

South Australian
Commissioner
for Children and
Young People

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Annual Report 2022/2023



Commissioner
for Children &
Young People

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all the children and young people who participated in various activities undertaken throughout the 2022/2023 financial year, sharing their insights, experiences and suggestions for improvements with me.

It is my privilege to be able to convey their contributions to those who can make the changes needed at the systemic level to improve their lives. By providing recommendations that are fully informed by the voices of children and young people from across South Australia, we are much more likely to make changes that will benefit them in the ways they would prefer, and which reflect their real life experiences.

Thank you also to the various partners, stakeholders and contributors who have worked so closely with me and my team over the past twelve months to deliver on the various projects and initiatives reported upon here. This work will assist in persuading governments and other relevant industry and community stakeholders to make changes that will help to improve the lives of all South Australian children and young people, particularly those in our community who are the most vulnerable and whose voices are rarely heard.

Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

The SA Commissioner for Children and Young People acknowledges the unique contribution of Aboriginal people's cultural heritage to South Australian society. Although participant details were not recorded specifically in relation to the cultural identity or background of ATSI participants, a significant number of children and young people who took part in projects initiated by the Commissioner, self-identified as Aboriginal.

For the purposes of this report the term 'Aboriginal' encompasses South Australia's diverse indigenous language groups and recognises those of Torres Strait Islander descent. The use of the term 'Aboriginal' is not intended to imply 'sameness' between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures, while recognising that similarities do exist.

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The Honourable Blair Boyer MP
Minister for Education, Training and Skills

31st October 2023

Dear Minister Boyer

I am pleased to submit my 2022/2023 Annual Report, which has been prepared for presentation to Parliament as per the requirements under section 13A of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* (OAB Act).

It is divided into three distinct sections: Systemic Reporting, Project Reporting and Statutory Reporting.

The Systemic Reporting section provides an overview of the achievements of my Advocacy Agenda which commenced in 2022. It also includes a review of the progress on recommendations made in my previous annual reports. The Project Reporting section outlines the key projects, activities, and achievements of my office, during the reporting period.

As Commissioner my role is to ensure that the State, at all levels of government, fulfils its international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of South Australian children and young people.

An essential part of my approach is to hear directly from children and young people about their lives, and what changes they would like to see made. I represent their interests to political and civic leaders who have responsibility for the development and implementation of legislation, policy and processes that deliver quality and best practice services to South Australian children and young people.

South Australia's children and young people have been born into a century that is characterised by rapid and unprecedented civic, social, technological, environmental, and political change. This change has created uncertainty and complexity in their lives and is shaping the individual and collective values, identities, and sense of self and belonging of all children and young people throughout the world.

For some time now they have been vocalising their concerns about growing inequality, disrespect, and exclusion based on age, gender, sexuality, ability, ethnicity, and socio-economic background, and the impact climate change is having, particularly on future generations. While some children are focused on global solutions to global issues, almost all children are focused on the importance of making connections at a local level. Children and young people have told me that in addition to quality education and healthcare, they want relationships with adults who trust, listen to and respect them as valued members of our communities.

When children and young people do find the courage to voice their concerns, they told me that they often feel they're not taken seriously, or that the issues they raise are not adequately addressed. They want us to see them as citizens whose wants, and needs are unique and distinct from those of adults. The focus of my systemic advocacy over my second term is based upon what South Australian children and young people have told me are their priorities and builds on the work completed in my first term. By combining our efforts to improving the lives of South Australia's children and young people, we will be working together to ensure SA children thrive. We will also be ensuring those who are the most vulnerable across our communities are not being left behind, now or in the future.

This report meets the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting* and is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.



Helen Connolly
Commissioner for Children and Young People

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Introduction

As the South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People I have a responsibility under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* to promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of all children and young people living in South Australia.

Since my appointment in 2017 I have engaged with thousands of children and young people across the State and have advocated on the issues they have raised with me in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2022, I was reappointed for a further three years. This year, in addition to pursuing the recommendations made in the previous five years, I have also established a revised Advocacy Agenda (available [here](#)) to address those issues that are most important and pertinent to the children and young people of South Australia today.

My agenda for the remainder of my term as Commissioner is focused on the five key outcomes defined by South Australia's Child Development Council:

- Health: Young South Australians are physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy.
- Safety: Young South Australians are safe and nurtured.
- Wellbeing: Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged.
- Education: Young South Australians are successful learners.
- Citizenship: Young South Australians participate actively in society.

In 2022/2023, I focused on the issues that are impacting the physical and mental health of young South Australians. The prevalence of vaping amongst young people led me to investigate young people's experiences of vaping and to report on my findings. This report (available [here](#)) informed a range of new measures made at a state and federal level to try and address the impact vaping is having on young people.

My Issues Brief on the barriers young people face in trying to be more active (available [here](#)) highlighted ways to help children and young people become more physically healthy.

This year too, I have advocated for the large numbers of children and young people who are living with chronic illness (available [here](#)) drawing attention to their concerns about the need for additional educational support and understanding across the community.

At a time when some sectors of the community have been campaigning against openness around sex education, I am working with children and young people to develop reliable online relationship and sex education resources that are inclusive, comprehensive and easily accessed. Young people have told me how vital this is to their health and wellbeing, and how much they need openness and clarity around these important topics.

Period justice continues to be a major focus of my work and I have spoken at interstate and international forums to inform the global changes that are underway, working alongside others who are committed to improving the lives of all who menstruate. At a state level my focus is on developing a cross-government menstrual wellbeing policy. I have developed and distributed a guide for sports clubs (available [here](#)) to advise on practical ways to provide more supportive environments for club members who menstruate.

This year too, I have continued to provide small grants to enable sports clubs, community groups and local councils to raise awareness around menstrual health, provide educational resources, and improve access to free period products for children and young people.

During the reporting period I undertook an important consultation with young people and their families to enable me to better understand their experiences of seeking crisis mental health support. I have provided a summary of my findings to the Minister for Health and I am in regular conversation with health stakeholders about this critical matter.

The safety of children in State care has been a major focus for the media this year. I continue to advocate for children and young people in out of home care on the issues they prioritise, including making recommendations to amend the *Child and Young People (Safety) Act 2016* to better reflect child voice and child agency. My *Best Interests* report (available [here](#)) focuses on the need to listen to the young South Australians who are involved in the child protection system and who are the experts in their own lives.

Violence in schools has also received significant media coverage and I continue to work with the Department for Education, SA Police and other decision makers to try and protect the safety of young people through considered policy that includes the views of school students. I have raised my concerns about the portrayal of children and young people in the media with regulators, to encourage greater protections that can secure their safety and privacy.

I am concerned that the police are increasingly being called upon to respond to behavioural matters in schools and other venues, and that too many children are being drawn into the criminal justice system. I continue to advocate that children under the age of 14 years should not be incarcerated, and that our investment should instead be made into health and social care programs that aim to prevent this, thereby responding early to the issues that lead to young people committing crimes and entering the criminal justice system.

The year 2022/2023 has been a big one for local, national, and international sport in South Australia. I know how important sport is to children and young people and have provided guidance to SA sports clubs (available [here](#)) that aims to help them to become more child friendly protecting the diverse interests of our children and young people.

The financial crisis has continued to place significant pressure on families this year. I have been speaking up for the large numbers of children and young people whose families are struggling to afford the basics such as food, transport, and housing.

I published my *Safe and Sound* report (available [here](#)) early this year, in which I call for the public transport system to address issues that are likely to restrict children and young people's safety and mobility. I am also pleased to support the campaign young members of my Student Representative Council have devised in which they are calling for free public transport for all South Australian school students.

The summer floods along the River Murray once again highlighted the impact of climate change on South Australians with children and young people continuing to be unfairly impacted by climate disasters. I am working with emergency services to develop disaster preparedness and resilience amongst children and young people, including ways they can more effectively raise their concerns at the local, state and national levels to bring about change more quickly.

Year 12 students have repeatedly raised concerns about the pressures being placed on them in their final year of school. At the same time, they feel their schooling is not preparing them adequately for the next phase of their lives. My report, *High Stakes High Schools* (available [here](#)) highlights their concerns along with the changes they recommend be made to help alleviate and reduce this pressure.

Perhaps one of the most enduring concerns children and young people have raised with me, is that they often have no voice in the decisions that affect them, and that adults often do not listen or take them seriously when they do find the courage to speak up.

To enable children to experience what it's like to have a voice, I gather their insights via my annual Student Voice Postcards through which thousands of 8 to 12-year-olds across the State, can tell me about their lives and what is important to them.

My direct consultation with children and young people in schools and community groups, and through advisory groups allocated to my office, continues to be a feature of my work. The focus of these conversations is diverse. This year it has included conversations in 31 schools and 12 community venues as well as through 17 advisory sessions. Topics discussed have included kindness, wellbeing, racism and homelessness.

I also continue to support efforts to provide children and young people with the education and opportunities they need to be effective active citizens. I have established a new Civics and Citizenship website (available [here](#)) – a centralised information hub that provides a range of educational resources for students and teachers, as well as guidance and tools to enable governments to meaningfully engage with children and young people. This website has been created to help to reduce the barriers to civic participation highlighted in my Issues Brief on barriers to civic participation by children and young people. (available [here](#)).

In January 2023, I was delighted to welcome a new group of 155 SA SRC members. There were 166 students involved in the inaugural SA SRC established in 2022. SA SRC members met to determine what their priority issues for action this year are, while maintaining and building momentum on the campaigns for action established in the previous year.

I remain committed to the most enjoyable and meaningful part of my job – speaking with children and young people every week to hear their concerns, discover their passions, and ensure they are being heard. It is only by listening to young people that we can gain the value of their unique and diverse insights to make better decisions today that will have positive impact on their lives in the future.

Helen Connolly

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Key Achievements

- Facilitated the engagement and participation of **199** South Australian children and young people through advisory groups, citizen led research, community conversations and policy advocacy.
- Generated **18,611** responses from children and young people via 9 online and offline surveys, polls, and feedback forms, including **16,007** postcards received from South Australian children aged 8–12 years.
- Undertook **60** consultations engaging directly with **1,491** children and young people throughout the reporting period.
- Increased awareness of South Australian children's rights and the role of the Commissioner at **31** events as either a presenter, key speaker, or guest panellist.
- Influenced public policy through **25** formal submissions of which **14** were submitted to the Commonwealth government and agencies, and **11** were submitted to State government agencies.
- Responded to **39** individual requests for advice, advocacy, and intervention.
- Attracted **207** SA schools to the Commissioner's Digital Challenge 2023 with more than **40** interstate schools and **13** local SA libraries registering for one or more of the digital challenges as at 30 June.
- Distributed more than **\$88,000** in grant funds to 18 organisations supporting events and activities ranging from period poverty workshops to school excursions by regional and remotely located students to SA Parliament House.

Key Highlights

- Launch of the **Student Charter Workshops Pilot** to determine ways to best support Students in Year 12 get through their final year of school.
- Launch of South Australia's first **Youth Period Summit** to raise awareness about menstrual health and period justice.
- Launch of the **Civics and Citizenship** website to provide students and educators with a one-stop shop online place to access resources and information relating to civics education including a comprehensive Civics Directory and Engagement Toolbox.
- Recruitment of the second **SA SRC** and delivery of the Annual Summit to prioritise issues young people wish to take action on in their local communities.
- Re-launched '**hub**' – the online magazine space for young people aged 15–22 to express their opinions, share their creativity and information relating to topics of interest to young people their age.

