

South Australian
Commissioner
for Children and
Young People

ccyp.com.au

Annual Report 2023/2024



Commissioner
for Children &
Young People

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all the children and young people who participated in various activities undertaken throughout the 2023/2024 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.

ISSN

2652-8592 (Online)

Suggested Citation

Connolly, Helen. Commissioner for Children and Young People, South Australia.
Annual Report 2023/2024.

Copyright

© 2024 Commissioner for Children and Young People.
All rights reserved.

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

31st October 2024

Dear Minister Boyer

I am pleased to submit my 2023/2024 Annual Report, as per the requirements under section 13A of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* (OAB Act).

As in previous years, 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 current 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.

This is the final annual report I will deliver as South Australia's inaugural Commissioner for Children and Young People. It has been an absolute privilege to lay the foundations for this crucial role within our state. I have sought to ensure that the voices of South Australia's children and young people were heard and that wherever possible young people are empowered to express their points of view with an expectation that they will be heard and have their ideas for improvements acted upon. I am proud of the focus that has been drawn toward children and young people's lives through the work I have undertaken with the help of my passionate team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for their commitment and trust in me.

Most importantly I believe we are in the safest of hands. The children and young people I have met and interacted with are experts in their own lives. They look to adults to guide them in ways that ensure they can reach their full potential, and seek support to explore the gifts and talents they have as individuals while seeking as many opportunities as possible to develop their mental and physical capabilities, skills and knowledge. Some children and young people, however are missing out with poverty currently affecting 1 in every 6 children between the ages of 0–18 years living below the poverty line. This is not good enough in any society let alone ours, which has the benefit of so much wealth and opportunity.

This generation of children and young people is the most digitally literate and globally connected generation to ever live. Young people have unprecedented access to information and relationships that cross continents and ideological lines. This not only shapes their meaning of identity and agency, it also shapes their views and expectations of systems and services being designed and delivered to them.

While the voices of children and young people continue to be missing in the important conversations and decision-making circles that relate specifically to their lives, ie where system change intersects with life experience, shortfalls will remain. Changes must be made with them and their concerns must be considered in a timely and significant way.

That said, I have seen areas of government, community organisations and other advocates adjusting their principles and practices to ensure the views of children and young people are being listened to and acted upon. This is helping to bring about the systemic changes needed. But, while these changes are encouraging we must remain focused on ensuring that those who are most in need are able to thrive in the way the majority of their peers are. This will require sustained effort over several decades, but can and must be done.

This report meets the requirements set out in Premier and Cabinet Circular *PCO13 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

Contents

Introduction by the Commissioner	6
Key Achievements	9
Key Highlights	9
Key Outputs	10
<hr/>	
Systemic Reporting	12
<hr/>	
Advocacy Agenda for South Australia's Children and Young People: Reporting on Progress of Priorities	14
Progress on Recommendations Made in Previous Years	25
<hr/>	
Project Reporting	31
<hr/>	
Major Projects and Initiatives	33
Rights Promotion and Protection	35
Awareness Raising of Systemic Issues	37
Engagement and Participation	43
<hr/>	
Statutory Reporting	47
<hr/>	
Role of the Commissioner	49
Key Responsibilities	49
Children and Youth Engagement	50
Direct Consultation	50
Promoting Participation	54
Surveys and Polling	55

External Relations and Communications	56
Submissions	57
Presentations, Speeches and Discussion Panels	59
Media Coverage	61
Websites, Social Media and EDMs	63
Sponsorships and Grants	66
Committees and Boards	68
Summary of Enquiries	69
Reporting of Public Complaints	69
Organisational Structure	70
Legislation Administered by the Agency	71
Related Agencies	71
Work Health and Safety Issues	72
Employment Opportunity Programs	73
Executive Employment in the Agency	73
Consultants	73
Financial Performance Overview	74
Risk Management	75

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 made it my business to engage with as many South Australian children and young people as I can across the State. I advocate on the issues they have raised with me in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child while seeking to empower South Australian children and young people to express their views and advocate for the changes they wish to see.

My current agenda (2022+) focuses on five key outcomes for children and young people as defined by South Australia's Child Development Council: health, safety, wellbeing, education, and citizenship. I have added environment to this list to reflect the concerns many young people express in relation to addressing the impacts of the climate crisis.

In 2023/2024 I published three major reports documenting what children and young people told me in relation to their experiences of high school, work and racism.

Teenagers at Work, released in January 2024, outlines the views and experiences of young people in the workforce. What I learnt led me to conclude that we need to mandate career and work-readiness programs for students from year 9 onwards if we are going to empower young workers and reduce their risk of exploitation

by employers. Doing so would teach them about their workplace rights and responsibilities while also calling on business owners to work with the particular needs teenager workers have as they juggle, school, work, sport and recreational commitments.

Seen But Not Heard, released in April this year, outlined the experiences of South Australian young people in school years 8, 9 and 10. It included recommendations on what young people said would improve their high school experiences, with a particular emphasis on providing more opportunities for young people to have input into the curriculum and the way it is being taught.

My third major report, released in May this year, was *Everyday Racism*. This report looks closely at the views and experiences of South Australian young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. It documents some distressing realities about the overtly racist attitudes these young people face on a daily basis at school, at work, and in the broader community. These young people rely on adults to address racism when it occurs. Their development relies on us ensuring they experience a sense of belonging and a right to be participating in and contributing to their communities.

Throughout the reporting period I produced a number of policy and position briefs on key issues impacting

children and young people including the need for the South Australian government to set a clear and overarching vision that will enable a joined-up approach to the delivery of health care to South Australia's children and young people. This must be focused specifically on their health needs, which are very different from those of adults.

My issues brief on developing a 'fit for purpose' mental health crisis care system for South Australian children and young people highlights the need for government to provide a mental health care system that sits within a rights based framework if it is to have relevance and usefulness to the lives of 21st century children and young people.

This year too, I outlined my policy position on the need for a system response to harmful sexual behaviours in children, which is a complex issue, but one that cannot be ignored. I'm calling on the South Australian government to invest resources into primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions that ensure timely and appropriate responses to children who are displaying or engaging in harmful sexual behaviours (HSB) toward themselves or others.

Period justice continues to gain momentum with members of the Period Justice Working Group contributing to a Submission on Endometriosis made to the Parliament of South Australia's Select Committee on Endometriosis. This followed a Youth Period Summit which continues to bring the issues associated with period justice into focus.

Relationships and sexual health education has remained a focus as young people continue to lament the shortfall in content and delivery of this crucial health information. They want to see the curriculum reflect their actual lives and be more inclusive of the sexual and gender diversity with which they identify. They are also asking it to be taught throughout both primary and secondary school years, dividing relevant content accordingly.

This year I introduced a Keeping Our Promises report to monitor, map and grade the "promises" made by the

South Australian Government to ensure all children and young people are healthy, safe and thriving. I wanted to set the benchmarks against which progress in subsequent years can be assessed. The report includes recommendations for improvements that can be made across a range of government departments based on direct input from children and young people with whom I have consulted.

The Things That Matter 4 from my Student Voice Postcards initiative reflects responses from 16,007 South Australian children who completed postcards in 2022. Children told me about the value they place on taking care of the environment and animals, kindness and equality, friends, and their families – especially parents. They also wrote that they want grownups to recognise kids' varied experiences with school and technology, with many expressing a desire for adults to understand how digital tools are essential for 21st century children. Overall, children's responses highlighted that most have enjoyable and fun things to do in their lives, and how important this is to them.

In addition to my Things That Matter report I have produced a series of Missing Voices booklets on key topics that came out of these postcard responses. Topics include physical punishment, mental health, and cost of living pressures as described by primary school children.

My guide to Building Youth Friendly local communities has been produced to support organisations to build environments where young people feel welcomed and can be 'confident, connected and creative'. We need to find more ways to involve young people in their local communities by adopting youth friendly approaches proposed by young people themselves.

Vaping continues to be a serious issue for young people, which is why I decided to develop a guide for schools that contains approaches to addressing vaping that will work. Schools have a significant role to play in managing the uptake and addiction to vaping and this begins by viewing vaping as a health issue rather than a disciplinary one.

During this reporting period I continued to consult and engage with South Australian children and young people in significant numbers through, surveys, polls and postcards. I conducted two major surveys around teenagers and safety and teenagers and gambling.

In 2023/2024, I received 24,784 responses (an increase of 5,623 from 18,611 in 2022) from children and young people via 14 online and offline surveys, polls and feedback forms. This figure includes 18,328 postcards received from South Australian children aged 8–12 years (up from 16,007 in 2022). What is notable, is that 4,000 of these responses were received through surveys and polls that were student-led by members of my South Australian Student Representative Council (SA SRC).

In January 2024, I was delighted to welcome the new group of SA SRC members. At the annual SA SRC Summit attended in-person by 105 of the 150-strong member council, priority issues for action in the year ahead were determined as well as continuing to build momentum on the campaigns established in the previous year. The focus throughout 2024 has been on advocating for free public transport ([Free Fares for Our Future](#)), diversity and inclusiveness ([Seeing Ourselves](#)), fitness for mental health ([Fitness for Free](#)), greening school canteens ([Greening our Canteens](#)) and lowering the voting age for local government elections ([Our Future Our Vote](#)). Each of these issues has been developed into a campaign with an accompanying position brief and petition created with input from SA SRC members who have actively promoted the issues amongst their peers and communities. They have shown incredible commitment to this statewide initiative, which is unique throughout Australia.

My role of listening to and engaging with South Australia's children and young people continues to be a privilege. I gain an insider's view of what matters most to our children and young people and then work with them to determine the best ways to bring about the changes they wish to see. They continue to impress me with their passion and energy, and I remain committed to hearing their concerns, supporting their efforts, and ensuring those who can will bring about the issues they seek to have addressed.

