



## 150 young people from around the state gather for SA SRC Summit 2024 during Youth Week

South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, will host the 2024 group of 150 new members of the South Australian Student Representative Council (SA SRC) who will meet at the Adelaide Festival Centre today (Friday 22 March) for the annual SA SRC Summit.

The Summit takes place at the start of each year so that the new council members can meet each other in person and gain a clearer understanding of what being on the statewide student representative council entails.

This will be the third group of 150 students from years 10, 11 and 12 who have been selected to the SA SRC, with this year's council members coming from 44 state electorates and representing 80 government, catholic and independent schools from across the state.

Along with those from Adelaide metro and the Greater Adelaide and Hills regions, there are young people from Years 10, 11 and 12 who will be travelling from Mount Gambier, Whyalla and Port Lincoln, Cummins, Grant and Millicent, as well as from Port Broughton, Berri, Keith, Gladstone, Kapunda, Penola, Cowell and Balaklava to attend.

Many will have their first opportunity to meet face-to-face with their State Member of Parliament and discuss the ideas they have for change. South Australia's politicians have been very supportive of the Commissioner's SA SRC with 20 state parliamentarians confirmed to attend tomorrow's Summit in person.

A partnership between the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) students will spend the day participating in a range of workshops and activities that will set them up for their representative role, meeting with decision makers and campaigning around issues they are passionate about throughout the coming year.

Campaigns for 2024 include sustainable school canteens, lowering the voting age within local government elections, offering free public transport to high school students, developing a diversity audit tool for schools, and offering free fitness for school students seeking to maintain a healthy school-life balance.

**SA SRC Summit – MEDIA WELCOME**

**When: Friday 22 March, 2024**

**Time: 9am to 4pm**

**Location: Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre**

## Background

The Commissioner has repeatedly heard from young South Australians that they are feeling frustrated and sidelined as they continue to be denied opportunities to participate because of a perception that they lack knowledge and experience, and that their opinions are therefore not valid. As the experts on their own lives, the Commissioner wanted to find a way to empower young people who are passionate about active citizenship and support them to organise, vocalise and act on the kind of change they want to see – to have the opportunity to stand up for what they believe in and represent other young people their age.

Past SA SRC campaigns have included improving road safety for students, modifying school timetables to better support students and their learning, protecting threatened species, and educating students on how to recycle properly.

The SA SRC brings together passionate young people who are unwilling to accept the status quo. Their energy and ideas for creating a better future, not only for themselves, but for future generations of young South Australians is used to create genuine student-led change within their own communities. These are young people who want to deliver on their own agendas – not those of adults, which they perceive as being slow and ill-informed when it comes to knowing the complexities of the lives and experiences of today's young people.

## Quotes attributable to the Commissioner:

These young South Australians have been chosen because they are passionate about issues and are keen to work with others their age to bring about positive change in their local communities. These are young people who are not prepared to accept the status quo. They have an appetite for change and want to find out how they can have an impact. I am very excited to meet the next cohort and to work with them on the campaigns identified as priorities for the coming year.

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