Missing Voices

Domestic and family violence as described by primary school children

Commissioner for Children & Young People

This booklet draws on responses from students aged 8–12 years who participated in my annual Student Voice Postcards initiative via their school.

Answers and drawings are unedited and are in response to open-ended questions about their lives.

This booklet is representative of the responses reflecting the concerns, worries and challenges children in South Australia face.

One of the concerns raised with me relates to incidents of domestic and family violence and how this is having an impact on their lives.

The purpose of this snapshot is to bring children's perspectives and experiences of domestic violence to the fore, as too often they're being overlooked.

From what they have told me, we still have a long way to go to address the behaviours and environments that result in aggression and violence being directed toward them, or another member of their family whom they feel helpless to protect or defend.

A failure to address the impact of domestic and family violence in children's lives is detrimental to everyone and cannot be ignored.

What worries kids?

the way my body changes and my parents because they fight really bad – 10 year old

My parents getting so angry with each other they hurt each other – 11 year old

going to dads ~~and~~ house
and being with him. – 9 year old

My parents argue and are violent a bt.
Will they divorce? – 9 year old

the court case my mum is in with my dad and I'm scared that I will have to live with my abusive father.

– 12 year old

being taken away from mum.

– 12 year old

My father hurting others

– 12 year old

my dad hes [redacted] been hacking into mums acount and posting that shes a horrible mother

– 11 year old

The safety of my family and home – 11 year old

Robots taking over the earth and my mums safety – 12 year old

getting hit by my parents.

– 10 year old

my mum going to court

– 11 year old

Things at home and if anything will happen to me.

– 12 year old

what my parents ~~gave~~ did to me when I was young

– 11 year old boy

When I'm at home and how my parents argue it just makes me feel fear and anxious

– 11 year old girl

SECRET FAMILY STUFF

– 12 year old

Family abusing me or negleting me because mum and I have fights all time

– 10 year old

my dad coming back.

– 9 year old

being with mum because
I don't feel safe.

– 9 year old girl

I worry that if my mum marys another peosen my dad would shout us out that there will be lots of fight and and we will become poor

– 11 year old girl

growing up and getting bulled or& Strest and my dad hurting me.

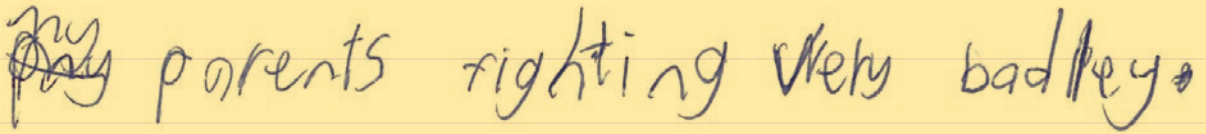
– 10 year old girl

How my parents fight and if their going to divorce and how my dad gets Stressed alot with his health and doesn't eat dinner with us.

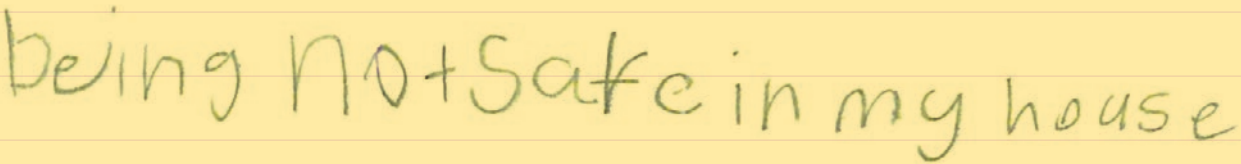
– 10 year old girl

My dad drinking and smoking and then lying about it to my mum and I.

– 9 year old girl



– 9 year old boy



– 8 year old girl

getting hurt from my parents if i dont listen and spiders in my room

– 10 year old girl

What kids want grownups to know

That Home is Hell

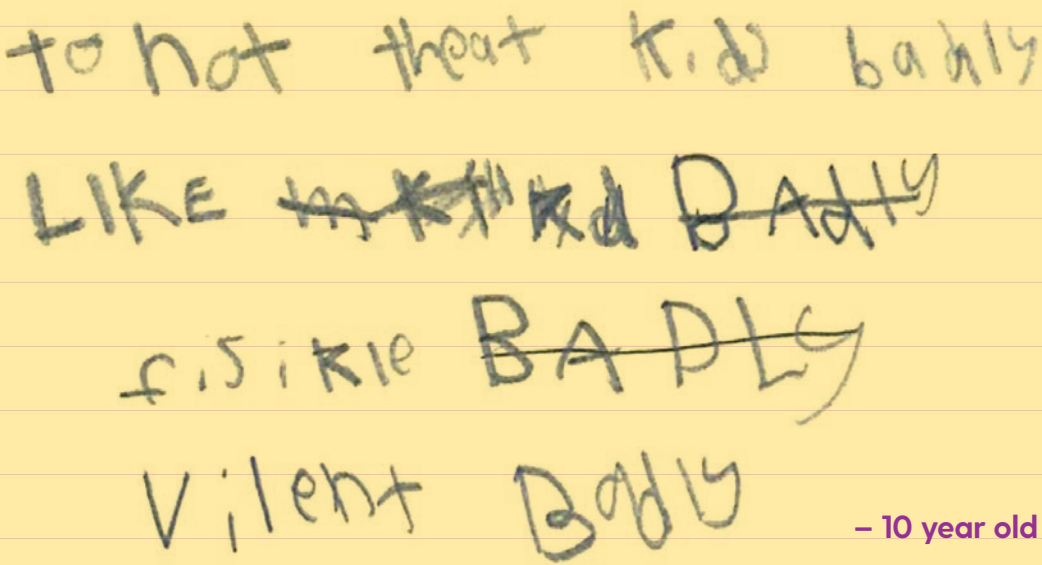
– 10 year old boy

that our homes are
shost to be safe

– 10 year old girl

that just because we are young
does not give them a right to hurt us
and to let them know we have voices too.