By continuing to listen to South Australia's children and young people we are more likely to allocate resources in ways that really add value to their lives. These are challenging times, but the important thing we can do as adults is remain open to hearing from our children and young people and to give them the authority and respect they are entitled to as the experts in their own lives.

It is no longer enough to assume we know best. We don't. They know what they need, and if they're given the support, trust and resources they're asking for, they will respond in ways that will build their resilience, foster cohesiveness and lead to a well-functioning society focused on developing intergenerational relationships which look to a future where we all enjoy mutual respect, admiration and opportunities to make a difference throughout all stages of our lives.

Helen Connolly

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Key Achievements

- Facilitated engagement and participation of **175** South Australian children and young people through membership of the SA SRC, advisory groups, citizen researchers and policy advocates.
- Generated **24,784** responses from children and young people via 14 online and offline surveys, polls and feedback forms, including **18,328** postcards received from South Australian children aged 8–12 years.
- Undertook **63** consultations engaging directly with **1,397** children and young people throughout the reporting period.
- Increased awareness of South Australian children's rights and the role of their Commissioner at **28** events as either a presenter, key speaker or guest panellist.
- Influenced public policy through **24** formal submissions of which **4** were submitted to the Commonwealth government and agencies, and **20** were submitted to State government agencies.
- Responded to **46** individual requests for advice, advocacy, and intervention.
- Attracted **102** SA schools to the Commissioner's Digital Challenge: 80 Government, 13 Independent and 9 Catholic registrations, with **17** local SA libraries registering for one or more digital challenges on offer.
- Sponsored **10** organisations that are supporting SA children and young people through a variety of initiatives to a total value of **\$54,968**.
- Distributed more than **\$84,951** in grant funds to **18** organisations supporting events and activities ranging from period poverty workshops to school excursions to SA Parliament House by regional and remote school students.

Key Highlights

- Launched the **Early Year's Postcards** initiative aimed at introducing preschoolers to the concept of what it means to have a voice.
- Presented South Australia's second **Youth Period Summit** to continue to raise awareness around issues relating to menstrual health and period justice.
- Recruited members of the 2024 **SA SRC** who have worked throughout the year to action their priority campaigns.

Key Outputs

Project Reports:

- Teenagers and Work: Views and experiences of teenagers on work and workplaces
- Seen But Not Heard: The experiences of SA young people in Years 8, 9 & 10
- Everyday Racism: The views and experiences of SA young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds
- The Things That Matter 4: Views of 8–12 year-olds on life, school and community
- Early Years Postcards – preschoolers views on their favourite places
- Regenerating our Regions III: Port Augusta

Monitoring Reports:

- Annual Report 2022/2023
- Annual Report to South Australia's Children and Young People 2022/2023
- Keeping Our Promises 2024: monitoring South Australia's progress on promises made by government to ensure that children in this State are healthy, safe and thriving
- Keeping Our Promises 2023: monitoring South Australia's progress on promises made by government to ensure that children in this State are healthy, safe and thriving
- Suite of Child Rights Progress Reports (2023)

Submissions:

- Submission to the Inquiry into the Recognition of Unpaid Carers
- Submission on Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response
- Submission to the CIO on Digital Connectivity
- Submission on the Multicultural Framework Review
- Submission on the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy
- Submission on the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan
- Submission on the Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023
- Submission to the South Australian Government on Creating a More Child Focused Budget 2024/2025
- Submission on the Local Government Participation and Elections Review
- Submission on a New Cultural Policy for South Australia
- Submission to the Review of Sexual Consent Laws in South Australia
- Submission to the Northern Adelaide Transport Study
- Submission on the Potential for a Human Rights Act for SA
- Submission to Adelaide City Council on the Adelaide City Plan
- Submission on the Department for Correctional Services' next Women's Framework and Action Plan

- Submission on Endometriosis (Period Justice Working Group)
- Submission to the Inquiry into Sharing the Benefits of Growth with All South Australians
- Submission on the Draft SA Health Climate Change Framework

Policy and Position Briefs:

- Developing a 'Fit for Purpose' mental health crisis care system for 21st century children and young people
- Why we need an overarching vision for children and young people's health in South Australia
- Anti-Poverty Week Statement 2023 – Students supported to attend Camps, Field Trips and Excursions? (Should this be included – Helen to confirm)
- Investing in Public Libraries as cool, safe places for children and young people
- The need for a system response to harmful sexual behaviours in children

Guides and Fact Sheets:

- Missing Voices – Experiences of Physical Punishment Booklet
- Missing Voices – What young people said about mental health
- Missing Voices – What young people said about cost of living pressures
- Vaping Advice for Schools: approaches that work
- Guide to Building Youth Friendly Communities
- What Young People Have Said About Relationships and Sexual Health Education



Systemic

Reporting

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

My Advocacy Agenda 2022+ 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 compiled the outcomes into five domains as follows:

- Health
- Safety
- Wellbeing
- Education
- Citizenship

Complementing my Advocacy Agenda 2022+ are my two priority papers outlining specific legislation and infrastructure needs the state government must commit to addressing if they are to succeed in future proofing children and young people's lives:

- Legislation Priorities to Improve Outcomes for South Australia's Children and Young People 2022–2026
- Infrastructure Priorities to Improve Outcomes for South Australia's Children and Young People 2022–2026

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

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

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
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.	On 1 July 2023, the Commissioner gave an address at the South Australian Festival of Sport about barriers children and young people face in relation to engaging in play and physical exercise.
Physical health	Supporting opportunities for 'older kids' to participate in 'play' through the co-designed teenage play spaces for local communities.	<p>In October 2023, the Commissioner published a <i>Guide to Building Youth Friendly Communities</i> which includes suggestions for ways adults can work with young people to create places and spaces where young people can play and be active.</p> <p>In April 2024, the Commissioner provided a submission on the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy, the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the Adelaide City Plan 2036 to specifically highlight the needs and ideas of South Australian children and young people.</p> <p>In April 2024, the Commissioner published her <i>Early Years Postcards</i> report about preschoolers' views on their favourite places.</p>
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.	In May 2024, the Commissioner forwarded a submission prepared by members of the CCYP's Period Justice Youth Working Group to South Australia's Select Committee on Endometriosis.
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.	
Relationships and sexual health priorities	Access to community-based relationships and sexual health education for those South Australian children and young people who live in residential care, attend flexible learning options centres, accessing disability school leaver support programs, attending regional community health centres, or who are in the state's youth justice system.	<p>In April 2024, the Commissioner published a Position Brief about <i>What Young People Have Said About Relationships and Sexual Health Education</i>, based on consultations undertaken with students in years 10, 11 and 12.</p> <p>In February 2024, the Commissioner made a submission to the Review of Sexual Consent Laws in South Australia.</p>

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
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 State Government committed to developing a state-wide Menstrual Wellbeing Policy as recommended by the Commissioner in her Menstruation Matters report (2021). The Commissioner has followed up with SA's Minister for Health and Wellbeing to progress this work.
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.	<p>On 11 July 2023, the Commissioner held a student-led Youth Period Summit focused on destigmatising and educating the community around periods and menstruation.</p> <p>In August 2023, the Commissioner established her Period Justice Youth Working Group consisting of young people committed to raising awareness of issues relating to menstruation and supply of period products.</p> <p>The Menstrual Research Network, chaired by CCYP, continues to meet regularly to discuss opportunities to collaborate and raise awareness around menstruation health.</p> <p>In 2024, the CCYP Period Justice grants funded seven projects aimed at raising awareness around menstrual health and improving access to period hygiene products.</p>
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.	<p>During the reporting period, the Commissioner's Period Justice Working Group co-designed an updated health and physical education curriculum with the Department for Education.</p> <p>The revised curriculum will offer children and young people more comprehensive menstrual health education throughout primary and secondary school years.</p> <p>During the reporting period the Commissioner updated her period justice website (https://periodjustice.com.au/) to provide links to quality educational resources for children and young people. Examples include global best practice content relating to removal of stigma and taboo surrounding periods and menstruation.</p>

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
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.	The Commissioner's 2024 Period Justice Grants provided funding for several SA sporting associations to improve access to menstrual hygiene products and provide menstrual health education to sports club members.
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.	Members of the SA SRC Fitness For Free Campaign are advocating for high school students to be given free access to gyms, swimming pools and other fitness facilities as a proactive approach to supporting their mental health and wellbeing.
Youth mental health	Access to funding for the provision of Mental Health First Aid with a focus on suicide prevention and psycho-social education for young people, which can be run at schools, sports clubs, and neighbourhood community groups and centres.	<p>In April 2024, the Commissioner published a Policy Position on the need for an overarching vision for children and young people's health in South Australia.</p> <p>In October 2023, the Commissioner published an Issues Brief outlining the need for SA to develop a 'fit for purpose mental health care system for 21st century children and young people'.</p> <p>In October 2023, the Commissioner published a <i>Missing Voices</i> booklet highlighting what primary school children have said about mental health challenges.</p>
Youth Suicide Prevention	Working with young people to codesign strategies, approaches and resources that will inform South Australia's Suicide Prevention Council.	The Commissioner is a member of the Suicide Prevention Council and is consulting with young people to develop child friendly resources.
Body confidence	Consulting with children and young people to explore the issue of body confidence from their perspective and identifying what it means to have a healthy relationship with their bodies and eating.	<p>https://www.hubadl.com/?offset=1720780756715</p> <p>Hub interns talk about body confidence on Hub Adl – a dedicated website for 15–22 year olds.</p>
Belonging and friendship	Developing a greater understanding of children and young people's experiences of loneliness, and collecting their ideas on what parents and teachers can do to support the development and maintenance of childhood and adolescent friendships in school, sport, and community.	A total of 21 consultations with primary school aged students about what they think makes a healthy neighbourhood have been undertaken, allowing the Commissioner to develop a greater understanding of how SA children and young people experience their communities and collecting their ideas for ways to make their neighbourhoods more child and youth friendly. The consultations will be analysed and presented in a summary report scheduled for release in the next reporting period.