Key Outputs

Strategic Agenda:

- 2022 Advocacy Agenda for South Australia's Children and Young People

Project Reports:

- Vaping Survey: Key Findings – What do young people think about current responses to vaping and how to better respond?
- The Things That Matter 3 – Views of 8-12 year olds on life, school and community
- Best Interests – Listening to SA children and young people about their experiences of child protection
- Safe and Sound – Views and experiences of SA young people on public transport
- 2022 Child Rights Progress Reports (Combined)
- High Stakes High School – Report into the Year 12 Student Experience in South Australia
- 2021/2022 Annual Report to Parliament
- 2021/2022 Annual Report to SA Children and Young People

Submissions:

- Submission to the Inquiry into NDIS participants with complex needs living in inappropriate accommodation
- Submission on the Review of the *Mental Health Act 2009* (SA)
- Submission on the Proposed Code of Conduct for Teachers in South Australia
- Submission on the Review of the (Safety) Act 2017
- Submission on the Review of the (Safety) Act 2017 – Child Voice and Participation
- Submission on the South Australian Skills Concept Plan

- Submission to the Senate Inquiry into School Refusal and related matters
- Submission on Proposed Reforms to the Regulation of Nicotine Vaping Products Consultation
- Submission to the Review of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* (SA)
- Submission on the draft Youth Mental Health Services Model of Care (SA)
- Submission to the Measuring what matters consultation
- Submission on the Draft National Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Strategy
- Submission to the Inquiry into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia
- Submission to the Religious Education Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws Consultation attaching No Exceptions Report
- Submission on the South Australian Autism Strategy
- Submission on the Family Law Amendment Bill
- Submission to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care – 3-year-old Preschool
- Submission to the Inquiry into the Perception and Status of VET
- Submission on the Purpose of Public Education
- Submission on Revitalising Australia's vision for science and research
- Submission to the Inquiry into School Disruption
- Submission on the Early Years Strategy
- Submission on proposed changes to tobacco and e-cigarette regulations in South Australia
- Submission to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care (OSHC)
- Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Framework

Engagement Initiatives:

- 2022/2023 Student Voice Postcards
- 2022/2023 Commissioner's Digital Challenge
- 2022/2023 South Australia Student Representative Council (SA SRC)
- 2023 Early Years Postcards

Guides and Fact Sheets:

- Becoming a Child Friendly Sports Club
- South Australian Children's Experience of Living with Chronic Illness
- The Things That Matter to Children – What SA Children say about the C Word
- The Things That Matter to Children – What SA Children say about Wellbeing
- The Things That Matter to Children – What SA Children say about Grownups
- The Things That Matter to Children – What SA Children say about Looking after the Planet
- Keeping Kids Connected to Learning and Schooling Summit #2 Feedback Report
- Bail Conditions for Children
- Barriers to Participation
- Barriers to Physical Activity
- Building Period Positive Sports Clubs.



Systemic

Reporting

‘Advocacy Agenda for South Australia’s Children and Young People’: Reporting on Progress of New Priorities

Background

Following my reappointment in April 2022, I compiled the priority issues and concerns I heard about from South Australia’s children and young people over the previous five years to inform the Advocacy Agenda for my next term.

The Agenda aligns with South Australia’s Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People developed by the Child Development Council. This is the Framework established under the Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacies Bodies) Act 2016 to progress the vision of South Australia as a state where the conditions exist for all children and young people to thrive.

The Framework established key outcomes into five domains:

- Health
- Safety
- Wellbeing
- Education
- Citizenship

At the core of my agenda is a commitment to advocating for placing the needs, interests and welfare of South Australia’s children and young people front and centre in collective thought, plans and actions undertaken at the systemic level. Every year in my Annual Report I will report on the progress made in relation to this agenda.

Health – Young South Australians are physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Physical health	Building more physical activity into the school day with more structured play opportunities during break times to support children and young people to increase their overall levels of fitness.	In 2023 the CCYP published an Issues Brief on <i>Barriers to Physical Activity</i> to raise awareness of the issue and what can be done to change this.
Chronic illness	Examining the experiences of children and young people living with chronic illness and advocating for suggestions they have for ways to improve systems and services they regularly interact with.	The CCYP is a member University of South Australia Adolescent Pain Project Governance Committee In 2022, the CCYP published an Issues Brief on <i>Living with Chronic Illness</i> to raise awareness.
Relationships and sexual health priorities	Designing an online resource for young people that will enable them to access inclusive, comprehensive relationships and sex education material that will include service information, referral pathways, and issues-based content such as peer-to-peer abuse and violence, under-age pregnancy, and being young parents.	The CCYP brought together a group of young people who are developing a mobile enabled relationships and sex education resource.
Menstrual health	Development of a state-wide Menstrual Wellbeing Policy to look at the issue of menstrual wellbeing through the lens of gender equity, gender equality, and health literacy.	The CCYP is providing advice to the State Government on the development of a state Menstrual Wellbeing Policy.
Menstrual health	Raising awareness of menstrual health to promote the uptake of access to free period products in schools and community centres, youth facilities, libraries, and chemists across the state.	The CCYP continues to work with the national Menstrual Health Research Network and other key stakeholders to develop resources, share good practice and raise awareness. This includes a group of members of the SA SRC who are working on their own local community focused period poverty campaign.
Menstrual health	Development of a suite of best practice resources that recognise the barriers menstruation creates to students' school attendance. This includes suggestions on ways to support schools to use 'review and change where required procedures' in relation to bathroom access, sanitary bin supply, pain management, and school uniform policy for young people who menstruate.	The CCYP has provided links to a range of useful educational resources for children and young people, and examples of global best practice in relation to removal of barriers on her dedicated period justice website: https://periodjustice.com.au/

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Menstrual health	Advocate for Period Friendly Sporting Clubs and improvement of bathroom access and provision of bins for best practice disposal of period hygiene products at all sporting grounds and club houses, regional community health centres, and for all those in the state's youth justice system	CCYP's Period Poverty Grants to councils, community groups and sports clubs provide support for projects, events and activities that promote menstrual education and supply of free period products to children and young people across South Australia.
Youth mental health	Working with young people to create mental health peer-to-peer self-help resource on issues related to what they need to know to help a mate, including what to do and where to turn when they're ready to seek adult help	<p>Initial consultation undertaken with early advice provided to relevant stakeholders and decision makers.</p> <p>A short report on the experiences of families accessing supports for their children from the Women's and Children's Hospital was produced.</p>

Safety – Children and young people are safe and nurtured

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Road safety	Working with local government and community partners to create safe ways to school by ensuring there are safe footpaths, cycle paths and crossings within the immediate area of all schools, shops, and parks, with good street lighting, effective signage, and speed restrictions in line with those recommended by the World Health Organisation.	Released the <i>Safe and Sound</i> Report in June 2023 based upon a survey on transport safety. Members of the SA SRC are advocating for free public transport through their Free Fares for our Future Campaign and petition.
Cultural safety	Consulting with young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds about their experiences of racism and developing recommendations for actions that can be taken by schools and sports clubs to prevent racism in all its forms.	In the second half of 2022 and in early 2023, the Commissioner met up with groups of children and young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to hear about their experiences of racism. A report on the findings will be published in early 2024.
Bullying at school	Developing approaches and strategies aimed at reducing school-based bullying particularly toward those who are the most vulnerable, with the aim of improving children and young people's overall quality of life.	Over the reporting period the Commissioner has been working with the Department for Education on the changes being implemented to improve behaviour management practices and guidance for educators in schools.
Bullying at the workplace	Consulting with young workers about the challenges and experiences they face in the workplace, and on gaining a greater understanding of the impact workplace cultures and practices have on a teenage workforce.	A survey about teenagers and work was undertaken in late 2022/early 2023 to examine their experiences in the workplace. A report on the findings will be delivered in 2023.
Bullying in sport	Working with partner agencies and sporting codes to explore feedback provided by children and young people on ways to address bullying behaviour in sporting clubs and how to manage it along with strategies to support coach development in this area.	The CCYP has developed a guide to <i>Becoming a Child Friendly Sports Club</i> for SA's sporting clubs and associations.
Care and protection	Implementing measures that refer children away from the judicial system as a first resort and instead work with regions to implement local diversion protocols between police, schools, child protection and community agencies.	The Commissioner has continued to advocate to raise the age and has supported the national Raise the Age Campaign.

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Care and protection	Amend the <i>Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (Safety Act)</i> to embed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to make “best interests” the primary consideration when any decisions about any child are being made.	During the reporting period the Commissioner provided feedback on the Review of the <i>Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017</i> which recommended best interests be the primary consideration.
Care and protection	Outlaw physical punishment of children	The Commissioner is a member of the End Physical Punishment of Australian Children Working Group which is leading the campaign to end physical punishment in Australia.
Youth justice	Reviewing current policies and procedures to ensure children and young people’s participation is upheld, and that court environments support young people to have a genuine opportunity to comment, respond, and freely express themselves.	The Commissioner is represented on the Adelaide Youth Court Stakeholder Committee and is working with the Youth Court to provide child-friendly information, building on previous work undertaken in this area.
Youth justice	Advocate with Federal colleagues to give children a voice in legal proceedings	During the reporting period the Commissioner provided feedback on the Family Law Bill and mapped the voice of children in legal proceedings relating to child protection.

Wellbeing – Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged

Area	Advocacy priorities
Cost of living	<p>Working with schools and the community to establish policies and practices that can better support students from low-income families to participate in the range of activities they are interested in, both within and outside of school.</p> <p>Actively promote anti-poverty week opportunities and advocacy to halve child poverty by 2030.</p> <p>In October 2022, the Commissioner actively promoted Anti-Poverty Week through media and public appearances and by holding two events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A youth forum on the impact of climate disasters (with the Department for Premier and Cabinet) – A citizen's jury event about free school meals (with Flinders University)
Digital access	<p>Invest in a comprehensive digital literacy agenda</p> <p>The <u>Commissioner's Digital Challenge</u> continues to encourage children, and their teachers, to learn and use digital and design skills in a number of fun challenges that continue to attract high engagement by schools and students including a number of national and international registrations.</p>
Food insecurity	<p>Implementation of a free lunch scheme in South Australia that can address issues of food insecurity for children from low-income families</p> <p>The Commissioner has been advocating for a school lunch program for students known to be going without meals on a regular basis. To discuss the proposal the CCYP partnered with Flinders University to deliver a citizen's jury on free school meals in October 2022.</p> <p>During the reporting period the government extended its free breakfast program. However, the CCYP is continuing to advocate for the implementation of hot lunches in SA schools, particularly those who have large numbers of students on the School Card.</p>
Cost of sport	<p>Better targeting, increased value, and overall expansion of the scope of the government's Sports Voucher Scheme to benefit children and young people from low-income families who wish to participate in extracurricular activities that go beyond club sport.</p> <p>The Commissioner is working with key stake-holders to identify ways to help children in low-income families participate in sport.</p> <p>The Commissioner spoke at the Sport SA Festival of Sport about this and other related topics. The Commissioner published her 2022 report <i>More than a Game</i> which examined what children and young people think about sport.</p>

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Cost of sport	Expand sports vouchers to extracurricular non-sporting activities to support children of all ages participate and reap health and other benefits	The government has expanded sports vouchers to include participation in Guides and Scouts. The Commissioner is continuing to advocate for sports vouchers to cover more extra-curricular interests and for there to be an increase in the voucher subsidy amount.
Climate safety	Upholding children's right to be heard and supporting child-focused approaches to emergency management and disaster mitigation and reduction.	The Commissioner is a member of the State's Resilience, Recovery and Engagement Sub-Committee. In addition to publishing a <i>Guide for Being Child or Youth Focused in an Emergency</i> , the Commissioner will contribute a Submission on Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response in August 2023.
Climate safety	Promoting access for young people to climate-related decision making including best practice student engagement.	<p>The Commissioner held a youth forum on climate action in October 2022. Based on the discussion at the forum, an open letter to government and other decision makers on the views of young people in advance of COP 27 was published and distributed to key stakeholders attending the forum.</p> <p>One of the COP Forum priorities – to introduce recycling bins to schools – will be achieved by the Department for Education's new waste contract.</p>
Transport	Introducing free travel to and from school and community activities for children and young people from low-income families by expanding the government School Card Scheme to include transport.	Members of the SA SRC launched the Free Fares for our Future campaign advocating for free public transport for all School Card holders at a minimum and ideally for all school students to encourage use of public transport and to minimise the impact of increasing cost of living pressures.

