

Media Release: Friday 13 May 2022

## Members of Commissioner's new SA SRC meet for the first time

Today, Friday 13 May, South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, is hosting the first face to face meeting of members of the State's newly established SA student representative council (**SA SRC**).

The inaugural meeting will take place at Adelaide Festival Centre with 123 members of the 166 strong body of students who make up the SA SRC (selected from over 240 applicants) who are travelling from around the state to attend in person.

The Commissioner is particularly excited to be welcoming SA SRC members from regional South Australia who have been financially supported to attend. They include student representatives from Whyalla, Ceduna, Roxby, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Kimba, Victor Harbour, and Meningie who will have the chance to meet and spend time with their metro counterparts to take advantage of a rare opportunity to connect and exchange ideas and strategies with other young people who share their passion for bringing about positive change.

A partnership between **CCYP** and **Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)**, supported by the **National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC)** - the day will consist of workshops designed to help SA SRC members determine the issues they wish to prioritise as a group over the coming twelve months, including how to develop projects and campaigns they think will work best to address them.

The Commissioner wants members of the new SA SRC to drive the agenda based on their own opinions, experience, knowledge, worries, hopes, and dreams. Mentors will support them to take responsibility for issues of concern while developing leadership skills that demonstrate how to take collective action in collaboration with other SA SRC members.

They will also have an opportunity to meet and hear from some SA Members of Parliament, who will be attending to enable SA SRC members to meet their state representative in person.

The youth-led representative body was established by the Commissioner for Children and Young People after she repeatedly heard that young South Australians want more of a say on the issues that matter to them. All members selected to be part of the inaugural SA SRC are passionate young people with unique and diverse interests, united in their desire to create a better future not only for themselves, but for future generations of South Australians of all ages.

**Quotes attributable to the Commissioner:**

SA SRC members will be equipped with the trust, resources, and opportunities they'll need to enact the change they want to see. They'll be involved in setting priorities and determining actions to bring about systemic change on issues they perceive as critical to the lives of all South Australians. They will be particularly focused on those requiring urgent action such as inequality, future job opportunities, climate change, and mental health, to name a few.

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

South Australian teenagers want to have a say in the decisions that affect them. They want to see real and sustainable change and are frustrated that the adults around them are impacting their futures by not working together on issues like climate change.

Young people are the experts in their own lives. I wanted to find a way that could empower those who are passionate about active citizenship, supporting them to lead other young people to vocalise and act on the kind of change they want to see. They need support connecting with real world decision makers, elected officials, and government and community leaders and that's what being part of the SA SRC will provide.

The capacity for South Australian young people to find creative, innovative solutions to big and small problems is untapped and should not be underestimated. If we support young people to use their innate curiosity and imaginations, combining this with a healthy degree of risk taking, we can expect student led change on a scale that will ultimately enhance the lives of all South Australians.



To find out more about the **SA SRC** go to:

<https://www.ccyp.com.au/sa-src>

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