Safety – Children and young people are safe and nurtured

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
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.	In April 2024, the Commissioner provided a submission on the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy, the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, the Adelaide City Plan 2036, and the Northern Adelaide Transport Plan to specifically highlight the needs of children and young people.
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.	<p>In May 2024, the Commissioner published her <i>Everyday Racism</i> report, summarising the views and experiences of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in relation to racism.</p> <p>In September 2023, the Commissioner made a submission to the Multicultural Framework Review to provide insights into experiences of racism by SA children and young people.</p> <p>In January 2024, the Commissioner made a submission to consultation on a new cultural policy for South Australia to call for better access to education, activities and places.</p>
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.	In February 2024, the Commissioner published her <i>Teenagers and Work</i> report highlighting the experiences of young people in the workplace and how businesses can make work and work places more youth-friendly.
Sexual Harassment	Reviewing the extent to which school-based relationship and sexual health education and bullying materials specifically to address sexism, sexual harassment, and gender-based bullying.	The Commissioner is monitoring the prevalence of sexual harassment through her <i>Keeping Our Promises</i> report.
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	Implementing a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency service system for harmful peer to peer sexual behaviour that delivers prevention, early intervention, psycho-educational therapy, and individual case management.	In November 2023, the Commissioner published a Policy Position Paper on harmful sexual behaviour to encourage the State government to invest in resources to ensure timely and appropriate responses are provided to children displaying HSB.
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.	In March 2024, the Commissioner made a Submission to the Attorney General on the proposed alternative model for a raised Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility.

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
Care and protection	Infrastructure Priority – invest in keeping ‘at risk’ children out of the child protection system.	The Commissioner presented at the Child Protection and Law Legal Training Day.
Care and protection	Legislation Priority – 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.
Children of incarcerated parents	Identifying children with incarcerated parents as a priority access group for government support services and development and implementation of protocols for their support that can be applied by frontline staff.	The Commissioner is Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group: Strong Foundations and Clear Pathways implementing the Women Offender Framework and Action Plan.
Children of incarcerated parents	Investing in parenting support initiatives that help incarcerated fathers as well as mothers, understand child development stages and milestones.	<p>The Commissioner employed an intern to review the information and support that is currently available for children with incarcerated parents and how this can be improved.</p> <p>In May 2024, the Commissioner made a submission to the Department for Correctional Services calling for a greater focus on children and parenting support in the next Women’s Framework and Action Plan.</p>
Children of incarcerated parents	Actively considering children’s rights in the administration of justice where children are involved, and where they will be directly impacted by any decisions made about their parent’s incarceration.	An internal research paper was completed to determine next steps.
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.	<p>A review of laws and policies is being undertaken with the Commissioner to publish recommendations for development of a child rights justice system in the future.</p> <p>The Commissioner made a submission on the proposed alternative diversion model for children under the raised age of criminal responsibility.</p>
Family law	Give children a voice in Family Court proceedings.	The Commissioner met with the Commonwealth Family Law Committee to advise on matters relating to their terms of reference. Amendments have been made to the Family Law Act to strengthen legislation so that children are given a voice.

Wellbeing – Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
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>The Commissioner is working with partners in Playford to address issues facing disadvantaged families and to provide wrap around services.</p> <p>In December 2023, the Commissioner provided a submission to the South Australian government on creating a more child-focused Budget, including child-focused cost of living measures.</p> <p>In October 2023, the Commissioner published a Missing Voices booklet highlighting what primary school aged children have told her about the impact cost-of-living pressures is having on them and their families.</p>
Digital access	<p>Providing free laptop and data packs to all SA School Card holders and expanding free public Wi-Fi services to include all public buildings, public transport, and community infrastructure such as libraries and school grounds.</p>	<p>In September 2023, the Commissioner made a submission to the State Chief Information Officer on the importance of digital connectivity.</p> <p>In October 2023, the Commissioner published a Position Brief in support of Public Libraries, including their role in providing free Wi-Fi access and a welcoming environment for secondary school students.</p>
Digital access	<p>Invest in a comprehensive digital literacy agenda.</p>	<p>The Commissioner's Digital Challenge continues to encourage children, and their teachers, to develop and apply computational, design and systems thinking skills.</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 is working with Swallowcliffe School and other partners to develop a trial for free school lunches.</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>Due to cost-of-living pressures the government announced in May 2024 that it will be expanding the Sports Voucher program so that families who need to can redeem \$100 twice in a year.</p>
Cost of sport	<p>Expand sports vouchers to extracurricular non-sporting activities to support children of all ages participate and reap health and other benefits.</p>	<p>The government has expanded sports vouchers to include music.</p>

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
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 partnering with the Red Cross Australia and Country Fire Service to develop a youth co-designed Duke of Edinburgh award focused on disaster preparedness for young people.
Climate safety	Promoting access for young people to climate-related decision making including best practice student engagement.	<p>The Commissioner held a climate workshop on food sustainability for young people, the outcome of which was an Open Letter addressed to the Australian delegates attending COP 28.</p> <p>Members of the SA SRC are advocating to improve the environmental sustainability of school canteens through their Greening Our Canteens campaign and petition.</p>
Transport	Supporting a more child focused public transport system that addresses issues likely to restrict children and young people's access.	<p>Members of the SA SRC are advocating for free public transport for high school students through their Free Fares for Our Future Campaign and petition.</p> <p>In February 2024, the Commissioner made a submission to the Northern Adelaide Transport Study about affordability and safety of public transport for children and young people.</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.	<p>The Commissioner has advocated for free travel for school students in her submissions to the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy, the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, the Adelaide City Plan 2036 and the Northern Adelaide Transport Plan.</p> <p>Members of the SA SRC Frees Fares for Our Future campaign are advocating for free public transport for high school students.</p>
Child Poverty Act	Legislation Priority – 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>The Commissioner continues to advocate for measures to address child poverty and to help ensure children living in poverty have the same opportunities as their peers.</p> <p>The Commissioner is the State Co-chair of Anti-Poverty Week and runs a program of publicity that brings issues of poverty to the fore.</p>

Education

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
Student-centred schools	Provide learning environments that are engaging and rewarding for children, with support for every child to attend and be included, and easy, timely access to supports.	In April 2024, the Commissioner published her <i>Seen But Not Heard</i> report about the experiences of students in Years 8–10.
School exclusions	Monitoring and reporting on the experiences of children and young people in relation to school exclusion and improving procedural fairness and transparency through public reporting.	The Commissioner monitors school exclusions in both a suite of annual <i>Child Rights Progress Reports</i> and a bi-annual <i>Keeping our Promises</i> report.
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 Commissioner continues to advocate for no school exclusions on any basis for any child, and monitors primary school exclusions in her annual suite of <i>Child Rights Progress Reports</i> .
Young carers	Development and implementation of school-based supports for students with significant caring roles to improve their educational, social, and community inclusion and learning outcomes.	In August 2023, the Commissioner made a submission to the Commonwealth Inquiry into the recognition of unpaid carers.
Sexually and gender diverse students	Monitoring incidences of sexuality and gender-based bullying within schools and advocating for inclusion of LGBTQIA+ young people in the development of ways to better promote their safety at school.	Members of the SA SRC Seeing Ourselves campaign are advocating for schools to conduct regular reviews of policies and practices to ensure they support diversity and inclusion.
School disengagement	Influencing the education reform agenda by providing postcard data from primary-school children that identifies early indicators of their disengagement from school.	<p>The Commissioner's Student Voice Postcards campaign was undertaken again in the reporting period with students from 347 SA schools returning 18,328 postcards voicing their opinions on what matters to them most.</p> <p>The Commissioner continues to advocate directly with the Department for Education on reasons why students disengage from school and how this can be addressed.</p> <p>The Commissioner's <i>Keeping our Promises</i> report monitors school engagement and disengagement.</p>

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
Post school pathways	Supporting businesses to provide school students with work experience and internship opportunities that are more reflective of future jobs.	The Commissioner is a Member of the Apprentice and Trainee Training and Safety Committee.
Post school pathways	<p>Development and implementation of transition pathways from school to employment that supports a broader range of career options to include trade pathways.</p> <p>Supporting careers advice in primary school that will expand students understanding of the skills and interests they will need to match with their career aspirations.</p>	In June 2024, the Commissioner made a submission to the SA Productivity Commission about mechanisms to help engage young people in meaningful education and training and to find effective pathways to steady employment.
Work experience	Working with schools, industry groups and employers to develop and deliver quality work experiences and opportunities and resources, which better connect schools, employers, and young people in ways that can benefit all stakeholders.	The Commissioner is a Member of the Apprentice and Trainee Training and Safety Committee.
Refugee and migrant young people	Developing a refugee and migrant youth employment strategy and associated resources that breaks down the barriers to their employment.	The Commissioner's <i>Everyday Racism</i> report recommended that the state government provide funding for multicultural youth agencies to deliver mentoring and work experience programs to refugee and migrant young people to help build their professional skills and foster employer relationships.