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Child Poverty Act	<p>Introducing a Child Poverty Act to establish a long-term approach to reducing the impact of poverty on South Australian children would underpin our commitment to delivering on the wellbeing priorities outlined above.</p>	<p>The Commissioner continues to advocate for measures to address child poverty and to help ensure children from disadvantaged families have the same opportunities as other children in SA.</p> <p>In February 2023, the CCYP sent a submission to the 'Inquiry into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia' to highlight how poverty impacts children and young people. One of the recommendations the CCYP made was to introduce a Child Poverty Act.</p>

Education

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Independent appeals for children excluded from school	Introducing an independent appeals mechanism/body for children who have been excluded from school will ensure that no child misses out on their right to access an education focused on the needs of each student, and not continue to blame the child for the inadequacies of the system.	The CCYP continues to advocate in this area. In 2022 the government concluded that there would be no independent appeals mechanism. Despite their being improvements to the complaints process in the Department for Education the CCYP continues to hear of cases where an independent appeals mechanism could better respond to students and their families. This includes issues occurring in Independent schools.
School disengagement	Influencing the education reform agenda by providing postcard data from primary-school children that identifies early indicators of their disengagement from school.	During the reporting year the Commissioner provided two submissions to the Commonwealth Senate Education and Employment Reference Committee on school disruption and school refusal. The Commissioner continues to advocate directly with the Department for Education on issues relating to students disengaging from school.
Refugee and migrant young people	Developing a refugee and migrant youth employment strategy and associated resources that breaks down the barriers to their employment.	Over the reporting period the Commissioner consulted with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds about their experiences of employment.
Refugee and migrant young people	Showcasing the special talents and skills refugee and migrant young people bring to the workplace and to society, and the business benefits a culturally diverse workplace offers all Australians.	The CCYP collaborated with Committee for Adelaide on 'Everyday Jobs' – a series of videos which provided profiles of staff from SA businesses aimed at young people. The series included profiles of staff from diverse cultural backgrounds. The Commissioner's Get Around It initiative profiles young people doing, making and thinking in interesting ways – a number of these profiles featured young people from migrant backgrounds who were applying their entrepreneurial skills and innovative ideas to develop businesses and products.

Citizenship

Area	Advocacy priorities	
Participation in decision making	Continuing the annual Student Voice Postcards initiative as the key opportunity for children to have their voices heard by asking every primary school in South Australia to support their students to take part.	16,007 students returned postcards in 2022 representing 336 schools across the state. The responses were summarised in the Commissioner's annual <i>The Things That Matter</i> report highlighting to decision makers and community leaders and change makers what issues are at the forefront of children's lives and what changes they would like to see made to improve their lives.
Participation in decision making	Establishing a state-wide Student Representative Council (SA SRC) to offer school students in Years 10, 11 and 12 a new model of representation that ensures they have a voice in policy and decision-making led by young people themselves.	The Commissioner established the inaugural state-wide Student Representative Council in 2022. 166 student council members worked on campaigns that were focused on addressing issues they identified earlier in the year and which they are passionate about bringing about change to within their local communities.
Digital citizenship	Creation and development of a centralised hub dedicated to South Australian civics and citizenship learning and engagement opportunities to inform students, teachers and parents.	During the reporting period the Civics and Citizenship website was launched, providing young people and educators 'a one-stop online resource portal for all things Civics and Citizenship.' The site includes a Civics Directory with links to over 250 resources and organisations relating to civics and citizenship as well as free access to the CCYP's Engagement Toolbox and yChange education packs.

Progress on Recommendations Made in Previous Years

In previous annual reports I have made a series of recommendations relating to key systemic policy issues which I continue to monitor.

This section shows progress made on these recommendations and what actions have been taken to implement them.

Recommendations are given a rating based on the engagement and actions taken by key stakeholders and decision makers as follows:

 RED

No evidence of policy or practice changes since the recommendations was made. No improvement in children's or young people's experiences.

 AMBER

Some evidence of policy or practice change, but the recommendation has not yet been fully implemented.

 GREEN

Recommendation implemented and notable positive differences to the groups of children and young people for whom the changes were intended to benefit.

System Oversight

Policy and system oversight of the rights and needs of children of incarcerated parents.

Recommendations made	<p>That the SA Department for Correctional Services (DCS) adopt a child rights and child safe environments approach to all relationships and interactions with children and young people.</p> <p>This includes family visits, provision of information for children on prison processes, prisoner reconnection, and reintegration with family.</p> <p>In addition, DCS should focus on the parenting status of offenders, and invest in parenting support initiatives for male and female prisoners, which aim to support incarcerated parents prevent their children from becoming involved in offending.</p>
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Progress rating	● AMBER
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Response/s to recommendations made	<p>During the reporting period the Department for Correctional Services opened the refurbished Visitor Centre at the Women's Prison, which was designed to be more child friendly and child safe.</p> <p>The Commissioner is advocating for similar visiting areas to be created in men's prisons.</p>
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Policy and system oversight of the rights and needs of children of young carers.

Recommendations made	<p>That the Department for Education work with school leadership teams and carer support agencies to develop and implement a young carer support model for all SA schools.</p> <p>This model would include the adoption of a single point of contact for information and advice for students with a significant caring role at home, with the focus being on supporting them to maintain their academic levels and social inclusion, as well as their connection with peers and the wider school community.</p>
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Progress rating	● AMBER
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Response/s to recommendations made	<p>Apart from some information for educators on how to support this group of children, there appears to be no systemic progress on developing a young carer support model of care in Education. Government has, however funded a new Young Carer Support Service and piloted a primary school program with Carers SA</p>
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System Oversights

Stereotypes and sexism in South Australian schools.

Recommendations made	<p>The Commissioner released her <i>Stereotypes and Sexism</i> Report with the following recommendations:</p> <p>All South Australian schools review existing relationship and sexual health education and bullying materials to ensure they specifically address sexism, sexual harassment, and gender-based bullying.</p> <p>Pre-service and practicing teachers be supported through access to ongoing training in relation to the prevention of sexism, sexual harassment, and stereotyping in the classroom.</p> <p>All schools review existing procedures for reporting and resolving incidents of sexism and gender based bullying and sexual harassment against the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.</p>
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Progress rating ● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made	<p>Since 2023, sex education is now mandated in all schools. The new curriculum will reportedly focus on age-appropriate consent and respectful relationship education and cover information around gendered stereotypes, coercion and power imbalances.</p>
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System Shortfalls

Lack of options for young people under 15 years of age who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and who are not receiving the attention, resources and support they need.

Recommendations made	<p>That the Department for Human Services take a lead role in developing a cross departmental response that ensures education, health care, youth justice, mental health and child protection services are all working together to formally plan and respond to the needs of children under 15 years of age at extreme risk of ongoing homelessness.</p>
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Progress rating ● RED

Response/s to recommendations made	<p>There is still no clear pathway for children and young people under 15 years to get the support they require if they become homeless.</p> <p>The CCYP will continue to monitor this shortfall through its Keeping our Promises Report published in June each year and work with DHS to improve our systemic responses to homeless children and young people.</p>
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System Shortfalls

Lack of bail accommodation options for young people leading to unnecessary periods in custody.

Recommendations made That the State invest in a youth bail accommodation facility, engaging an independent lead agency to oversee its development and implementation. This facility needs to include capacity for preparation of an individual release plan for every child and young person leaving detention.

Progress rating ● RED

Response/s to recommendations made In November 2022, Phase 2 of the Child Diversion Program commenced. This phase includes expanding the diversion team and increasing the accommodation for children encountering the youth justice system for the first time. The Program is also broadening the criteria for children who can be admitted to the program, to ensure more young people and their families get the support they need to get back on track. However the numbers of young people detained on remand continues to be high and there is no general youth bail facility in place.

Lack of data on police and court bail conditions applied to SA children and young people.

Recommendations made That the Department for Human Services (or other appropriate department) collect transparent, year-on-year, whole of system data, to track police and court bail conditions for all children and young people who come into contact with the SA child justice system.

Progress rating ● RED

Response/s to recommendations made This recommendation does not appear to have been progressed. Kurlana Tapa is currently building a youth custody unit to accommodate the needs of children and young people remanded in custody who have not yet faced court.

Lack of systemic mental health supports for primary school aged children.

Recommendations made The Department for Health and Wellbeing adopt a public health approach to children's mental health, increasing the number and variety of school-based mental health supports and interventions for primary school aged children.

Progress rating ● GREEN

Response/s to recommendations made During the reporting period the Department for Education has taken over the responsibility for this recommendation and commenced the School Mental Health Service pilot. As at Term 4, 2022, the pilot had been introduced into 9 schools. The Department is aiming to expand the program to 65 schools.

System Failures

Lack of timely support for young people from complex families who are falling through the cracks.

Recommendations made That the government establish an appropriate child-focused body resourced to work with government and non-government organisations and young people who are living with complex needs to implement a Young People at Risk Framework. This would be underpinned by formal agreements and include provision for long term case management, therapeutic interventions, and individualised support.

Progress rating ● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made The *Safe and well: Supporting families protecting children* strategy implemented by Department for Child Protection, recognises the need for a whole of government response that takes collective responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The strategy ends in 2023.

The Vulnerable Families Information System (VFIMS) is redeveloping the Key Integrated Data System (KIDS) Dashboard to be suitable for use by practitioners within the Pathways Team. The Pathways Team (consisting of approximately 12 staff members) is responsible for providing a clinical assessment of individual referrals and determining the outcome for each referral. The aim of the project is to build upon the shared inter-agency data to enhance the current KIDS Dashboard to assist the Pathways Team to perform their day-to-day activities.

In respect to children living with disabilities the Department for Human Services is convening a group exploring a multi-agency response to support early intervention for young people with complex disability.

Some actions have occurred but no systemic framework has been developed.

Increasing use of suspension, part time schooling and school exclusion as behaviour management strategies for children and young people who become disengaged with their education.

Recommendations made That the Department for Education undertake a policy and practice review of the use of school suspensions and exclusions, with an emphasis on creating opportunities for children and young people, and their families to have representation and direct involvement when suspensions or exclusions are being considered, particularly in relation to their use on children living with a disability.

Progress rating ● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made The Department for Education is actively reviewing its behaviour management policy, as well as its Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsion Policy.

System Failures

Criminalisation of children in care.

Recommendations made That the Department for Child Protection (DCP) implement systemic measures that refer children away from the judicial system as a first resort. This includes DCP working with police regions to implement local protocols between residential care units and police stations to ensure vulnerable children and young people receive treatment and care, not police involvement.

Progress made ● RED

Response/s to recommendations made There appears to be no change in relation to this recommendation, despite continued advocacy from CCYP and the Guardian for Children and Young People.

A statewide systemic and service response for children who are displaying problematic or harmful sexual behaviours.

Recommendations made The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (RCIRCSA) found that child-on-child problematic or harmful sexual behaviour is a critical issue. The Commissioner noted that harmful sexual behaviour by children appeared to be more prevalent than previously thought. However, due to a lack of consistent national data collection there has been an under investment in appropriate primary, secondary and tertiary intervention at a systemic level.

