

07|02|2021 Media Release (Embargoed)

## New state-wide SRC seeking 100 SA school students

South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, has today launched a new model for South Australian school students that will ensure they have a voice in policy and decision making that is led by young people themselves.

A partnership between the CCYP and the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) supported by the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC), the South Australian Student Representative Council (SA SRC) will be a body of up to 100 students in Years 10, 11 and 12 from across the state, working together to create genuine, student-led change within their own communities.

The SA SRC will bring together passionate young people who are unwilling to accept the status quo of just 'good enough' and instead harness the energy and ideas of those young people with a desire to create a better future, not only for themselves, but for future generations of young South Australians.

Council members will be equipped with the trust, resources, skills, and confidence they'll need to enact the change they want to see. They'll be involved in setting priorities and actions for making change focused on issues they perceive as being critical and requiring urgent action, including inequality, future job opportunities, climate change and mental health. They will be supported by resources and funding from CCYP, FYA and NIYEC, on issues and actions identified and prioritised at an annual SA SRC Summit. Regular meetings will be held with members both virtually and face-to-face after school, throughout the school year.

The Commissioner has repeatedly heard from young South Australians that they are feeling frustrated and sidelined as they continue to be denied opportunities to participate because of a perception that they lack knowledge and experience, and that their opinions are therefore not valid.

Students who apply can expect a very different SRC than the one they might know through their school. The state-wide SA SRC is about having an opportunity to meet other passionate like-minded young people, identify issues and build skills and knowledge that leads to action in the areas young people care about most.

A feature of the SA SRC is the ability for both individuals and 'teams' of up to 3 students to apply together. The idea of the team membership is to incentivise involvement by young people who might join if one or more of their friends does so – ie an "I will, if you do" approach.

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## Applications Open

Applications for membership open from today, Monday 7 February and close on Monday 21 March 2022. Selection to the Council will be made by the Commissioner, a representative from the Foundation for Young Australians and a panel of young people.

## Quotes attributable to Commissioner Helen Connolly:

“South Australian teenagers having a growing appetite for mechanisms that are representative of young people and which deliver on their own agendas – not those of adults, which they perceive as being slow and ill-informed when it comes to knowing the complexities of the lives and experiences of today’s young people.”

“The SA SRC will be an inclusive action orientated body for high school students that works on the issues they raise, tackled in ways they think will make a difference. In the words of one young South Australian “if we are able to empower the youth of SA then they will believe them themselves and create a snowball effect and make the world a better place.” As experts on their own lives, I wanted to find a way to empower young people who are passionate about active citizenship to be supported to lead other young people to vocalise and act on the kind of change they want to see across their own communities.”



Find out more about the

SA SRC @ [ccyp.com.au/sa-src](https://ccyp.com.au/sa-src)

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