Citizenship

Area	Advocacy priorities	Progress made
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.	The Commissioner's Student Voice Postcards campaign was undertaken for the fifth year running with students from 347 SA schools returning a total of 18,328 postcards providing insights on what matters to them most. This highly successful initiative was expanded in this reporting period to incorporate pre-schoolers via an Early Years Postcards version.
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 SA SRC welcomed a new group of high school students from years 10, 11 & 12 representing their peers. They met at the annual SA SRC Summit to determine the key issues to focus on this year and have been working on the following campaigns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Free Fares for our Future – Seeing Ourselves – Fitness for Free – Greening out Canteens – Our Future, Our Vote.
Digital citizenship	Maintenance of an online space for young people to have a say, connect and showcase themselves and other young South Australian thinkers, makers and doers.	Young interns continue to create content for 15–22 year olds on www.hubadl.com about issues and events in South Australia and beyond. The online magazine has been gaining followers and has an expanding group of interns who make regular contributions to the site.
Digital citizenship	Promotion of children and young people's participation in online digital challenges that increase their computational thinking, design thinking and systems thinking skills to foster creativity and innovative problem solving.	The Commissioner's 2023 Digital Challenge attracted 102 SA school registrations (80 Government, 13 Independent and 9 Catholic) and another 9 registrations from interstate schools. A total of 17 local SA libraries registered for one or more of the challenges on offer.
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.	The civics and citizenship focused website www.civicsandcitizenship.com.au which acts as a hub for resources for children and young people, as well as for educators has been well received and continues to have resources added to it.
Citizenship	Legislative Priority – Introducing a Future Generations Act.	The Commissioner provided a submission in support of the Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023, which sought to protect the interests of future generations.

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 Oversights

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

Recommendations made 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.

This includes family visits, provision of information for children on prison processes, prisoner reconnection, and reintegration with family.

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.

Progress rating ● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made Following the success of the more child friendly and child safe Visitor Centre at the Women’s Prison, the Commissioner continues to advocate for similar visiting areas to be created in men’s prisons.

Policy and system oversight of the rights and needs of children of young carers.

Recommendations made 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.

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.

Progress rating ● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made There appears to be no progress made on the development of a young carer support model of care in Education. Government funding was made available for a new Young Carer Support Service and pilot primary school program undertaken with Carers SA.

System Oversights

Stereotypes and sexism in South Australian schools.

Recommendations made

The Commissioner released her *Stereotypes and Sexism* report with the following recommendations:

- 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.
- Pre-service and practising teachers be supported through access to ongoing training in relation to the prevention of sexism, sexual harassment, and stereotyping in the classroom.
- 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.

Progress rating

● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made

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.

In 2023, the Australian government established a national Respectful Relationships Education Expert Working Group consisting of jurisdictional, non-government and expert representatives to help guide program design and advice to schools on delivery methods that are evidenced based and suited to their school community.

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

That the Department for Human Services take a lead role in developing an interdepartmental 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.

Progress rating

● RED

Response/s to recommendations made

There is still no clear pathway for children and young people under 15 years to get the support they require if they become homeless.

The *Keeping our Promises* report continues to monitor the extent of homelessness for children and young people in South Australia.

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, with an independent lead agency to oversee its development and implementation. This facility needs to include capacity for monitoring of preparation of an individual release plan for every child and young person who is leaving detention.

Progress rating ● RED

Response/s to recommendations made During the reporting period the Attorney General consented to Regulations that permitted children in regional areas to be remanded in police cells alongside adults.
The new facilities at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre will include an 8-bed facility for children who have been refused police bail. The numbers of young people being detained on remand remain too high.

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. Some data about the number and breakdown of children in Kurlana Tapa was released by the Training Centre Visitor, but this detail has not been included in their annual report.

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 ● AMBER

Response/s to recommendations made The Department for Health and Wellbeing is investing 5 million over four years to expand child and adolescent virtual urgent care service to cover mental health and mental health workshops that aims to provide support for parents with mentally ill children and teens.
The Department of Education is continuing with its recruitment to the School Mental Health Service. As at the end of March 2023, 40 of the 100 new mental health and learning support specialists had been recruited.

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 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 around 12 staff members) is responsible for providing a clinical assessment of individual referrals and determining the outcome for the 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 in performing their day to day activities.

In respect to children living with disabilities the Department for Human Services is creating a group to create a multiagency response to support early intervention for young people with complex disability.

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 launched its new Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Policy and Procedure and is reviewing its behaviour management policy.

The Commissioner is monitoring primary school exclusions in her Keeping our Promises Report.

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 little movement to develop a formalised agreement between DCP and SAPOL, despite continued advocacy by this office 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 During the year Preventive Health commenced a mapping process to collect data on the prevalence of HSB in South Australia.

Project



Reporting

Major Projects and Initiatives

Throughout the 2023/2024 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

Children in the North

The Commissioner is working with partners across government and in Playford LGA to address issues facing some of South Australia's most disadvantaged families, and to better identify needs and provide wrap around support. The project seeks to collaborate to meet the immediate health and development needs of

all children in Playford from birth to age 3 through rapid service redesign.

The Commissioner is leading the Swallowcliffe Children's Precinct project that focuses on developing local solutions to improve children's health, education and wellbeing.

Poverty Project

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

In September 2023, the Commissioner made a submission to the State Chief Information Officer on the importance of digital connectivity for all South Australian children, including access to free Wi-Fi in public places that include local libraries.

The Commissioner is Chair of SA Anti-Poverty Week. A Missing Voices booklet was published in October 2023 highlighting what primary school children have told her about the impact that cost of living pressures has on them and their families.

The Commissioner has been consulting with children in the most disadvantaged schools in Port Augusta and the Northern Suburbs to hear their views and suggestions on ways to improve their communities and lives.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

During the reporting period the Commissioner continued to chair the Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Advisory Group and Working Group.

During the year the two groups were merged into one and continue to actively support the following research projects:

- Development of a State-wide Framework to respond to HSB, led by the University of South Australia and funded by Channel 7 Children's

Research Foundation. The final report is yet to be released.

- Commitment to facilitating support for a research project that will map current data holdings to identify the prevalence of children's harmful sexual behaviours led by Professor Leah Bromfield and Dr Lesley Anne Ey. There has been in-principal support by relevant government departments to share information.

Awareness Raising of Systemic Issues

Major Projects

Teenagers and Work

Building on many conversations with young people about their experiences of work, the Commissioner launched the Teenagers and Work Survey to gain a deeper understanding of teenagers' experiences of work and workplaces. While many teenagers in South Australia are engaged in some form of employment, very little is known about their experiences of work and workplaces. Understanding the positive and negative experiences of teenagers at work is critical to providing appropriate workplace education and support and ensuring the rights of young workers are upheld in policy and practice.

More than 900 young people aged 11 to 19 years participated in the survey, which was conducted between November 2022 and March 2023. The report summarising key findings from the survey was released in January 2024. It provides insight into the challenges teenagers face at work, the impact of work on their lives, where they seek support for work-related issues, and what makes a good workplace for teenagers. In doing so, it seeks to encourage businesses and employers to identify key opportunities to improve their workplace practices, culture, and environments to reflect the needs and rights of young workers.



Seen But Not Heard

In April 2024, the Commissioner released her *Seen but Not Heard* report highlighting the experiences of school students in Years 8, 9 and 10. The report is based on a series of face-to-face consultations the Commissioner undertook with 549 students attending 28 schools across metropolitan and regional South Australia between February and October 2023.

Across all school sectors and regions, young people highlighted that more needs to be done to address bullying, sexism, racism, and homophobia in their school. Students also want to shape their school environments, including improving the cleanliness, accessibility and

privacy of school bathrooms and ensuring fit-for-purpose wellbeing spaces. They also want to have better relationships with teachers and more input into how and what they learn.

The school years 8, 9 and 10 can be a particularly challenging time for young people as they navigate significant physical, social and emotional changes, relationships with peers and teachers, and expectations to become more independent. If we are to improve key measures of wellbeing and engagement, we must listen to students about their experiences of school, including the challenges they face and their ideas for change.



Everyday Racism



In May 2024, the Commissioner released her *Everyday Racism* report, which focuses on the experiences of South Australian young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. The report is based on extensive consultations undertaken throughout 2022 and 2023, including six school-based focus groups, four community-based consultation groups, four youth forums, a parent forum and four roundtable discussions with educators.

Racism takes many forms and is prevalent in many settings, systems and services critical to young people's wellbeing and development, including schools, sports clubs, workplaces, and public transport. Racism undermines young

people's sense of belonging, their developing identities, their relationships, and their citizenship. Young people are frustrated and concerned that open discussions about the impacts of racism on their lives are rare, despite the fact that their regular experiences of racism at school, work, and in social settings often leave them feeling unsafe and unwelcome.

By highlighting the prevalence and impact of racism and racial discrimination on migrant and refugee children and young people, the report seeks to support systemic improvements in the way communities, schools, workplaces, and sports clubs throughout South Australia prevent and address racism that occurs every day.

Overarching vision for children and young people's health



In April 2024, the Commissioner released a Policy Position on *Why we need an overarching vision for children and young people's health in South Australia*. South Australia's future depends on investing in healthy children, families and communities. However, there is currently no state-wide plan or unifying vision for children and young people's health.

The Policy Position highlights a range of systemic issues that currently hinder our ability to fully

understand, track and improve the health of South Australian children and young people, and to determine whether current investments are working as intended. It is only by having a shared vision for the physical, mental, oral and dental, sexual and reproductive health of South Australian children and young people that decision makers and service providers will be required to come together to share accountability around health outcomes.

Mental health



In October 2023, the Commissioner reported findings on her consultation with families and young people about South Australia's mental health care services. She made recommendations for developing a 'fit for purpose' mental health care system in an Issue Brief.

The Commissioner also published a *Missing Voices* booklet highlighting what primary school children have told her about mental health challenges. The Commissioner continues to advocate on behalf of South Australian children and young people as part of the Suicide Prevention Council.

Emergency responses

CCYP is partnering with the Red Cross Australia and the Country Fire Service to deliver a youth co-designed Duke of Edinburgh award focused on disaster preparedness. About 50 young people from across South Australia are taking part in this program for the first time in 2024.