Progress made ● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made The Commissioner has been working with government agencies and NGOs to develop systems and services to better respond to children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour in South Australia. Over the reporting period there has been more research undertaken in this area, including by the University of South Australia which is leading in the development of a multi-agency framework inclusive of Education, funded by Channel 7 Childrens Research Group. The Department for Health and Wellbeing has also commenced a Prevalence Study-Data Mapping Project.

Project

Reporting

Major Projects and Initiatives

Throughout the 2022/2023 reporting year (with the support of my team) I undertook programs, projects, and initiatives across four key areas:

1 Rights Promotion and Protection

For all South Australian children and young people to be respected, valued, and heard, I inform children and young people, as well as the broader community, about their rights and the role my position as Commissioner plays in promoting, protecting, and supporting these rights. This includes amplifying children's and young people's voices, enfranchising children and young people's participation in public life, and making recommendations that expand opportunities for children and young people to enjoy meaningful participation in their community. I work to ensure that the interests of children and young people are placed front and centre in everyday life, so that decision-makers are actively engaging children and young people as stakeholders, particularly in relation to decisions and services that impact directly on them.

2 Awareness Raising of Systemic Issues

To achieve change it is sometimes necessary to shift attitudes on a specific issue toward a particular group of children and young people in our community. Through reporting and awareness raising, I seek to change community attitudes, public opinion, beliefs, and narratives, to create public support on an identified issue that children and or young people have brought to my attention. I partner with the broader community to substantiate these issues, enabling me to respond to and represent children and young people in a genuine way.

3 Systemic Advocacy

I utilise research, policy, advocacy and investigative methodologies to lead and complement government and community involvement in development, implementation and evaluation of laws, programs and policies that impact on children and young people.

This includes, more specifically, social policy development, legislative change, operational policy, and practical improvement/s.

4 Engagement and Participation

I actively seek to engage, include, and empower children and young people in matters relating to them. This includes supporting them to be critical stakeholders in service and program planning, as well as in governance and operational delivery. This is achieved through direct representation of children and young people on issues they themselves identify, as well as through consultation with them on issues others have identified as being relevant to them. This enables me to speak on behalf of children and young people with credibility.

I actively support individuals and systems to listen to, understand, and act on the views, experiences and information provided by children and young people. I also work to develop systems and structures that can actively involve children and young people in decision making, particularly in areas that impact on their interests and wellbeing directly. At all times, I seek to engage in meaningful dialogue and debate around issues that children and young people have identified as having a negative impact on their lives.

Rights Promotion and Protection

Major Projects

The Poverty Project

The Commissioner continues to advocate for policies and practices that will better support the rights of South Australian children and young people who are from poorer families, enabling them to have access to the same opportunities as other South Australian children.

As Chair of the SA Anti-Poverty Week, the Commissioner ran two events during October 2022, focused on eliminating child poverty within South Australia.

The first was a youth forum, presented in partnership with the Department for the Premier and Cabinet. The forum focused on climate change and ways to address the relatively high impact climate change has on children and

young people, particularly those who are less well off. The youth forum devised an [Open Letter to the Australian delegates attending COP 27 on behalf of South Australia's Children and Young People](#).

The second was a citizen's jury event on the Commissioner's proposal to provide students with school lunches because of the benefits to students' educational performance and behaviour this offers. Presented in partnership with Flinders University, the jury concluded that free school lunches should be trialled in SA public schools. In the recent budget, the Department for Education expanded its funding for free school breakfasts being delivered to SA schools.

Awareness Raising of Systemic Issues

Major Projects

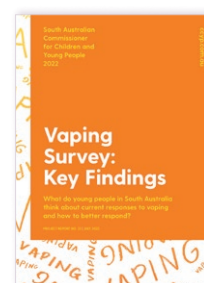
Vaping

In July 2022, the Commissioner released her [Vaping Survey](#) report based on a survey young people who were asked to share information about their experiences and perceptions of vaping. Young people told the Commissioner they felt misunderstood, judged, shamed, blamed, and punished for vaping. They also said that they lacked information, education and support from the adults and institutions around them.

The report was widely shared at a state and national level, and has made a significant contribution to the policy arena in this area.

The Commissioner continues to advocate for children's rights in relation to vaping.

Since the report was published, the Commissioner contributed to the Department for Education's new resources for schools to highlight the dangers associated with vaping and the actions schools should take to help students avoid using vapes. It includes where they can access the support they need to stop vaping and ways to avoid becoming addicted to the high levels of nicotine that many vapes contain.



Health, Wellbeing and Physical Activity

The Commissioner continues to advocate for more physical activity to be built into the school day, with more structured play opportunities offered to students during break times.

South Australian children are not meeting national targets for daily physical activity. This is primarily due to the barriers they face in accessing opportunities to be physical on a daily basis. In April 2023, the Commissioner published an [Issue Brief: Health, Wellbeing and Physical Activity](#) highlighting the issues young people say are limiting their ability to be active, which include a lack of time available in their day, and limited safe places to exercise.

The Issues Brief shares the perspectives of children and young people and includes recommendations for adults on ways they can help teenagers in particular to engage in more active, healthy practices on a daily basis.



Children and Young People Living with Chronic Illness



The Commissioner continues her advocacy to raise awareness of the issues faced by children living with chronic illness. During the reporting period the Commissioner published an [*Issues Brief: South Australian children and young people's experiences of living with chronic illness*](#), based on consultations undertaken over the previous year with a group of South Australian children and young people who are living with a chronic illness.

The Issues Brief details the daily challenges children and young people living with common chronic illnesses face, especially in relation to accessing their education. Young people described feeling unsupported and fatigued by constantly having to explain their diagnosis and manage their symptoms. They said adults, including teachers, did not often take the time to

study their care plans, or acquire the appropriate training or knowledge they needed to better support them.

The Commissioner has continued to contribute to the work of the national Child Unlimited Network, a national working group comprising leading physicians, academics, health researchers, and health economists, who are all looking to find integrated solutions to the challenges facing children and young people living with chronic illness.

In parallel, the Commissioner is working with both the Commission on Excellence in Healthcare and its Transition of Care Committee and the University of South Australia's Adolescent Pain Project to improve outcomes for children and young people with diverse pain needs.

Period Justice



The Commissioner continues to advocate for improved education and awareness around periods and menstruation, including greater access to free products, and reducing the stigma and taboo associated with periods.

The Commissioner's 2021 [*Menstruation Matters*](#) report on the experiences of children and young people who menstruate, continues to be referenced by decision makers and academics. As a result, the Commissioner has been invited to speak at national and international research conferences to talk about period justice.

One of the recommendations made in the report was adoption of a 'health in all policies approach to menstruation' by the State government. Wellbeing SA is leading a group of cross-government stakeholders to deliver this

Menstruation Wellbeing Policy and invited the Commissioner to give an opening speech at the group's inaugural meeting held in early 2023.

The Commissioner's national Menstrual Research Network meets regularly to share and discuss advances in research and practice occurring across Australia and beyond.

In May 2023, the Commissioner published a [*Guide to Building Period Positive Sports Clubs*](#) which brings together a range of advice for sports clubs on how they can support their members who menstruate. Simple changes such as the provision of free products and period friendly kits can make an enormous difference to the confidence of club members and can encourage girls to continue to engage in sport beyond puberty.

The Commissioner has repeated her Period Friendly Grants program in 2023, enabling community groups, local councils, and sports clubs to provide awareness raising, education, and free period products to their members. The Commissioner also provided funding for an exhibition titled PERIOD which highlighted the need to reduce the stigma around menstruation. PERIOD was on display throughout May at Floating Goose Studios on Morphett Street as part of the 2023 SALA Festival.

The Commissioner is passionate about period justice and has recently established an Instagram account (@periodjustice_sa) focused on advocacy around this topic. This builds on the dedicated website (periodjustice.com.au) launched in 2021, which provides extensive good practice examples, research links and resources on this topic.

Mental Health

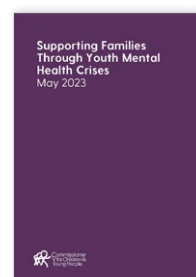
In 2022, the Commissioner and external consultants consulted with parents and children about their experiences accessing crisis mental health support in SA.

In addition, the Commissioner undertook consultations with young people who had attended emergency departments for crisis mental health support to hear about their experiences. Her findings were compiled into

a short report which was presented to the Minister for Health for his consideration.

The Commissioner continues to be an active member of the Suicide Prevention Council.

During the reporting period the Commissioner has also been consulting with young people on their wellbeing and will use the information gathered to inform her advocacy in this area going forward.



Transport and Road Safety

The Commissioner continues to work with key stakeholders to ensure child safe public transport. This includes advocating for improved regional transport and free public transport for all students or at a minimum those who have School Cards. Other recommendations to improve transport in the regions included devising community programs that support regional young people learn to drive.

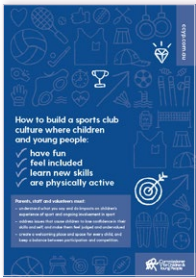
In June 2023, the Commissioner published the *Safe and Sound* report on young people's views of public transport. This is the second report on young people's views and experiences of public transport following *Public Transport – It's Not Fine* released in 2019. This new report focused on young people's concerns about personal safety,

especially at night, and which current public transport routes are not fit for purpose. Young people said they can lose hours from their day when having to take two buses, or a bus and a train, to travel just three or four kilometres to a rehearsal, training session, or part-time job undertaken after school.

In addition to this work, members of the SA SRC launched their Free Fares for our Future campaign advocating for free transport for all SA school students to ease pressure on young people and their families who may already be experiencing financial stress. The students involved have received significant coverage in the media and met with SA Transport Minister to express their concerns.



Child-Friendly Sporting Environments



In 2022, the Commissioner published her guide to *Becoming a Child Friendly Sports Club*. The short guide provides a series of suggestions on ways that sporting clubs could make sport more fun and accessible, helping children and young people to feel included. The guide builds on the

findings summarised in the Commissioner's *More Than A Game* report, published in June 2022.

The Commissioner also gave a presentation to raise awareness of what sports clubs can do to become more child friendly at the Sport SA Festival of Sport held in July 2023.

High Stakes High School



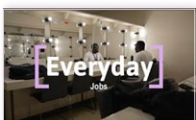
In January 2023, the Commissioner published *High Stakes High School* – a report highlighting the concerns young people have in relation to the pressures they face in the final year of high school, including about how well (or not) their education prepares them for life beyond school. More than 300 South Australian Year 12 students shared their experiences and reflections on Year 12 through a series of face-to-face conversations and an online survey.

Young people at all levels of school feel an immense amount of pressure to complete Year 12 and achieve a high ATAR score. They are told that their ATAR score is used as a key indicator of both

their value as a person and whether they will have a successful life. This pressure comes from their teachers, parents, and the media.

The report seeks to inform future approaches to the support offered to final year school students, to improve their final year journey and reduce the stress levels this group of young people experience. Ideally these improvements will extend to changing the ways in which we engage with children and young people throughout their schooling years, supporting them to not only prepare for Year 12, but to develop a lifelong love of learning.

Pathways to Employment



Young people say they do not feel adequately prepared for the job market by the time they leave school. They want the education system to provide more information about their rights as an employee, how to manage interviews and resumes, and how to learn about the other realities of work. They want more support for vocational training and work experience in mainstream schools. They also want easy access to up to date relevant work pathways and job opportunities across growth industries.

During the reporting year, the Commissioner provided input into new Skills SA Plan at a workshop in November 2022 based on what

she has heard from young people. She also co-produced a series of videos with Committee for Adelaide titled *Everyday Jobs* to demystify career pathways. The videos featured seven South Australian's working in a variety of roles across locally based industries that included the arts, green technology, business development, hospitality, geoscience, communications and community building.

