

What you told me about issues that are important to you...



16,151

of you provided direct input into my work through online surveys, polls, and consultations.

13,868

postcards were completed by children in years 2–6, telling me what matters to you most.

1,063

of you attended events, focus groups, workshops, and summits participating in activities and contributing your ideas.

18

submissions prepared by my office were informed by your ideas and experiences and sent to leaders and Government departments.

11

major reports featuring your ideas were prepared, published and sent to key stakeholders.



Key focus areas

Between July 2021 and June 2022 (the annual reporting period) thousands of you provided input on issues you told me needed to be addressed. After listening to your ideas and concerns I communicated them to decision makers in government who can bring about the changes you recommend. They include:

What matters most

13,868 of you in Years 2–6 sent me a postcard answering questions I had asked about your lives, such as what you would like grownups to know. I put your answers into a report and sent it to government policy and decision makers so that they are more aware of what matters most to you.



“The world would be better if... ‘Racism ended, pollution stops, countries have peace (no war) and Government can increase wages.’”

– 9 year old

“Grownups should know that... ‘kids can make mistakes too, but they may also be right so you need to consider their opinions.’” – 12 year old

“I care about... ‘My family and friends not being able to find any friends at my new high school because it took a long [time] for me to find some at primary school.’” – 11 year old

Children and young people with disability

Many of you living with disability participated in conversations about issues that impact on your lives. They ranged from the attitude adults without disability have toward children living with disability to the need for more support in schools to enable you to participate in many more activities.



“[There needs to be] greater social understanding that disability is not a bad thing! [I want] no more ‘oh you poor thing’ when someone shares their story or exists as a visibly disabled person.” – 18 year old

Children and young people living with chronic illness

Those of you living with a chronic illness participated in conversations that shed light on the challenges you face on a daily basis, and what you would like to see change to improve your overall quality of life beyond your chronic illness.



“...The loss is not just education; it's being isolated from very important stages of learning relationships. You quickly become invisible and things in common fall away. The brief time that may be spent with peers, perhaps online, is a snippet of the day. Appearing well for a short time does not show the collapse afterwards, the complete loss of function. Young people need help to understand the gravity of the situation.” – 16 year old

Children and young people and sport

More than 1500 children and young people responded to my survey about sport and what you do and don't like about playing sport and sports clubs. Your responses provided real life insight into what you would like to change about sport to make it more fun and accessible for everyone.



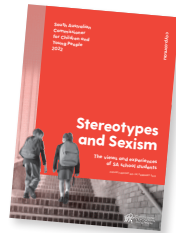
“You get to meet new people as well as make new friends. It allows you to learn important things, like teamwork, hard work, communication and a healthy lifestyle.” – 13 year old

“It asks a lot from you. Especially as you get older. The homework piles up and you don't have time for commitments such as sport. Also fitness is not that enjoyable, haha.” – 13 year old

Sexism and stereotypes

More than 360 of you participated in consultations about sexism and stereotypes and how sexist attitudes can negatively impact your day to day lives and affect your confidence and self-esteem in ways that can have far reaching effects.

“In primary school boys are taught to be strong like when teachers ask for things to be moved by “strong boys”. Girls are taught to be complacent and always say yes.”
– 12 year old



LGBTQIA+ young people

To highlight the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ children and young people in religious schools, 86 of you provided feedback on what you feel needs to change to make you feel safe, respected and more included at school and across your communities.

“I think [schools] need to make it clear that their school is 100% a safe place for these people and acknowledge that YES, a lot of religious communities can be homophobic/transphobic, & that despite this they are not that way.” – 17 year old



Education

Over the last few years hundreds of you have shared your ideas and insights on poverty, emphasising that you see those doing it tough and want them to be better supported so that no-one is left behind.

“The cycle of poverty is self-perpetuating in the sense that individuals born into families of a lower socio-economic status are far more likely to become disenfranchised with the education system, and therefore much more likely to miss school and miss opportunities that will give them a leg-up in the job market.”
– 17 year old



Digital inequality

One of the key issues you told me you would like to see fixed, is ensuring all students have equal access to digital technology and that everyone is taught how to use it and becomes better prepared for jobs of the future.

“My grandparents are poor. They struggle to get me what I need like internet access, smart-phone, and new shoes... my mobile is hand me down and nbn keeps us poor.” – 17 year old



Refugee and migrant young people

Many refugee and migrant young people living in South Australia are striving to be tomorrow's leaders and told me about some of the ways that you need support so you can achieve this aim.

“Though we came from different places, today, in this room, our differences are irrelevant. This is simply because we are here for a common goal – that is leading for our future. We the youth, are a great asset to any nation, and that's why they say youth is the hope of a nation's future.” – 18 year old



Parental incarceration

By speaking with those of you who have a parent who is in prison, I was able to better understand those things that impact you most and what changes you would like to see to improve the quality of time you spend with your parent while they're serving their sentence.

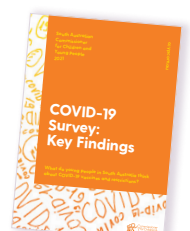
“Coming to the realisation they're not coming home – you go from kissing them good night every night to I'm not going to see you maybe once a week if you're lucky.”



COVID-19

You told me that you are well and truly over COVID-19 and that you wish life would go back to normal so you can see you friends and family and resume all your favourite activities.

“It seems that adults care more about the things that affect them and less about what affects us (children.) It seems all out of control and I'm getting frustrated...” – 16 year old



Major projects in 2021/2022

SA SRC

The statewide Student Representative Council (SA SRC) was established this year with 166 members who met to discuss what the key issues are and how they would like to address them by working with local communities to bring about the change young people wish to see.



hubadl.com

A group of interns worked on the re-design of the hubadl.com website. Young people can now use the online space to connect and share their ideas and interests and other content that showcases content that teenagers are interested in.



Time to Vote

Many of you voted for the first time in the Federal, State and Local government elections that took place in 2022. Participating in our democracy by voting for those candidates who best represent your views means the votes of more young South Australians have been counted!



Focus areas in 2023/2024



**Belonging and
Friendship**



**Civics and
Citizenship**



Racism



**School
Lunches**



**Post School
Pathways**



**Road
Safety**

Thank you for sharing your ideas, thoughts and feelings with me.

I'll be listening again in 2023 and look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible about the issues and concerns you have, as well as what is working well for you too and the things you are proud of.