In August 2023, the Commissioner made a submission to the Department for Home Affairs and National Emergency Management Agency about alternative Commonwealth capabilities for crisis response, which highlighted the potential of young people in relation to community resilience and capability.

The Commissioner continues to advocate on behalf of children and young people as part of the:

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Sub Committee
- Children and Young People in Emergency Organisations
- People at Risk in Emergencies Policy and Strategy Group.

Child and youth friendly neighbourhoods

In order to better understand the experiences of children and young people, the Commissioner undertook 21 consultations with students about their local communities, collecting their ideas for ways they suggest making neighbourhoods more child and youth friendly.

In October 2023, the Commissioner published a guide to *Building Youth Friendly Local Communities* which includes suggestions for creating places where young people can play and be active. In October 2023, the Commissioner also published a Position Brief in support of Public Libraries, as vital safe and friendly spaces within local communities where children and young people can learn, play and hang out.

During this period, the Commissioner provided a number of submissions in support of more child and youth friendly communities, emphasising the need for government, planners and local councils to engage with younger citizens and ask them what they think would make places more child and youth friendly. The Commissioner contributed submissions on the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy, the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the Adelaide City Plan 2036 to highlight the needs of children and young people based on what they had told her would improve the quality of their lives.





Responding to vaping at school: vaping guide

Following on from the *Vaping Survey* report, the Commissioner published a practical guide for schools on ways to respond to vaping. The vaping guide emphasises how schools should view vaping as a health issue rather than a disciplinary issue, with a focus on addressing addiction and the impact of vaping on children and young people of all ages.

The vaping guide outlines five approaches that work in schools to respond to vaping: 1) focus on health and support, 2) take a whole-of-school approach to vaping, 3) develop a student-led

vaping policy and action plan, 4) tailor responses to individual students, and 5) improve student wellbeing more broadly.

The guide also emphasises the importance of situating vaping amongst young people and in schools within the context of broader society. More needs to be done to counter online advertising and social media content around vaping, as well as introducing stronger public health messaging around the risks of vaping and its addictive qualities, particularly in relation to content aimed at children and young people.

Period Justice

The Commissioner continues to advocate for period justice and has redeveloped a dedicated website that provides links to useful information and best practice resources at www.periodjustice.com.au. A complementary Instagram channel (@periodjustice_sa) has also been established to bring these resources into focus amongst young people.

The Commissioner chairs the Australian Menstrual Research Network which continues to meet regularly to share ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration.

A Youth Period Summit presented by the Commissioner on 11 July 2023, focused on destigmatising menstruation. Since then, the Commissioner's Period Justice Working Group, comprising young South Australians who are passionate about period justice has been working with the Department for Education to update the SA health and physical education curriculum with regard to menstruation thereby providing young people with more comprehensive menstrual education throughout primary and secondary school.

In May 2024, the Commissioner forwarded a submission to the Parliament of South Australia's Select Committee on Endometriosis, prepared by young people from the Period Justice Youth Working Group about their experiences of endometriosis and menstruation.

In early 2024, the Commissioner invited applications for her annual Period Justice grants funding a number of projects aimed at improving awareness of menstrual health and education as well as provide better access to period hygiene products and support. The small grants of up to \$5,000 each enable councils, community groups and sports clubs to provide for projects, events and activities that promote menstrual health education and supply of free period products to children and young people across South Australia.

Children and young people living with chronic illness

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

In parallel, the Commissioner's office is working with 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.

Transport and road safety

The Commissioner continues to work with key stakeholders to ensure child safe public transport, advocating for improved regional transport and free public transport for students on school cards. This includes advocating for improved transport in the regions and mechanisms to help regional young people learn to drive.

The Commissioner provided a Submission on the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy, the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, the Adelaide City Plan 2036 and the Northern Adelaide Transport Plan to highlight the needs of children and young people. She highlighted what young people have told her

they need to feel safe on public transport, and that they would use public transport more readily if it were cheaper and more regular with routes that took into account their needs.

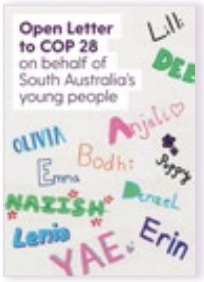
Members of the SA SRC Free Fares for our Future campaign are advocating for free transport for all SA high school students to ease pressure on young people who may already be experiencing financial stress. The students involved have received significant coverage in the media and have spoken with the SA Transport Minister to raise their concerns.

Civic participation

The Commissioner continues to engage with a range of stakeholders to encourage improvements to civics education delivery and to provide better opportunities for students to undertake active citizenship education. In 2023, in partnership with Parliament House and the Department for Education, the Commissioner provided a series of online professional development seminars for teachers, featuring the Governor and SA's Attorney-General.

For the second year, the Commissioner partnered with Parliament House to provide grants to disadvantaged regional schools to enable 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.

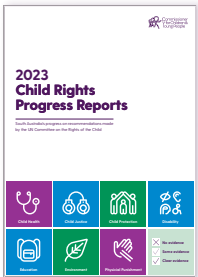
In October 2023, the Commissioner held a youth workshop in which 31 students developed an open letter to world leaders attending COP28.

The letter aligned with COP28's priorities to focus on food sustainability and security, and outlined what young people need from their schools, local communities, and Australian and world leaders to tackle climate change.

The Commissioner is also partnering with the Red Cross to deliver a Youth in Emergencies project which will see young people design and deliver a training program to prepare future groups of young people 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 in which she advocates on behalf of South Australia's children and young people.

Monitoring progress on child rights



The Commissioner released the fourth in a series of seven *Child Rights Progress Reports* on Human Rights Day on 10 December 2023. The suite of annual reports monitors South Australia's progress against the recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in its report released 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 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".

Monitoring promises made by government



During the reporting period the Commissioner released a new monitoring report that maps and grades the 'promises' made by the South Australian Government to ensure that children in this State are healthy, safe and thriving.

Two reports were released during the year, the first in August 2023 which created a baseline for the next report released in May 2024.

Engagement and Participation

Major Projects

South Australian Student Representative Council (SA SRC)

The SA SRC is CCYP's core youth participation program. Now in its fourth year it is supported by the Foundation for Young Australians and consists of 150 students selected from all over South Australia to represent their peers. In 2024, there are student representatives from 44 of the 48 South Australian state government electorates.

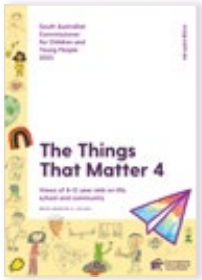
In 2024, the members of the SA SRC met at the annual SA SRC Youth Summit to determine their priorities for the year ahead. They were divided into five campaign groups around issues they wanted to advocate for action. They met regularly online to progress the five issues which over the 12 months were turned into advocacy campaigns with position briefs accompanying petitions and letter writing to key stakeholders and decision makers.

The five campaigns for 2024 are:

- **Free Fares for our Future** which is calling on the state government to offer free public transport fares to all school students.
- **Seeing Ourselves** which is calling for schools to introduce a regular diversity review tool that ensures diversity and inclusiveness is embedded in school values, policies and practices.
- **Fitness for Free** which is seeking collaboration between government and the fitness industry to provide free access to gyms, pools, leisure centres and fitness classes to support young people with mental health issues maintain their mental health and wellbeing.
- **Greening Our Canteens** which is calling on government to support school canteens to introduce healthier, environmentally sustainable practices and affordable food products.
- **Our Future Our Vote** which is calling on government to lower the local government voting age from 18 to 16 years to enable young people to have a greater say in their local communities.



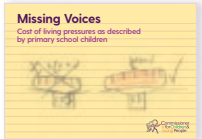
'Tell Helen' Postcards



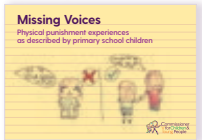
2023 was the fifth year that the Commissioner's annual Student Voice Postcards initiative which commenced in 2019. The postcard responses enable the Commissioner to better understand what children aged 8–12 years are doing, what matters to them most and what concerns they have about their lives.



During the reporting year *The Things That Matter 4* report was released focusing on an analysis of the postcards received in 2022. Students' responses in 2022 were based on the following prompts: 1) The best thing about being a kids is..., 2) I worry 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 2023, the Commissioner received 18,328 postcards representing participation by 347 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. Separate South Australian Region Snapshots for the 2022 postcards were released in 2023, outlining key findings from each region.

Each year *The Things That Matter* report is sent to key decision makers including local government mayors and CEOs, and state and federal Members of Parliament. This is one of the many ways children's responses are shared as part of the Commissioner's advocacy work.

Three *Missing Voices* booklets were released in September 2023 utilising responses received from children via their postcards across several years. These focused on issues of concern to the Commissioner and included cost of living pressures, mental health challenges, and children's experiences of physical punishment.

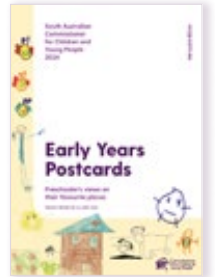
Early Years Postcards

In 2023, at the request of many early years educators, Early Years Postcards were distributed to early childhood settings. This was an extension of the Student Voice Postcard initiative aimed at children aged 8–12 years.

The early years postcards were designed to introduce children in the preschool age group to an understanding of what it means to have a voice. They were asked to draw a picture of their favourite place and explain what makes it special. Early years educators were asked to support participating preschoolers with a written description of their drawing.

Between June and September 2023, 180 early years postcards were received from children attending nine preschool/childcare centres across South Australia. Most of the children who responded were 4 years old.

Children's responses were analysed and collated into the first *Early Years Postcards* report.