In 2023, the Commissioner opened a survey to find out more about young people's experiences of work. The findings will inform her future advocacy in relation to young people and work with the report expected to be released in early 2024.

Civic Participation

To further research into the extent of government consultation with young people, the Commissioner published an *Issues Brief: Barriers to Civic Participation* in April 2023.

The paper highlights the need for young people to be engaged to inform the development and delivery of policies that impact directly on them.

To support government staff to consult effectively with children and young people, the Commissioner has provided a range of resources on her new website for Civics and Citizenship (civicsandcitizenship.com.au). The website includes an Engagement Toolbox for government and other practitioners, providing practical information and techniques on ways to engage meaningfully with children and young people.

The Civics and Citizenship website provides a range of resources specially for young people, including opportunities for them to participate in decision making at a local level. Via the Civics Directory, students and educators can access more than 280 educational resources focused

on civics and citizenship aligned with the national curriculum.

The Commissioner continues to engage with a range of stakeholders to encourage improvements to delivery of civics education to young people and provide more opportunities for students to undertake active citizenship education. In partnership with Parliament House and the Department for Education, CCYP presented a series of online professional development seminars specially for teachers. They feature the Governor and the Attorney-General as well as the CCYP amongst other professionals working in this area.

For the second year, the Commissioner partnered with Parliament House to provide grants to disadvantaged regional schools enabling them to visit Parliament and other civics destinations in Adelaide. Due to increased funding, 25 schools visited Parliament this year from places as distant as Ceduna, Coober Pedy and Yahl.



Climate Safety and Disaster Readiness

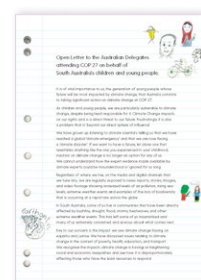
Young people are disproportionately impacted by climate change and are deeply concerned about environmental issues.

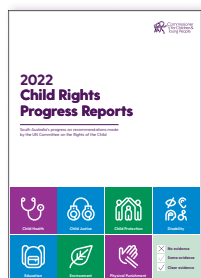
In October 2022, the Commissioner held a youth forum on climate action in partnership with the Department for the Premier and Cabinet. At the forum, young people devised an Open Letter to the Australian Delegates attending COP 27 expressing their views and vision for a positive future, and outlining what they believe needs to happen immediately if we are to avert a climate catastrophe.

The Commissioner is also partnering with Red Cross to deliver a Youth in Emergencies project.

The project will support young people to design and deliver a training program for future groups of young people to train them to prepare for and recover from climate disasters.

The Commissioner is a member of the State's Resilience, Recovery and Engagement Sub-Committee and the People at Risk in Emergencies Policy and Strategy Group, through which she advocates on behalf of all South Australia's children and young people in relation to climate change, including the actions young people want decision makers to take now for the benefit of future generations of SA children and young people.





Child Rights Progress Report

The Commissioner released her third series of seven *Child Rights Progress Reports* on Human Rights Day (10 December) 2022. The suite of annual reports monitors South Australia's progress against the recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child released in its report published on 1 November 2019.

The recommendations fall under seven areas; health, education, child protection, child justice, disability, environment and physical punishment. The Commissioner monitors the implementation of the UN recommendations to ensure South Australia is fulfilling its international obligation to “seek to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child”.

Engagement and Participation

Major Projects

South Australian Student Representative Council (SA SRC)

The SA SRC is CCYP's core youth participation program. It is a collaboration between CCYP, the Foundation for Young Australians, and the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition. It includes 166 students from all over South Australia and represents 35 electorates.

The Commissioner has repeatedly heard from young South Australians that they are feeling frustrated and side-lined as they continue to be denied opportunities to participate in decision making because of a perceived lack of knowledge and experience, and that their opinions are therefore not valid.

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

SA SRC has been devised to address this shortfall by offering school students in Years 10, 11, and 12 a model of representation that ensures they have a voice in policy and decision making that is led by young people themselves.



Student Charter Workshops

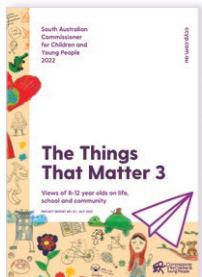
In the first half of 2023 the Commissioner ran three pilot Student Charter workshops at three different SA public high schools to develop a Year 12 Student Charter unique to each group. The goal of the workshops was to increase student voice and agency through both engagement in the workshop, and ongoing engagement following each session. In each workshop different elements were tested including the

workshop length, types of activities undertaken, facilitation model, group size, content covered, and room set-up used.

Based on the success of the pilot workshops it is expected that in coming years the workshops will be utilised and expanded upon for delivery to other SA high schools.



Postcards



2022 was the fourth year of the Commissioner's annual Student Voice Postcards initiative which commenced in 2019. The postcards enable the Commissioner to better understand what children aged 8–12 years are doing, what matters to them most, and what concerns they have about their lives.

During the reporting year *The Things That Matter 3* was released focusing on an analysis of the postcards received in 2021. The question prompts students were asked to answer in 2021 were: 1) I am good at..., 2) I care about..., 3) I want grownups to know..., and 4) The world would be better if...

Each year, all eligible schools are sent postcard packs inviting them to participate in the initiative. In 2022, the Commissioner received 16,007 postcards representing participation by 336 schools throughout the state.

Postcards were completed by children attending Government, Catholic, and Independent schools, including students at Area schools, Special Education schools, and Aboriginal/Anangu schools.

Postcards were received from children in all 12 regions of South Australia. Summaries of what children said in metropolitan Adelaide and rural, regional and remote communities throughout the state were included in the 2021 report.

Each year *The Things That Matter* report and regional summaries are sent to key decision makers including local government Mayors and CEOs, and State and Federal Members of Parliament, to ensure they have information relating to children and young people throughout South Australia and the issues and areas where they would like to see changes made to improve their lives and those in their families and broader community.

Hub



Hub is an online magazine for South Australians aged 15–22 years. The Commissioner heard from young people that they don't feel well represented by or see themselves in a positive light in South Australia's mainstream media, so Hub was created to fill this gap.

Hub showcases the depth and diversity of young people in South Australia and provides a platform from which they can voice opinions, share creative work, and promote and discover upcoming events and opportunities for young people living across the state.

Hub also features content from the South Australian Student Representative Council, highlighting the work of 166 student representatives, carrying out campaigns relating to issues they feel passionate about within their schools and local communities.

Young people are invited to participate by submitting content for publishing. This can include an article, photos, videos, music, stories, or opinion pieces. Alternatively, they can apply to become a Hub intern. Hub interns are a team of 18–22 year-olds who meet fortnightly to create content and run Hub behind the scenes.

Commissioner's Digital Challenge

The Commissioner's Digital Challenge is an annual challenge that opens on the first day of the South Australian school year and closes on the last day of Term 3.

The Challenge was introduced by the Commissioner in direct response to the feedback from children and young people regarding the need for them to acquire digital skills in order to be future ready.

The free online resource has been designed to engage and empower young digital citizens because 'digital skills are life skills'. They are critical for future jobs, social inclusion and to help build a more equitable world.

Each of the three challenges (Learn to Speak Robot, Space to Dream, Zoom Out) are available via a dedicated website (commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au) accessible by schools, libraries and community groups (such as Scouts and Guides) and by children at home with their families. The website also features free extended resources for those who wish to continue their learning journey beyond the Challenge activities.

Since the Commissioner's Digital Challenge began in 2019, it is estimated that more than 90,000 South Australian children have participated in the Challenge.

As of June 30, a total of 207 South Australian schools along with more than 40 interstate schools and a further 13 local SA libraries have registered for the Commissioner's Digital Challenge 2023.

Learn to Speak Robot (a computational thinking challenge)

A total of 61 SA schools and 4 interstate schools have so far registered for Learn to Speak Robot, along with 12 SA public libraries. Since its inception, Early Learning Unplugged has now been downloaded by approximately 500 users across libraries, preschools, kindergartens and families at home.

Space to Dream (a design thinking challenge)

A total of 193 SA schools, 41 interstate schools and 301 international schools have participated in the Space to Dream challenge, along with 8 SA public libraries.

Zoom Out (a systems thinking challenge)

A total of 83 SA schools and 4 interstate schools have registered for Zoom Out, along with 6 SA public libraries.

**COMMISSIONER'S
DIGITAL
CHALLENGE**





Statutory

Reporting

Role of the Commissioner

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is a statutory officer independent from direction or control by the Crown.

The Commissioner promotes and advocates for the rights, development and well-being of all children and young people in South Australia. The Commissioner is committed to advocating for children and young people's involvement in decision-making that affects them, with particular consideration given to those children and young people who are considered vulnerable and whose ability to make their views known is limited for any reason.

Key Responsibilities

The Commissioner has a number of key responsibilities that include:

- promoting and advocating for the rights and interests of all children and young people in South Australia
- promoting the participation by children and young people in the making of decisions that affect their lives
- advising, and making recommendations, to Ministers, State authorities and other bodies (including non-Government bodies) on matters related to the rights, development and wellbeing of children and young people at a systemic level
- inquiring into matters related to the rights, development and wellbeing of children and young people at a systemic level (whether a Governmental system or otherwise)
- assisting in ensuring that the State, as part of the Commonwealth, satisfies its international obligations in respect of children and young people
- undertaking or commissioning research into topics related to children and young people
- preparing and publishing reports on matters related to the rights, development and wellbeing of children and young people at a systemic level; and
- such other functions as may be conferred on the Commissioner by or under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* or any other Act.

Children and Youth Engagement

Under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* the Commissioner is required to consult and engage with South Australian children and young people. She does this in a variety of ways, including meeting with groups of children and young people face-to-face, as well as through surveys, polling, forums, and events.

Since her appointment in 2017 the Commissioner's primary way of engaging has been talking to children and young people directly.

Direct Consultation

Throughout the reporting period the Commissioner spoke with 1,491 South Australian children and young people at workshops, in face to face meetings, and at forum events.

Date	Project	Engagement Type	Numbers
1 July 2022	Consultation on friendship at Hallett Cove School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	8
5 July 2022	SA SRC West	Consultation with Commissioner	6
6 July 2022	SA SRC South	Consultation with Commissioner	7
11 July 2022	SA SRC East	Consultation with Commissioner	5
12 July 2022	Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC) Youth Forum	Face to face with Commissioner	98
13 July 2022	SA SRC Port Lincoln	Consultation with Commissioner	5
14 July 2022	Consultation with children in care at Connecting Foster Carers South	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	5
25 July 2022	Consultation on racism at Salisbury High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	11
17 August 2022	Consultation on racism at Multicultural Youth South Australia (MYSA)	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	5
18 August 2022	Consultation on racism at Adelaide Secondary School of English	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	9
19 August 2022	Consultation on racism at Craigmare High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	13
19 August 2022	Consultation on racism at MYSA	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	3
22 August 2022	SA SRC Central	Consultation with Commissioner	4