– 9 year old girl



– 10 year old boy

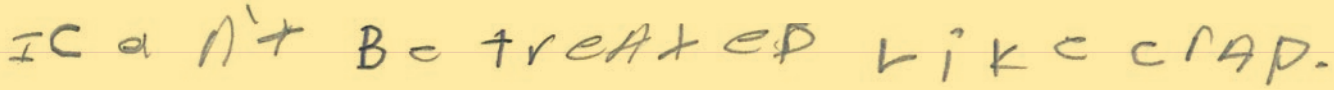
you don't need to fight.

~~because~~ because I don't like when ~~Please you~~ Parents fight all the time.

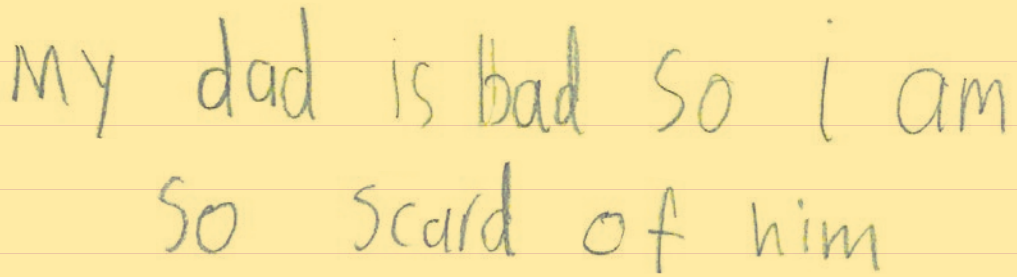
– 8 year old girl

Stop hiting me!

– 9 year old girl



– 10 year old boy



– 9 year old girl

that it has been really hard in school and home life and it is really hard to keep the fake smile on all the time.

– 11 year old girl

not yell and fight less

around us kids

– 11 year old boy

. that I have a hard life because of my stupid Dad!!!!

– 11 year old girl

that hurting kids isnt the way to parent you need to talk to them about it

– 10 year old girl

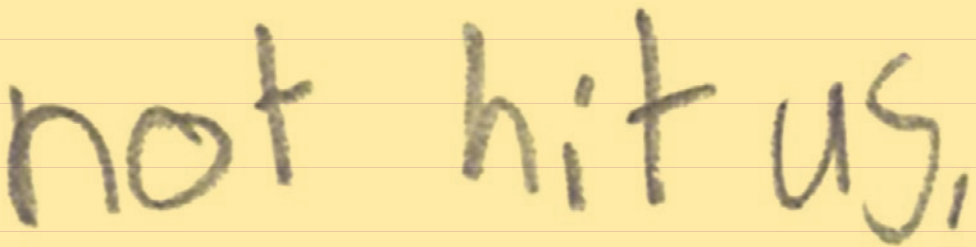
Not compare us to people and force us to do more homework and get chased by a stick or a clothhanger

– 7 year old girl

When parents fights,
it is really scary, children
would'nt know what to do.

– 11 year old girl

What could make things better?



– 9 year old girl

Women and girls did not get hart and no todemestic violance

– 9 year old girl

there was no
arguments at home

– 9 year old boy

my siste wouldnt kick, punch
and mentaly abuse me every day.

– 11 year old boy

make sure everyone is happy, and safe in there homes, making sure everyone has a good food supply. Because some people aren't happy because they might be worried about something or sad. People at home might not feel safe because of for example, domestic violence or neglection. I would make a move about that.

– 11 year old

Some parents to stop
taking drugs and abusing
abusing their children
(I know, its not all parent)

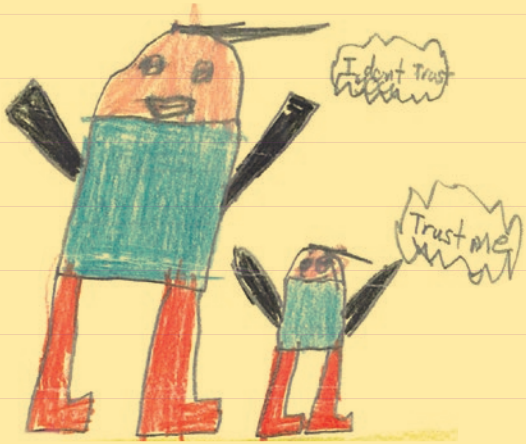
– 10 year old girl

Help kids with family issues.

– 12 year old girl

DONT PUSH KIDS TO GROW UP TOO FAST. KIDS ARE KIDS

children have feelings to!



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