Hub

Hub (hubadl.com) is an online magazine aimed at South Australians aged 15–22 years. The Commissioner heard from young people that they don't 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 from which they can voice opinions, share creative work, and promote and discover upcoming events and opportunities for young people living across the state.

Young people are invited to participate by submitting content for publishing. This can include an article, photos, videos, music, stories, and 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. Over the past year, Hub interns have published over 120 articles, reporting on politics, pop culture, sports, science, the arts, music, and youth affairs in South Australia.



Commissioner's Digital Challenge

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 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, a total of 724 school registrations have been received for one or more of the challenges on offer. A further 58 registrations came from local SA libraries. It is estimated that between 2019 and 2023, approximately 90,000 South Australian children have participated in the Challenge.

In 2023, the Commissioner's Digital Challenge attracted 102 SA school registrations (80 Government, 13 Independent and 9 Catholic) and another 9 registrations from interstate schools. A total of 17 local SA libraries registered for one or more of the challenges on offer.

Learn to Speak Robot (a computational thinking challenge)

In 2023, a total of 85 SA schools and 9 interstate schools registered for Learn to Speak Robot, along with 15 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)

In 2023, there were 81 SA schools and 8 interstate schools who registered for Space to Dream, along with 10 SA public libraries.

As in previous years, top-rated student entries were selected to be part of the Space to Dream Travelling Exhibition which toured to 15 metro and regional public libraries throughout the year, beginning at the Australian Space Discovery Centre at Lot Fourteen in Adelaide from December 2023 to January 2024 where there were over 1500 visitors.

Zoom Out (a systems thinking challenge)

In 2023, there were 68 SA schools and 8 interstate schools who registered for Zoom Out, along with 9 SA public libraries.

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 1,397 South Australian children and young people at workshops, in face-to-face meetings, and at forum events. During the reporting period the Commissioner undertook 63 consultations as follows:

Date	Project	Engagement type	Numbers
4 July 2023	Consultation at Parafield Gardens High School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	16
4 July 2023	Youth Period Summit Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	7
11 July 2023	Youth Period Summit	Event	75
7 August 2023	Consultation at Tatachilla Lutheran College on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	14
8 August 2023	Period Justice Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	13
15 August 2023	Consultation at Oakbank Area School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	18
15 August 2023	Consultation at Birdwood High School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	14
16 August 2023	Consultation at Salisbury East High School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	22
22 August 2023	Consultation at Balaklava High School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	13
23 August 2023	Year 9 Student Charter Workshop at Valley View Secondary School	Face to face workshop with Commissioner	75

Date	Project	Engagement type	Numbers
28 August 2023	Consultation at Pinnacle College on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	18
29 August 2023	Consultation at Murray Bridge High School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	25
30 August 2023	Consultation at Gladstone High on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	14
30 August 2023	Consultation at Clare High School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
5 September 2023	Consultation at St Peters Girls School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	12
11 September 2023	Consultation at Mount Carmel College on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	21
11 September 2023	Consultation at Prescott College on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	20
11 September 2023	Period Justice Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	10
12 September 2023	Consultation at Sacred Heart College on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
27 September 2023	Consultation at The Hills Montessori School on wellbeing	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	11
18 October 2023	Developing the COP28 SA Youth Submission	Workshop	31
13 November 2023	Period Justice Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	11
20 November 2023	Consultation at Port Augusta Secondary School on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	13
21 November 2023	Consultation at Port Augusta West Primary School on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	44
21 November 2023	Consultation at Willsden Primary School on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	37
21 November 2023	Consultation at Augusta Park Primary School on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	34
21 November 2023	Consultation at Port Augusta Youth Centre on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	40
22 November 2023	Consultation at Flinders View Primary School on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	26
22 November 2023	Consultation at Caritas College on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	17
22 November 2023	Consultation at Seaview Christian College on regenerating our regions	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
13 February 2024	Consultation at Thiele Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	21
19 February 2024	Period Justice Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	6

Date	Project	Engagement type	Numbers
27 February 2024	Consultation at Seacliff Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	24
5 March 2024	Consultation at Salisbury Park Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	25
19 March 2024	Consultation at Aldinga Payinthe College on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	9
22 March 2024	SA SRC Summit	Event	105
25 March 2024	Consultation at Rose Park Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	22
26 March 2024	Consultation at Blakeview Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	21
27 March 2024	Consultation at Para Hills High School on arts and creativity	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	18
27 March 2024	Consultation at Burnside Primary School on arts and creativity	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	14
2 April 2024	Consultation at Noarlunga Downs Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	23
2 April 2024	Period Justice Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	13
3 April 2024	Consultation at Elizabeth Downs Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	18
5 April 2024	Consultation at Bowden Brompton Community School on arts and creativity	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	9
5 April 2024	Consultation at Brighton Primary School on arts and creativity	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	27
8 April 2024	Consultation at Playford International College on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	13
8 April 2024	Consultation at Salisbury North Primary School on arts and creativity	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	44
9 April 2024	Consultation at St Brigid's School on arts and creativity	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	17
9 April 2024	Consultation at Lake Windemere Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	22
6 May 2024	Consultation at North Adelaide Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	27
8 May 2024	Consultation at Concordia College on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	11
8 May 2024	Consultation at Blackwood High School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	13
20 May 2024	Consultation at Seaford Rise Primary on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	22

Date	Project	Engagement type	Numbers
20 May 2024	Consultation at Hallet Cove School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	15
28 May 2024	Consultation at Pennington School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	25
28 May 2024	Period Justice Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	9
29 May 2024	Consultation at Hope Christian College on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	17
4 June 2024	Consultation at Darlington Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	20
11 June 2024	Consultation at Elizabeth South Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	22
19 June 2024	Consultation at Riverbanks College on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	17
25 June 2024	Consultation at Taparra Primary School on healthy neighbourhoods	Face to face consultation with Commissioner	22
25 June 2024	Period Justice Working Group	Face to face and online meeting with Commissioner	10

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 175 SA young people informed and participated in the work of the Commissioner via these mechanisms.

Date ranges	Advisory Group	Description	Number	Focus
SA SRC 2023: July – December 2023 SA SRC 2024: March – June 2024	SA Student Representative Councils for 2023 and 2024	State-wide council – Consisting of Year 10–12 students across all educational sectors.	150 members 2023 and 2024	Campaigns: – Free Fares for Our Future (2023/2024) – Seeing Ourselves (2024) – Fitness for Free (2023/2024) – Greening Our Canteens (2024) – Our Future Our Vote (2024)
March 2024 – June 2024	Commissioner's Advisory Council	A group of Year 10–12 students from across the state who meet with the Commissioner once a term and provide expertise on their lived experiences as young people in South Australia.	15 active members	Issues discussed include: – Mental health – Social media – Arts and culture – Loneliness – Places in the community for young people
July 2023 – June 2024	Hub (hubadl.com)	An online magazine for South Australians aged 15–22 years.	10 interns	Issues identified by young people of interest to other young people

Surveys and Polling

Throughout 2023/2024, 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 voting to vaping.

The surveys and polls were undertaken both online and offline, with the Commissioner gathering a total of 20,046 responses from South Australian children and young people.

The 2023 school year was the fifth year of the Commissioner's Student Voice Postcard initiative and attracted the highest level of participation to date, with a total of 18,328 postcards received from children in 347 schools across the state.

Date	Project	Engagement Type	Number
May 2023 – September 2023	Early Years Postcards	Postcards to children in early childhood settings	180
June 2023 – October 2023	Young People and Gambling Survey	Survey	698
July 2023	School responses to Vaping	Poll	33
July 2023 – December 2023	2023 Student Voice Postcards	Postcards to primary school students	18,328
May 2024 – June 2024 (ongoing)	Teenagers and Safety Survey	Survey	807

SA SRC also organised a number of polls to hear from children and young people that aligned with their advocacy agendas. During the year they undertook 9 different polls with 4,738 responses.

In March 2024, SA SRC polled at Neo and the SA SRC Summit on the following:

Subject	Number of responses
How young people spend their time	86
Social media	64
Video games	74
What young people think about the future	67

From March to May 2024 the SA SRC undertook polling to understand young peoples' views in relation to the campaigns and advocacy they were running. This includes:

Subject	Number of responses
Fitness for Free	617
Free Fares for Our Future	912
Greening Our Canteens	1,398
Our Future Our Vote	769
Seeing Ourselves	751

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.

This communications strategy is undertaken in a variety of ways that include making formal submissions and official comments; sending electronic direct messaging campaigns, letter writing, making speeches and presentations; and through opinion editorials, social media, and print and radio interviews and articles.

The Commissioner also sends out a quarterly newsletter to 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 which include the 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, and pitches stories about her work to relevant journalists, seeking to have these published in 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 comments on particular issues, with these sent to national and state government agencies and organisations for their consideration and reflection.

The Commissioner made 24 submissions throughout the reporting period with 20 these made to State government departments and agencies, and 4 to Commonwealth government departments and agencies. Two submissions were written with the input of SA SRC members, including the Submission on the Local Government Participation and Elections Review and the Submission to the Inquiry into Civics Education, Engagement, and Participation in Australia.