Date	Project	Engagement Type	Numbers
24 August 2022	SA SRC North	Consultation with Commissioner	5
29 August 2022	Consultation on racism at Nazareth Catholic College	Face to face consultation with students from refugee and migrant backgrounds with the Commissioner	16
29 August 2022	SA SRC South	Consultation with Commissioner	1
30 August 2022	SA SRC Regional	Consultation with Commissioner	6
31 August 2022	Consultations at Whyalla Secondary College	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	38
31 August 2022	Consultation with children in care at Centacare Catholic Country SA	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	12
1 September 2022	Consultation at Whyalla Town Primary School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
1 September 2022	Consultation at Memorial Oval Primary School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
5 September 2022	SA SRC West	Consultation with Commissioner	10
6 September 2022	Consultation on racism at Le Fevre High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	16
6 September 2022	SA SRC East	Consultation with Commissioner	2
7 September 2022	Consultation with young mums at Northern Adelaide Senior College	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	8
12 September 2022	Consultation on friendship at Saint Mary Magdalene's School, Elizabeth Grove	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	7
21 September 2022	Consultation on racism with international students	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	7
13 October 2022	Consultation with children in care at Centacare Catholic Family Services	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	12
25 October 2022	Consultation on mental health crisis services at SASY	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	5
11 November 2022	Consultation with children in care at AC Care Community Centre Murray Bridge	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	6
14 November 2022	Consultation on wellbeing at Compass Catholic Community	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	8
30 November 2022	Consultation on SACE	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	12
6 December 2022	Consultation on wellbeing at Saint Joseph's, Port Lincoln	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
6 December 2022	Consultation on wellbeing at Port Lincoln High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	11
6 December 2022	Consultation on wellbeing at Port Lincoln Primary School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
7 December 2022	Consultation on wellbeing at Tumby Bay Area School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
10 February 2023	Year 12 Student Charter Workshop at Norwood International High	Face to face workshop with Commissioner	280
23 March 2023	SA SRC Summit	Event	133

Date	Project	Engagement Type	Numbers
4 April 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Christies Beach High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	20
18 April 2023	SA SRC	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	130
24 April 2023	Youth Period Summit Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	12
26 April 2023	Consultation with children in care at Zone Bowling Woodville with Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA	The Commissioner spoke with children and young people in out-of-home care	20
1 May 2023	Consultation on homelessness with Youth Advisory Committee for Campbelltown City Council	Face to face conversation with Commissioner	12
2 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing with Findon High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	9
2 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing with Seaview High School	Face to face conversation with Commissioner	8
2 May 2023	SA SRC Diversity and Inclusion Project Group	Consultation with Commissioner	12
9 May 2023	Year 7 Student Charter Workshop at Norwood International High	Face to face workshop with Commissioner	160
16 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Endeavour College	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	12
16 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Salisbury High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
23 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Banksia Park High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	11
23 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Modbury High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	13
25 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Adelaide Secondary School of English	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	31
30 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Nuriootpa High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	16
30 May 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Kapunda High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	19
6 June 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Mitcham Girls High School	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	25
7 June 2023	Youth Period Summit Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	7
13 June 2023	Consultation on wellbeing at Thomas Moore College	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	13
14 June 2023	SA SRC Mental Health Project Group	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	6
26 June 2023	SA SRC Environment and Transport Group	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	6
27 June 2023	Year 7 Student Charter Workshop at Willunga High School	Face to face workshop with Commissioner	85

Promoting Participation

Under the *Children and Young People's (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* one of the functions of the Commissioner is to promote the participation of children and young people in decision making so that they have a say in the decisions that are impacting on their lives.

To facilitate their participation, the Commissioner has developed a variety of ways for children and young people to become directly involved in her work. These include being on advisory groups, undertaking citizen research, conducting community conversations, and being part of the Commissioner's Advisory Committee. A total of 190 SA young people informed and participated in the work of the Commissioner via these mechanisms.

Date ranges	Advisory Group	Description	Number	Focus
February 2023 – June 2023	SA Student Representative Council 2022	State-wide council – Consisting of Year 10–12 students across all educational sectors.	165 successful applicants	School project groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Diversity and Inclusion – Environment and Transport – Student Voice – Mental Health
April 2022 – June 2023	Commissioner's Advisory Council	A group of Year 10–12 students from across the state who meet with the Commissioner monthly and provide expertise on their lived experiences as young people in South Australia.	15 members	Issues discussed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Money and budgeting – Human rights to inform Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Framework – Banning things (vaping, phones in schools, etc.)
January 2023 – June 2023	Hub	An online magazine for South Australians aged 15–22.	10 interns	Issues identified by young people of interest to other young people

Surveys and Polling

Throughout 2022–2023, the Commissioner designed and released several surveys and polls to gain a deeper understanding of children and young people's thoughts, experiences, and concerns around issues that ranged from climate change to teenagers and work.

The surveys and polls were undertaken both online and offline, with the Commissioner gathering a total of 18,611 responses from South Australian children and young people throughout the reporting period.

The 2022 school year was the fourth year of the Commissioner's Student Voice Postcard initiative and attracted the highest level of participation to date, with a total of 16,007 postcards received from children in 336 schools across the state.

Date	Project	Engagement Type	Number
June 2022 – November 2022	Social Cohesion Poll	Poll	97
July 2022 – May 2023	2022 Student Voice Postcards	Consultation	16,007
August 2022 – September 2022	Public Transport Survey	Survey	1,124
September 2022 – October 2022	Relationships and Sexual Health website content	Survey	79
October 2022	Postcards – <i>Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017</i> Review	Consultation	39
October 2022 – November 2022	Climate Change Poll	Poll	184
October 2022 – February 2023	Teenagers and Work Survey	Survey	907
April 2023	Money and Budgeting	Poll	91
May 2023 – June 2023 (ongoing)	Early Years Postcards	Consultation	63

External Relations and Communications

The Commissioner interacts with a variety of stakeholders across government, private enterprise, and community organisations.

The Commissioner actively communicates key issues identified in relation to the promotion, protection, and prioritisation of the rights of South Australia's children and young people, to key stakeholders. These include decision makers, policy makers, government representatives, members of parliament, academics, community leaders, not for profit organisations and advocates as well as individuals working in child rights locally and nationally, with some international engagement where possible and appropriate.

The Commissioner's communication is done in a variety of ways that include making formal submissions and official comments; sending electronic direct messaging campaigns, letter writing, making speeches and presentations; opinion editorials, social media, and print and radio interviews and articles. She also has a quarterly newsletter which is distributed to more than 5,000 stakeholders.

Younger children are engaged via notices sent to parents, carers, and educators and via the Department for Education e-newsletter to schools. Targeted mailouts to South Australian public and independent schools and libraries are also undertaken in relation to key initiatives including the annual Student Voice Postcards initiative and Commissioner's Digital Challenge.

Teenagers are engaged via email, Slack, Instagram, and Facebook with events and surveys distributed to young people via Humanitix, Eventbrite, and Survey Monkey.

Media releases announcing various project outcomes and the release of new reports are distributed to mainstream print, radio, television and online editors and journalists throughout the reporting period.

In addition, the Commissioner undertakes radio and podcast interviews, with stories about her work being pitched regularly to relevant journalists, of metropolitan and regional newspapers.

The Commissioner also self-publishes articles on her Medium blog, with these cross-posted to her LinkedIn profile where they achieve consistently high engagement and shares.

The details of the multi-faceted external relations and communications activities undertaken for this reporting period are summarised over the following pages.

Submissions

The Commissioner's functions under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* include advocating for the rights and interests of all children and young people and to advise on and make recommendations to Ministers, State authorities and other bodies on matters relating to their rights, development and wellbeing at a systemic level.

This includes preparing submissions or letters on particular issues, with these sent to national and state government agencies and organisations for their consideration and reflection.

The Commissioner made 25 submissions throughout the reporting period with 11 of these made to State government departments and agencies, and 14 to Commonwealth government departments and agencies. Submissions covered issues that ranged from mental health and educational issues to how to better support young children living in poverty to child voice and participation to name a few.

Date	To	Subject
31 August 2022	Social Development Committee (SA)	Inquiry into NDIS participants with complex needs living in inappropriate accommodation
12 September 2022	South Australia Law Reform Institute	Review of the <i>Mental Health Act 2009</i> (SA)
27 October 2022	Teachers Registration Board SA	Proposed Code of Conduct for Teachers in South Australia
18 November 2022	Department for Child Protection (SA)	Review of the <i>Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017</i> (SA)
18 November 2022	Department for Child Protection (SA)	Child Voice and Participation: Review of the <i>Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017</i> (SA)
12 December 2022	Department for Education (SA)	South Australian Skills Concept Plan
22 December 2022	Senate Inquiry into School Refusal and related matters (Cth)	Senate Education and Employment Committee
11 January 2023	Department of Health and Aged Care, Therapeutic Goods Administration	Proposed Reforms to the Regulation of Nicotine Vaping Products Consultation (Cth)
2 February 2023	Commissioner for Consumer Affairs (SA)	Review of the <i>Residential Tenancies Act 1995</i> (SA)
2 February 2023	Department for Health and Wellbeing (SA)	Draft Youth Mental Health Services Model of Care
2 February 2023	The Treasury	Measuring what matters consultation (Cth)
8 February 2023	National Mental Health Commission	Draft National Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Strategy (Cth)
14 February 2023	Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee (Cth)	Inquiry into the Extent and Nature of Poverty in Australia

Date	To	Subject
23 February 2023	Australian Law Reform Commission	Religious Education Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws Consultation attaching No Exceptions Report (Cth)
24 February 2023	Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee	South Australian Autism Strategy
27 February 2023	Attorney General's Department (Cth)	Family Law Amendment Bill (Cth)
27 February 2023	Early Childhood Education and Care (Cth)	3 Year Old Pre-School
1 March 2023	House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training	Inquiry into the Perception and Status of VET (Cth)
21 March 2023	Department for Education (SA)	Purpose of Public Education
30 March 2023	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (Cth)	Revitalising Australia's Vision for Science and Research
31 March 2023	Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment (Cth)	School Disruption
24 April 2023	Department of Social Services (Cth)	Early Years Strategy
5 May 2023	Department of Health and Wellbeing (SA)	Proposed Changes to Tobacco and e-Cigarette Regulations in South Australia
17 May 2023	Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care (Cth)	Early Childhood Education and Care
30 June 2023	Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (Cth)	Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Framework

Presentations, Speeches and Discussion Panels

Throughout the reporting period the Commissioner attended 33 events where she either made a presentation, gave a speech or participated in a panel discussion. The events covered a range of topics aimed at raising awareness around the issues and aspirations of South Australia's children and young people. Below is a summary of these presentations, speeches and panel discussions.

Date	Project	Engagement Type
18 August 2022	Healthy Development Adelaide Oration	Key Speaker
19 August 2022	South Australian Secondary Principals' Association	Key Speaker
26 August 2022	South Australian Specialised Assistance Schools Network Conference	Key Speaker
28 August 2022	Young Impact Grants Awards Day	Awards Presenter
8 September 2022	Daniel Morcombe "Putting Children First" Forum	Co-Host
23 September 2022	Life Ed SA Youth Connect Conference "Respect and Consent"	Key Speaker
30 September 2022	Mercedes College Mercy Award	Key Speaker
5 October 2022	Flinders University Pre-Service Educators	Key Speaker
17 October 2022	Early Childhood Australia (SA Branch)	Presentation
18 October 2022	Youth Conference of the Parties (COP) Forum	Key Speaker and Organiser
26 October 2022	Children in the North – Provocation Workshop	Key Speaker and Panel Member
27 October 2022	Health and Physical Education National Forum	Key Speaker and Panel Member
7 November 2022	Woodville Primary School student project	Guest Speaker
18 November 2022	South Australian Council on Social Services (SACOSS) Conference – Ending Poverty	Panel Moderator
24 November 2022	Special Education Parent Forum	Key Speaker
29 November 2022	Vinnies Youth SA Anti-Poverty Week Forum	Key Speaker
8 December 2022	Marion Youth Collective Committee Spaces Report Launch	Key Speaker
9 December 2022	Thebarton Senior College Graduation Ceremony	Key Speaker
16 February 2023	Menstruation Symposium	Speaker
3 March 2023	Uniting Country SA Board Retreat	Guest Speaker
6 March 2023	Future Women Leadership Summit 2023	Speaker
7 March 2023	AMRC International Women's Day Event	Speaker

Date	Project	Engagement Type
16 March 2023	Whole of Government (WOG) Forum	Speaker
24 March 2023	South Australia Student Representative Council (SA SRC) Summit	Key Speaker and Organiser
18 April 2023	The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) SA Conference	Key Speaker
5 May 2023	PERIOD the Exhibition	Key Speaker
16 May 2023	Youth Period Summit	Key Speaker and Organiser
17 May 2023	Civics and Citizenship Professional Learning Seminar	Online Presentation
22 May 2023	Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) Vaping National Round Table	Facilitator
29 May 2023	South Australian Countering Violent Extremism – Youth Radicalisation Summit	Panel Member
5 June 2023	Engagement Workshop (Department for Child Protection/ Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing)	Speaker

Media Coverage

During the 2022/2023 reporting period the Commissioner was interviewed for radio/podcasts on 18 occasions. She had 23 articles relevant to her work published in metropolitan and regional newspapers, and 12 articles published in specialist publications/magazines throughout the year.

