling and completing a ballot paper.**

**Commissioner for Children
and Young People**



DiA was designed by the Commissioner for Children and Young People in partnership with the Centre of Democracy and Electoral Commission SA. Launched just before the 2018 South Australian election by Commissioner Helen Connolly and electorate of Adelaide candidates B-J Price (Dignity Party), Robert Simms (The Greens SA), Rachel Sanderson (Liberal Party)



Impactful Engagement x the numbers

1x

Young Graphic Designer

Jarrold Soden created the brand identity

@PerplSwetDesign
www.facebook.com/perplswet/

2x

Young Videographers

Cat and Alex documented the process

@Cat&FoxFilms
www.facebook.com/catandfoxfilms

5x

Voting Stations

Therbarton Senior College
Christian Brothers College
Scotch College
UN Youth State Conference
Centre of Democracy

38x

16 & 17 year olds pre-enrolled to vote in the electorates @ Adelaide & Waite

356x

16 & 17 year olds voted in the mock election



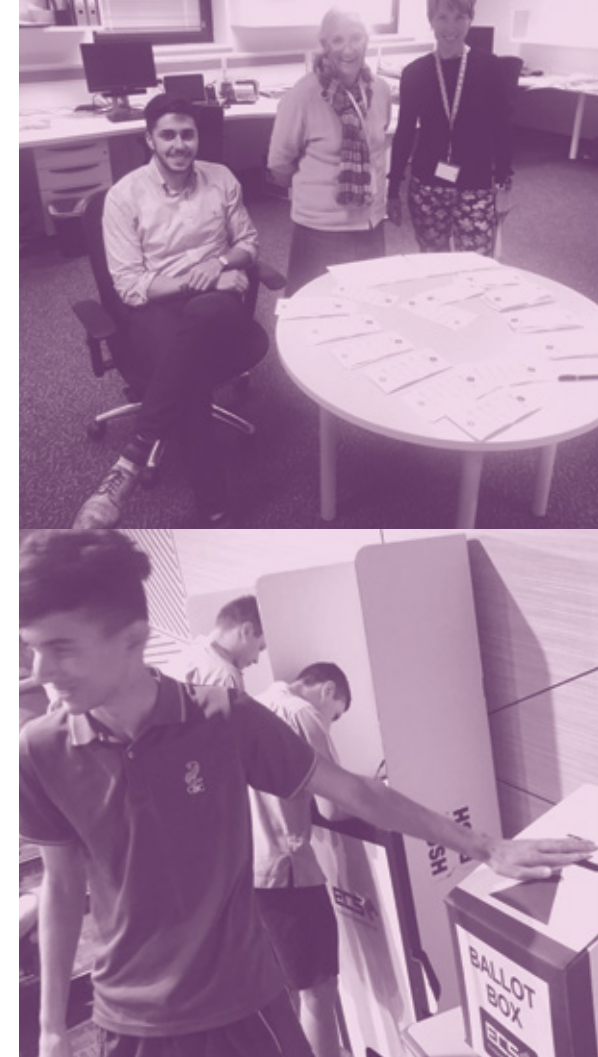
**...the Greens
polled really
well with young
people in their
first preference
votes in Waite
and Adelaide,
(47.3% & 23%
respectively)**

The Results

We have compared the four parties that appeared in both Adelaide and Waite electorates (Liberal, Labor, Greens & Dignity).

What's interesting about these results is that the Greens polled really well with young people in their first preference votes in Waite and Adelaide, (47.3% & 23% respectively), however there was a significant difference with the adult vote for the Greens across all of SA coming in at 6.5%.

This seems to reflect that many young people care about specific issues such as the environment, sustainability and climate change rather than mirroring the allegiance that some adults show to major parties



The mock election has seen a high level of engagement and enthusiasm from 16 and 17 year olds.

The 'Democracy is Action' Project will continue and there will be even more opportunities for young people to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.



What does this mean for young people and their future in democracy and the possibility of them being able to vote before the age of 18?

These results gives us an idea of how they could have affected the election outcome. It also helps us see the level of engagement of young people and what issues young people are interested in.

One young person said this process would encourage more high school students to become interested in politics.

Another said he would like to be able to vote so he could influence issues that affect young people such as creating more jobs in this state.

They gained practical knowledge of how to fill out a ballot paper and learned how to pre-enrol to vote before they turn 18.



In Their Words

Quote from senior student at
Therbarton Senior College

Democracy is

*) It means every one should be

equal. Another words we can say

Justice. Australia is a Democracy
country.

All people are equal in

Australia. Every one happy to live

in the Democracy country.

VOICE OF THE YOUNG PERSON

We have clearly different values and morals to the generations that have come before and I think that the way things are changing especially with technology and media that our opinions on global issues are very different from our parents or our grandparents.

Austin (17) – Student

Keen to read more? Visit the website at
ccyp.com.au/democracy-in-action/

We'd love to hear from
you. Get in touch through
commissionercyp@sa.gov.au and
we'll answer any questions or
queries you might have.

251 Morphett Street, Adelaide, SA 5000

GPO BOX 1146, Adelaide SA 5001

08 8226 3355 | commissionercyp@sa.gov.au

ccyp.com.au