Submissions covered issues that ranged from mental health, educational issues to how to better support young children

Date	To	Subject
11 August 2023	House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (SA)	Inquiry into the Recognition of Unpaid Carers
17 August 2023	Department for Home Affairs and National Emergency Management Agency (Cth)	Submission on Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response
19 September 2023	Office of the Chief Information Officer (SA)	Digital Connectivity is Integral to the Human Rights of Young People
29 September 2023	Department of Home Affairs (Cth)	Submission on the Multicultural Framework Review
10 October 2023	Attorney-General's Department SA and Department for Human Services (SA)	Letter re Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill
13 October 2023	State Planning Commission (SA)	Submission on the Greater Adelaide Plan
13 October 2023	Infrastructure SA	Submission on the 20 Year State Infrastructure Strategy
16 November 2023	Senator David Pocock (Cth)	Feedback on the Duty of Care Bill
29 November 2023	Treasury (Cth)	Submission on Unfair Trading Practices
4 December 2023	Honourable Stephen Mullighan MP (SA)	Submission to the South Australian Government on Creating a More Child Focused Budget 2024/2025
15 January 2024	Department for the Premier and Cabinet (SA)	Submission on a New Cultural Policy for South Australia
14 February 2024	Attorney-General's Department (SA)	Submission to the Review of Sexual Consent Laws in South Australia
15 February 2024	Department for Infrastructure and Transport (SA)	Submission to the Northern Adelaide Transport Study

Date	To	Subject
15 February 2024	Social Development Committee, Parliament of South Australia	Submission on the Potential for a Human Rights Act for South Australia
27 March 2024	Office for Local Government, Department for Infrastructure and Transport (SA)	Submission on the Local Government Participation and Elections Review
28 March 2024	Attorney-General's Department (SA)	Submission on the Proposed Alternative Diversion Model for Children under the Raised Age of Criminal Responsibility
4 April 2024	Adelaide City Council (SA)	Submission about the Adelaide City Plan 2036
3 May 2024	State Planning Authority (SA)	State Planning Commission Engagement Charter Letter
7 May 2024	Department for Correctional Services (SA)	Submission on the Department for Correctional Services next Women's Framework and Action Plan
21 May 2024	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (Cth)	Submission to the Inquiry into Civics Education, Engagement, and Participation in Australia
30 May 2024	Select Committee on Endometriosis (SA)	Submission to the Select Committee on Endometriosis from the CCYP Period Justice Working Group
11 June 2024	Productivity Commission (SA)	Submission to the Inquiry into Positioning All South Australians to Share in the Benefits of Economic Growth
19 June 2024	Department for Health and Wellbeing (SA)	Submission on the Draft SA Health Climate Change Framework
26 June 2024	Adelaide City Council (SA)	Feedback on 30 May draft Adelaide City Plan 2036 consultation

Presentations, Speeches and Discussion Panels

Throughout the reporting period the Commissioner attended 28 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
1 July 2023	Festival of Sport	Guest Speaker
4 July 2023	Gladys Elphick Oration	Guest Speaker
20 July 2023	Society for Menstrual Cycle Research Conference 2023. Washington USA	Key Speaker
1 August 2023	Present to the SAPHC members on the topic of advocacy Agenda for SA's Children and Young People.	Presenter
1 September 2023	Child Protection & the Law – Legal Professional Development Training Day	Guest Speaker
5 September 2023	Mental Health Workshop	Presenter
18 September 2023	Australian Child Maltreatment Study	Guest Speaker
21 September 2023	Human Rights in the Digital Era Forum – IPAA	Key Speaker
22 September 2023	South Australian Schools Constitutional Convention	Panel
4 October 2023	City of Unley – Living Young Reference Group	Speech at the group meeting
20 October 2023	Official Launch of Children's Week 2023	Speaker
27 October 2023	WCHN's 2023 Research Week: Changing the future of child health	Speaker
1 November 2023	Greater Adelaide Regional Plan youth event	Speaker
2 November 2023	E3 National Educators Conference	Panellist and Speech
16 November 2023	Children's University Graduation Ceremony – Adelaide	Speaker
17 November 2023	Bright Future Forum – SA	
30 November 2023	SACOSS – Changing Narrative forum panel discussion.	Panellist
1 December 2023	Culture and Democracy – University of Adelaide	Speaker
7 December 2023	Children's University Ceremony – Port Lincoln	Speaker
18 December 2023	Southern Youth Round table	Speaker
4 March 2024	Lasallian Leaders Gathering	Key Note Speaker

Date	Project	Engagement Type
6 March 2024	AMRC 2024 International Woman's Day Forum	Roundtable consultation
7 March 2024	Family Law Council: Roundtable with Children and Young People Commissioners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioners	Roundtable Discussion
21 March 2024	Committee for Adelaide – Future of Work Roundtable	Keynote Speaker
22 March 2024	SA SRC Summit	Host/Speaker
13 June 2024	Southern Youth Round Table	Speaker
13 June 2024	South Australian Primary Principals Association	Keynote Speaker
27 June 2024	National Sports and Activity Convention	Keynote Speaker

Media Coverage

During the 2023/2024 reporting period the Commissioner was interviewed for radio/podcasts on 11 occasions. She had 21 articles relevant to her work published in metropolitan and regional newspapers, with articles also appearing in 5 specialist publications/magazines throughout the year.

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

Date	Topic	Outlet/Publication
28 July 2023	Promoting the rights of Australian families and children	Pro bono Australia
18 August 2023	Teenagers and Gambling Survey	ABC Riverland
28 August 2023	For the Sake of Our Children – Keeping our promises	Sunday Mail (Advertiser)
29 August 2023	Fitness for Free SA SRC	ABC Radio South East
6 September 2023	Schools support digital challenge	Yorke Peninsula Country Times
18 September 2023	Greater digital insight through challenge	Eyre Peninsula Advocate
21 September 2023	Learning to speak robot	The Recorder
27 September 2023	Primary students learn how to 'speak robot'	The Murray Pioneer
1 October 2023	Schools face AI bullying	The Advertiser
13 October 2023	How primary school children feel about their mental health	The Educator
19 October 2023	Camps, Field Trips and Excursions and the benefits of interactive learning	ABC South East
20 October 2023	More funding needed for active learning experiences	The Educator
25 October 2023	Child's play: how we can boost our young people's happiness	InDaily
26 October 2023	Episode 19 – Commissioner's Postcards	SAPPA Podcast
27 October 2023	Opinion: I choose play	The Educator
31 October 2023	The importance of play with Jason Chong	ABC Radio Adelaide
1 December 2023	Local students soar in digital challenge	Yorke Peninsula Country Times
7 December 2023	Space connection	The Islander
7 December 2023	Kids Write Open Letter To COP28	Behind the News
11 December 2023	Corporal Punishment	5AA
10 December 2023	Long way to go on youth crime	Sunday Mail
10 December 2023	When it comes to child rights, South Australia is trailing behind	7News
10 December 2023	There are calls for further restrictions on the way South Australian parents can physically discipline their kids	7News
24 January 2024	Minimum age of incarceration	ABC National Radio
11 February 2024	Editorial: Safeguards welcome but don't stop kids working	The Advertiser
11 February 2024	How young is too young for a first job?	The Advertiser
16 February 2024	Opinion: Teen friendly workplaces – the next diversity frontier?	InDaily
20 February 2024	SA school period education is about to change	InDaily
21 March 2024	Stevie chosen to represent state	Port Lincoln Times

Date	Topic	Outlet/Publication
8 April 2024	Students speak of change at SRC Summit	Plains Producer
10 April 2024	Four-year-olds' Favourite Places	KIDDO Mag
10 April 2024	Meet E.D. Bridges	KIDDO Mag
14 April 2024	Let them jump, fish	Sunday Mail
26 April 2024	Seen But Not Heard – Mornings with David Bevan	ABC Radio
26 April 2024	Vaping rules in school dunnies	The Advertiser
2 May 2024	Suspensions and bullying up in SA schools	InDaily
7 May 2024	Strategy for Children under 5	SBS Radio
9 May 2024	Everyday Racism Report	ABC Radio National
9 May 2024	'Can it really be this bad?': racism in schools shocks South Australia's children's tsar	The Guardian
11 June 2024	Anti-vaping approaches that work for schools	Play Australia
11 June 2024	Opinion: I Choose Play	The Educator
28 June 2024	A digital ban won't solve real world mental health challenges	InDaily

Websites, Social Media and EDMs

The Commissioner uses a combination of websites, social media and electronic direct marketing emails to communicate her messages relating to child rights advocacy for South Australia's children and young people to her audiences who include government and business decision makers, policy makers, researchers, educators, parents and carers, community leaders and children and young people themselves. She has developed several dedicated websites and social media accounts across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Tik Tok to focus on specific issues and initiatives and make collections of quality publications and resources relevant to each available for free download. An overview of each is provided below:

ccyp.com.au

This is the main website for South Australia's CCYP. It houses over 300 publications and resources produced by CCYP for a variety of audiences who include parents and carers, educators, researchers and policy makers and government, business and community organisations delivering services to children and young people. It also provides updates and stories about the Commissioner's work and its impact on communities throughout South Australia. It directs visitors to the Commissioner's other initiatives and associated websites. This year the website was redesigned to reflect the Commissioner's strategic focus with creation of a searchable publications section enabling more than 300 resources to be easily sourced and downloaded.

civicsandcitizenshipsa.com.au

This website hosts a range of resources specific to civics and citizenship education. It includes the 'Engagement Toolbox' which the Commissioner has developed to guide community and government organisations on proven ways to interact and engage with children and young people. The website also contains a series of curated third-party resources, categorised and organised according to audience and function referred to as the 'Civics Directory', promoting a range of programs, destinations, and education opportunities for young people to increase their civic engagement. It also houses yChange – a civics and citizenship program designed by the Commissioner to support educators teaching civics and citizenship. The yChange handbook and lesson plans for what is the first curriculum-aligned action civics resource for primary and secondary educators

in Australia was developed with input from students, educators and civic experts and is available for free download.

commissionersdigitalchallenge.net.au

This website 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 and Zoom Out) which are run through schools, as well as through SA libraries, Scouts and Guides clubs and the Australian Children's University. An exhibition highlighting top-rated entries into the Space to Dream Challenge tours throughout the state starting at the Australia Space Discovery Centre at Lot Fourteen.

commissionerspostcards.com.au

This website, showcases and provides information about the Commissioner's annual Student Voice Postcards initiative aimed at primary school children in the 8–12 years so they can experience what it is like to have voice and agency. The website includes information and downloadable materials relating to the Commissioner's Early Years Postcards initiative, which commenced in 2023. The responses from both initiatives are analysed and published in summary reports which are distributed to educators and school principals, while also being available for download from the website. The reports are complemented by summaries of what children living in metro, rural, regional and remote locations said about matters to them most, alongside a gallery of postcard images and children's quotes.