Below is a summary of the media coverage achieved this year:

Date	Topic	Outlet/Publication
14 July 2022	<i>Bullied out of sport I love</i> . Article by Miles Kemp re bullying in sport	The Advertiser
26 July 2022	<i>Student Voice and Agency Research Q & A</i>	Teacher Magazine
27 July 2022	<i>SA calls for national action on vaping</i> by Tim Dornin	Australian Associated Press
27 July 2022	<i>Pupils mock vaping rules</i> by Colin James	The Advertiser
27 July 2022	Radio interview by Angela Coe re: vaping	ABC Radio North and West
31 July 2022	<i>Teens want help not punishment for vaping</i> by Colin James	Sunday Mail
31 July 2022	<i>I want all children to feel safe and protected</i> , feature profile article on Commissioner Helen Connolly by Ben Kelly	SA Life
1 August 2022	Radio interview by Peter Goers re: Commissioner's Student Voice Postcards initiative	ABC Radio Adelaide 891
1 August 2022	Radio interview with Leon Byner discussing the CCYP vaping report	5AA
8 August 2022	<i>Move over big data – give little data a go</i> , Commissioner's Opinion	The Educator
14 August 2022	<i>School cafeterias would replace lunch boxes under Flinders push</i> by Brad Crouch	The Advertiser
28 August 2022	<i>Secondary students to be warned about the dangers of vaping</i> by Colin James	The Advertiser
28 August 2022	Radio interview with Peter Goers on <i>The Things that Matter</i> report	ABC Radio Adelaide 891
31 August 2022	Radio Interview with Emma Pedlar re: raising the age of criminal responsibility	ABC Radio Eyre Peninsula
12 September 2022	Podcast – Conversations on <i>More than a Game</i> report	Off The Pitch Podcast
15 September 2022	<i>Word On the Street: Kids want grownups to know more</i> by the Commissioner	KIDDO Magazine
15 September 2022	Get Around It Profile	KIDDO Magazine
2 October 2022	<i>Push to cut back on suspensions</i> by Colin James	Sunday Mail
2 October 2022	<i>Sick kids feel the pain of school</i> by Miles Kemp	Sunday Mail
7 October 2022	Radio interview with Leon Byner re: school lunches	5AA
7 October 2022	Radio interview with Natasha Healy re: the need for school lunches	ABC Radio Adelaide 891
7 October 2022	<i>Feed our hungry school students</i> by Colin James	The Advertiser
7 October 2022	<i>Food for Thought</i> , Editorial	The Advertiser
10 October 2022	School lunches	Nova 919
12 October 2022	Radio interview with Ethan Rix on barriers to participation in sport	ABC National
15 October 2022	<i>Local government nominees under 21</i> by Erin Jones	The Advertiser
16–22 October 2022	Radio interview with Sonya Feldhoff for Anti-Poverty Week	ABC Radio Adelaide 891
26 October 2022	Podcast interview re: planting seeds in youth sport	Off The Pitch with Active

Date	Topic	Outlet/Publication
7 November 2022	<i>Stigma, taboo, myths and misconceptions around menstruation</i>	Pandemic Periods
10 December 2022	<i>SA Uni enrolments by SA regional students</i> by Miles Kemp	The Advertiser
11 December 2022	<i>Physical punishment and SA being out of step re: corporal punishment laws</i> by Colin James	Sunday Mail
11 December 2022	<i>Home being no place to raise a hand against a child</i> , Editorial	Sunday Mail
12 December 2022	Radio interview about SA children locked up in adult cells, breaching their human rights	ABC Radio Adelaide 891
13 December 2022	Radio interview with Graham Goodings on physical punishment	5AA
16 December 2022	<i>Word on the Street: What does wellbeing mean to kids</i> by the Commissioner	KIDDO Magazine
16 December 2022	<i>Get Around It</i> Profile	KIDDO Magazine
4 January 2023	<i>It's time to talk about sex</i> , Opinion Editorial by the Commissioner	InDaily
10 January 2023	Radio interview with Sophie Launder on <i>Sexism and Stereotypes</i> report	ABC Radio Adelaide 891
11 January 2023	<i>Shock study reveals crisis our kids face</i> by Miles Kemp	The Advertiser
13 January 2023	<i>SA government supports installation of vape detectors in schools</i>	The Educator
14 January 2023	<i>Stingy schools put image before kids</i> by Colin James	The Advertiser
14 January 2023	<i>All students feeling welcome at school</i> . Editorial by Paul Starick	The Advertiser
15 February 2023	Interview with Patrick Begley on children and food insecurity	ABC TV 7:30 Report
2 March 2023	<i>ATAR not true test</i> by Eilidh Sproul-Mellis	The Advertiser
13 March 2023	<i>What do young people want us to do about Year 12?</i> Opinion Editorial	The Educator
16 March 2023	<i>Word on the Street: Supporting your child's wellbeing at school</i>	KIDDO Magazine
26 March 2023	<i>Australian teenagers urge government to help them break vaping addiction</i> by Melissa Davey	The Guardian
6 April 2023	<i>Towards more child friendly and child focused justice</i> , Opinion Editorial	Law Society of South Australia
5 May 2023	<i>Bloody good South Australians working to end period poverty</i> by Claudia Dichiera re: period justice	InDaily
12 May 2023	<i>Justice denied: Lawyers claim breaches of SA child detainee rights</i> by Stephanie Richards	InDaily
19 May 2023	<i>It's happening younger and younger – children being excluded from school from a young age</i> by Lauren Novak	The Advertiser
17 June 2023	Free Fares for Our Future SA SRC Campaign interview with Peter Goers	Evenings with Peter Goers – ABC Radio Adelaide 891
17 June 2023	<i>Public transport for young people</i> by Miles Kemp SA SRC Campaign	The Advertiser
23 June 2023	Free Fares for Our Future SA SRC Campaign interview with Deb Tribe	Afternoons – ABC Radio Adelaide 891
27 June 2023	<i>High school students campaign for free public transport – SA SRC Campaign</i>	The Educator
28 June 2023	<i>Is Your School A Postcards School?</i> Advertorial	KIDDO Magazine: Educate

Websites, Social Media and Internet Coverage

The Commissioner uses a combination of websites and social media channels to communicate her message relating to child rights advocacy for South Australia's children and young people. She has developed several dedicated websites and social media accounts that focus on specific issues, initiatives, and campaigns. These operate alongside the main CCYP website and complement several social media channels working in similar ways across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Medium, YouTube, and more recently Tik Tok. An overview of each is provided below.

ccyp.com.au

This is the main website for CCYP housing the complete suite of publications and resources produced by the Commissioner since 2017, made available for public view and easy download from the site. The website also contains information about the Commissioner's current strategic agenda and key projects, providing updates and stories on the full range of initiatives and activities being undertaken. This includes stories relating to their impact on South Australian children and young people and their communities. It also directs visitors to the Commissioner's other project and initiative websites and social media accounts as outlined below.

commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au

Provides information and downloadable content for educators and community organisations supporting students of all ages to participate in the Commissioner's annual Digital Challenges (Learn to Speak Robot/Space to Dream/Zoom Out) run through schools, as well as through community libraries and Scouts and Guides clubs.

commissionerspostcards.com.au

Provides information on the Commissioner's annual Student Voice Postcard initiative which has been running since 2019. Postcards invites all South Australian primary school aged children in years 2–6 to complete a simple postcard that keeps the Commissioner aware of what matters to children most. The responses are analysed and published in a summary report, downloadable from the website. The report is complemented by summaries of what children living in metro, rural, regional and remote locations said, alongside a gallery of postcard images and children's quotes.

hubadl.com

Hub is an online magazine for South Australians aged 15–22. The Commissioner heard from young people that they don't feel represented or see themselves in the media, so Hub was created to fill this gap. Hub showcases the depth and diversity of young people in South Australia, and provides a platform for them to voice their opinions, share their creative work, and discover upcoming events and opportunities across the state. Hub also features content from the South Australian Student Representative Council, highlighting the work the 155 representatives are carrying out in their schools and communities. Young people are invited to participate by submitting a piece of their work for publishing (eg, articles, photos, videos, music, stories, opinion pieces), or applying to become an intern. Hub interns are a team of 18–22 year olds who meet fortnightly to create content and run Hub behind-the-scenes.

periodjustice.com.au

Raising awareness in relation to the issues of stigma and shame surrounding period poverty and menstruation more broadly. The website previously known as endperiodpoverty.com contains information relating to period justice issues and offers a comprehensive range of free resources that are being continuously expanded.

civicsandcitizenshipsa.com.au

Promotes the importance of children and young people learning about civics and citizenship and its relevance to their lives. A comprehensive Civics Directory containing a suite of curated third-party resources can be easily searched via type, audience and issue. The

Commissioner's Engagement Toolbox offering best practice ideas for effective engagement with young people can be downloaded for free. Young people and educators can also access information about a range of programs, grants, places to visit, and educational opportunities and awards relevant to the national civics and citizenship curriculum.

ychange.com.au

A portal to the yChange Teacher's Handbook and accompanying Lesson Plans for South Australia's first curriculum-aligned action civics resource designed specifically for primary and secondary educators, developed with direct input from students, educators and civics experts. Based on the number of yChange Resource Pack downloads this five step action civics learning journey is estimated to have been undertaken by students attending 149 SA schools.

YouTube

The Commissioner produces videos for various projects and initiatives. These can be viewed from the dedicated CCYP YouTube channel (@CCYP_SA). Within the reporting period, new content with the highest number of views (444) was a video entitled '2022 Inaugural SA SRC – Recap'.

Facebook

CCYP Facebook is a key platform through which the Commissioner communicates key messages about her initiatives and programs and what young people have told her about their lives. Followers increased by approximately 200 to reach 2.1k (up from 1.9k in 2021/22). The audience mainly consists of followers based in Adelaide (63.3%) and regional SA (4.1%).

Instagram

The CCYP Instagram account is the main socials platform through which the Commissioner communicates to young people aged 13 years to 22 years. The total number of CCYP Instagram followers reached 1.5k (up from 1.1k in 2021/22), while profile visits increased from 2,008 to 2,314.

Get Around It (GAI)

The CCYP GAI Instagram profile appeals to a younger audience with 67.9% of followers falling within the ages of 13–34 years. Posts throughout the reporting period achieved a reach of 2.2k with 1,023 reactions.

LinkedIn

CCYP has a LinkedIn account with followers totalling 885 (up from 512 last year). Posts received 76 shares, and there were over 402 reactions and 8 comments.

Tik Tok

An @ccyp-sa Tik Tok was established in early 2022 to encourage young people to enrol and vote in the State and Federal Elections for that year. It is used periodically to promote specific surveys, events and calls to action relevant to the work of the Commissioner that may not be seen by young people on CCYP's other social media platforms.

Electronic Direct Marketing

Stakeholders, community leaders, government officials, decision makers and policy makers from government, corporate and not-for-profit organisations were sent a variety of emails throughout the year via HubSpot. The emails announced new initiatives and the release of major reports and were targeted to relevant stakeholders. Topics ranged from transport, period friendly sports clubs, civic and citizenship, barriers to participation, mental health crisis support, and Year 12. The Commissioner's Quarterly Newsletter to Stakeholders was also introduced during this reporting period, distributed to more than 5000 stakeholders at the end of each school term.

Sponsorships and Grants

Sponsorships

The Commissioner sponsors organisations to support children and young people.

During the reporting period the Commissioner sponsored 5 organisations for a total value of \$17,200 (excluding GST).

consultation with and/or the design and delivery of programs or services for SA children and young people. There were three grants types offered throughout the reporting period; Child and Youth Engagement grants (27 applications received with 9 allocations); Community Action grants (3 applications received with 1 allocation) and Period Poverty grants (26 applications received with 8 allocations). The following organisations applied for and received sponsorship funding up to a maximum of \$6,000. Grant funds awarded throughout the reporting period totalled \$88,030.

Grants

The Commissioner runs an annual grant program to support organisations that are involved in

Recipient	Initiative/Project
Adelaide Hills Council	Grant for “Hills Hangs”– online youth info hub and social media engagement tool
Adelaide Jaguars	Period participation and performance education and support for young female athletes
Australian Refugee Association	Grant for ARA Youth Empowerment Committee
City of Charles Sturt	Grant for increasing access to sustainable menstrual products for culturally diverse youth
City of Holdfast Bay	Grant to address period poverty
City of Mount Gambier	Grant for With YOU(th) for YOU(th): Activating Wulanda Youth Space
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	Grant for free period product trial in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Congolese Community	Grant for Community Engagement
Flinders University	Grant for Educating for Respectful Relationships: Empowering young people from CALD backgrounds
Multicultural Youth of SA Inc. (MYSA)	Grant for Multicultural Youth Period Program
Puddle Jumpers	Grant for “A mile in their shoes”
Specialised Assistance School for Youth (SASY)	Grant to host a consultation with young people about mental health
Shine SA	Grant for the production and promotion of a menstrual health kit
Taboo	Grant for addressing period education barriers among language diverse youth in SA
Wattle Range Council	Grant for a child and youth engagement event
Whyalla City Council	Grant for “Period Pride – A Topic for Discussion and Action”
YMCA	Grant for OSHC local area student advisory committee
Youth Opportunities Australia Ltd.	Grant for youth participation

Committees and Boards

Throughout the year the Commissioner attended ongoing committees that included the following:

- Children in the North Executive Steering Committee – Chair
- Civics and Citizenship Network – Chair
- Combined Statutory Authorities and Rights Protection Group – Chair
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour Group – Chair
- Menstruation Research Network – Convenor
- Anti-Poverty Week – Co-Chair
- Australian and New Zealand Commissioners and Guardians Group – Chair/Member
- Advancing Youth Foundation – Committee Member
- Child Development Council – Committee Member
- Children's University Advocacy Board – Committee Member
- Commissioner for Victims' Rights Consultative Committee – Member
- Ending Physical Punishment Against Children Working Group – Committee Member
- Human Rights and Coercion Reduction Committee – Member
- Oversight and Advocacies Bodies Group – Committee Member
- South Australian Child Protections Awards Selection Committee – Member
- Public Advocate Clients and Domestic Family Violence Working Group – Member
- Suicide Prevention Council – Member
- Support and Inclusion Reference Group – Committee Member

The Commissioner is also represented by members of her staff on the following committees:

- Adelaide Aquatic Centre Inclusive Design Working Group
- Children and Young People in Emergency Services Organisations Project Steering Committee
- Early Years Taskforce
- Governor's Civics Awards for Schools Reference Group
- People at Risk in Emergencies Policy and Strategy Group
- Resilience, Recovery and Engagement Sub-Committee
- University of South Australia Adolescent Pain Project Governance Committee
- Youth Court Stakeholder Committee

Summary of Enquiries

A total of 38 enquiries into matters concerning potential rights protection issues related to the safety and wellbeing of South Australian children and young people were received from the general public and stakeholders throughout the 2022/2023 reporting period.

Some new issues arose, including concerns for children's safety and/or wellbeing (17) and bullying, school exclusion, restraining children and discrimination and privacy (13). There were also a number of enquiries relating to children in state care (12) and children and young people being denied opportunities to build their relationships with parents/grandparents/siblings.

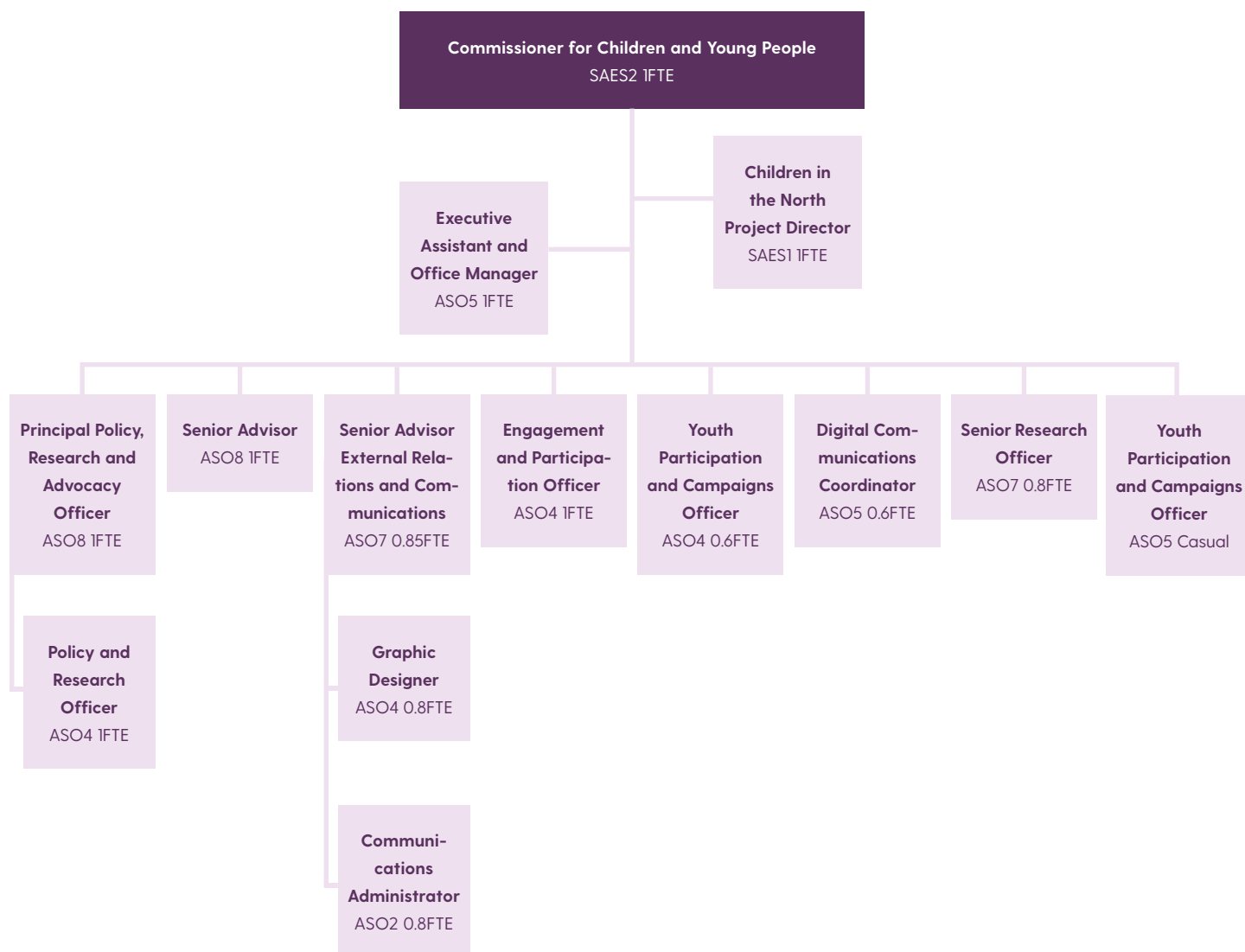
The nature of these enquiries were as follows:

Description of concern/request	Number
Concerns about DCP, including inappropriate matching in residential care, use of chemical restraint, concern for children in care, concerns about neglect or abuse by parents which are being ignored, allowing DCP children to go on holiday with family, family reunification and carers' ability to access services.	10
Concerns about schools including children being excluded, bullied, and/or discriminated against.	12
Concerns in family court matters, including court not believing family and domestic violence, Judges requiring law enforcement officers to use force to remove children when there is a breach of court orders.	5
Concerns for children living with disability including those living in voluntary out of home care, those not getting support as they have no NDIS, with no guardian to advocate for them, use of restraints, and being excluded from school due to behaviour arising from their disability.	7
Other	4

Reporting of Public Complaints

Category of complaints by subject	Number of instances
Customer service complaint	0
Alleged breach of legislation	0

Organisational Structure



Legislation Administered by the Agency

Not applicable. The Commissioner's role is established under the *OAB Act* and does not administer any legislation.

Related Agencies

The CCYP is administratively and operationally funded and supported by the Government of South Australia through the Department for Education.

The CCYP has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Department for Education. This formal agreement defines the business relationship between the parties.

Some services included in the SLA are charged on a fee for service basis.

These include:

- 1 Injury Management and WHS
- 2 Information and Communication Technology
- 3 Financial Services – auditing, management reporting

Other administrative arrangements are directly under CCYP control and are paid from the CCYP budget.

Work Health and Safety Issues

Workplace injury claims	Current year 2022/2023	Past year 2021/2022	% Change (+/-)
Total new workplace injury claims	0	0	0%
Fatalities	0	0	0%
Seriously injured workers*	0	0	0%
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	0	0	0%

*Number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

Work health and safety regulations	Current year 2022/2023	Past year 2021/2022	% Change (+/-)
Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>)	0	0	0%
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>)	0	0	0%

Return to work costs**	Current year 2022/2023	Past year 2021/2022	% Change (+/-)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	0	0	0%
Income support payments – gross (\$)	0	0	0%

**before third-party recovery

Employment Opportunity Programs

Program name	Result of the program
CCYP Work Experience	One school student had the opportunity to undertake work experience with CCYP.
CCYP Volunteer Internships Program	Eight volunteers provided support to CCYP staff on the Hub magazine website project.

Executive Employment in the Agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES2	1
SAES1	1

Consultants

Consultants	Purpose	Actual payment (\$)
Think Human 2022/2023	Mental health consultation	27,162.39

Financial Performance of the Agency

The financial operations of this office are consolidated into and audited through the Department for Education.

Accordingly, full financial reports are not provided as part of this annual report. A summary view of expenditure is provided below:

Financial summary of expenditure 2022/2023

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Item	Actual (\$)
Salaries and wages	1,458,341
Grants	88,030
Goods and services	310,511
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	36,321
Total expenditure	1,893,203
Commission received	132
Other revenue	5,603
Total revenue	5,735
Net operating	1,887,467

Risk Management

Fraud detected in the agency:

There was no fraud detected in the agency over the reporting period. NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

The CCYP applied the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy prepared by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. This policy outlines the requirement by public sector staff to commit to the prevention and management of fraud, corruption and other criminal conduct, misconduct and maladministration, and the promotion of ethical and honest behaviour in the workplace including the creation and maintenance of an appropriate workplace culture.

Public Interest Disclosure

There were nil occasions on which public interest information was disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*.

Compliance Statement

Commissioner for Children and Young People is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector.	Yes
Commissioner for Children and Young People has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency’s related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	Yes