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 distributed to relevant stakeholders. Topics ranged from Teenagers and Safety, Schools Guide to Vaping, Relationships and Sexual Health Education, An Overarching Health Plan for SA Children and Young People and notifications relating to the Commissioner's key engagement initiatives including Postcards and the Digital Challenge. The Commissioner's Quarterly Newsletter to Stakeholders is also distributed via EDM at the end of each school term to more than 6,000 stakeholders.

Facebook (CCYP)

CCYP Facebook is the key social media platform through which the Commissioner communicates key messages about initiatives and programs and what young people have told her about their lives. Followers increased by 135 to reach 2,225 (up from 2,090 in 2022/2023). The audience mainly consists of followers based in Adelaide (60.7%). Females are more prominent in the demographic, making up 81.4% whilst males make up the remaining 18.6%.

*The above statistics are based on information provided by a new analytics tool, Meta Insights. Content in 2023/2024 included Facebook Reels, for which Meta does not record information such as post reach.

Facebook (SA SRC)

The SA SRC account is primarily used to communicate the campaigns of SA SRC members, which aim to build the power of student voice at a local and state level. The SA SRC Facebook account has grown 7 followers from 2022/23, reaching a total of 14 followers. Posts relating to particular campaigns such as Free Fares for Our Future generated stronger engagement. Additionally, youth-focused content resonates well with the target audience of young people aged 15–18 years, evidenced in the video interview of SA SRC member Jazmin (6 engagements). For the 2023/24 period, the page reached 314 unique users.

Hubadl.com

The official website for Hub Adelaide provides a platform for young people to voice their opinions, share their work, and discover upcoming events around South Australia. Aimed at individuals aged 15 to 22, it features Hub's Statewide Mag, a digital directory showcasing articles written by young people in this age group. Content is generated through submissions from young people, alongside contributions made by Hub Interns who create social media content, maintain the website, and contribute articles on a regular basis.

Instagram

The Commissioner has a number of Instagram accounts targeting different audiences in relation to key initiatives.

@ccyp_sa – The total number of CCYP Instagram followers reached 1,642 (up from 1,586 in 2022/2023). The audience mainly consists of followers based in Adelaide (57.6%). Females are more prominent in our demographic, making up 73.3% whilst males make up the remaining 26.7%. We are confident these followers consist of parents, educators, organisations and some young people but primarily adults who support or provide services to children and young people.

@commissionerspostcards – The Commissioners Postcards account is the dedicated account for the Commissioners Student Voice Postcards initiative. The account was created to showcase some of the amazing responses the Commissioner receives via her annual Student Voice Postcards initiative. The total number of Commissioners Postcards followers reached 40 in 2023 – the first year it has been operating.

@getaroundit_sa – The Get Around It (GAI) initiative aims to showcase young South Australian thinkers, makers, and doers between the ages of 14 and 22 years. The total number of Get Around It followers reached 925 in 2023. Females are more prominent in this demographic, making up 68.4%, whilst males make up the remaining 31.5% (0.1% unknown). There have been more than 107 GAI profiles added to the showcase since its inception in 2019 with 25 added in 2023.

@periodjustice_sa – The Period Justice account is an initiative of the CCYP which aims to remove stigmas, campaign to end period poverty, and address systemic issues contributing to period injustice and period shame. The total number of Period Justice followers reached 719 in this reporting period. The account features resources, events and people advocating for period justice. Females are more prominent in this demographic, making up 91.6% whilst males make up the remaining 8.3% (0.1% unknown).

@hubadl – The Hub Adelaide account is the dedicated account for Hub Magazine, which is a digital magazine designed for 15–22-year-olds in South Australia. The total number of Hub Adelaide followers reached 352, which is an increase of 61 from 2022/2023. Posts that address current affairs or trending topics perform exceptionally well, such as the *Is a social media ban worth its buck?* and *So...What's Going on With Raygun* articles. Females make up 65.6% of the follower base, whilst males account for the remaining 34.4%.

@sasrc_campaigns – The South Australian Student Representative Council is a body consisting of approximately 150 student members in years 10–12 across South Australia, collaborating to create genuine, student-led change. In 2023/2024, the account achieved follower growth of 61, taking the total follower count to 566. Post performance is consistent across the core campaigns. However, some posts related to Our Future Our Vote and Free Fares for Our Future tend to perform stronger. The follower demographic for this account comprises of 29.6% males, whilst females make up the majority with 70.4%.

LinkedIn (CCYP)

The total number of CCYP LinkedIn followers has reached 1,071 (up from 843 in 2022/2023). Posts during the reporting period collected a total of 591 reactions, 14 comments, and 748 page views. The most popular posts related to the Commissioner's articles, major reports, and content from youth-focused events. Our audience location demographics are predominantly comprised of Australian capital cities, with Adelaide making up the majority (59.7%).

LinkedIn (Helen Connolly)

The Commissioner has her own LinkedIn account which continues to perform well, always attracting engagement through reactions, shares, and discussions in the comments. Reports and opinion editorials consistently perform well amongst her LinkedIn network and followers. The most engaged post surrounded the Commissioner's *Seen But Not Heard* report, amassing 294 engagements across reactions, comments, and shares.

periodjustice.com.au

Formerly the endperiodpoverty website the domain name was changed to reflect the broadening issues that the CCYP is interested in raising awareness about. Not only does this include those issues relating to periods and menstruation, such as removing stigma, taboo and shame surrounding periods, it includes guides on ways to support children and young people in practical ways to help address period poverty and provide the infrastructure needed to normalise periods and menstruation. Throughout this year the publications section has been redesigned, curating more than 250 resources available from one easy to reach online location.

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 on CCYP's other social media platforms.

YouTube

The Commissioner produces videos for various projects. These can be viewed from the Commissioner's YouTube channel (@CCYP_SA). Within the reporting period, new content with the highest number of views (1,078) was a video entitled *Commissioner's Student Voice Postcards Video with Kid's Comments*. For the duration of FY23–24, we have achieved a total of 54k views across all videos on the platform, with our subscribers increasing by 173, taking the total subscriber count to 336.

Sponsorships and Grants

Sponsorships

The Commissioner sponsors organisations to support children and young people. During the reporting period the Commissioner sponsored 10 organisations for a total value of \$54,968. Recipients included the Brazilian Ethnic School of South Australia, the Playford Christmas Pageant, UN Youth, Kindred Australia, Middle Ground Motherhood, Careworks Inc, Australian Children's University, Northern Area Community & Youth Services Inc. and Puddle Jumpers.

Grants

The Commissioner runs an annual grant program to support organisations that are involved in consultation with and/or the design and delivery of programs or services for SA children and young people. There were two grants types offered in 2024: Youth Voice grants (19 applications received with 11 allocations); and Period Justice grants (18 applications received with 7 allocations). The following organisations applied for and received sponsorship funding up to a maximum of \$5,000. Grant funds awarded throughout the reporting period totalled \$84,951.

Recipient	Initiative/Project
African Women's Federation of South Australia	The Resonating Voices project builds on work undertaken with African adolescent girls and their families in 2022/2023 to address stigma, taboo, and period poverty concerns in the African community about menstruation.
Careworks Inc	The Hopestreet Youth Voice project will kickstart a dynamic youth advisory committee to dive into issues directly impacting the youth of Playford and will take a hands-on approach to growing youth involvement within the community.
City of Mount Gambier	Building the Youth Activation Group so they can have meaningful input into their community.
Corporation of the City of Unley	Developing its Future Caretakers Forum – an event series which explores global megatrends and how they are being experienced now and will be experienced by young people into the future.
Girl Guides South Australia Inc	Partnering with Zonta Club of Adelaide Torrens to amplify the voices of young women through an upcoming workshop, "Who will fill our shoes?" The event incorporates and encourages young women's voices to be heard.
Mount Barker District Council	The Blooms of Change project will engage a local artist for the creation of a mobile mural centred on themes of period poverty and menstruation, to be featured in high-traffic public areas across the district, with supportive information sessions.

Recipient	Initiative/Project
Multicultural Youth South Australia	Expansion of MYSA's Period Program for multicultural youth to address and challenge the stigma and shame associated with periods in many refugee and migrant communities, and provide young women experiencing financial distress with access to free sanitary products.
Port Adelaide Netball Association	A menstrual awareness project would be delivering for players involving education, and opening up channels of communication with players through the provision of kits, posters, social media and hosting displays,
Port Augusta Youth Centre Inc	A youth voice podcast production and editing program to enable local young people to have a voice.
Port Pirie Regional Council	A dynamic 1.5-day workshop aimed at fostering youth engagement through a Youth Reference Group initiative.
Regional Council of Goyder	Establishing a Youth Social Activity Group for young people aged 12-25 years to run monthly activities as a way to connect to peers, assisted by a facilitator.
SHINE SA	Provision of a Menstrual Health Kit providing educational information and resources to Aboriginal-focused schools and community/health organisations.
Swimming SA Inc	Provision of high quality information and education for the swimming community about menstruation and pelvic pain.
The South Australian Youth Forum	Delivery of South Australian Youth Forum activities including meetings and workshops on data collection, decision-making, and undertaking youth surveys.
Town of Gawler	The Period Products Provision Trial seeks to make sanitary pads and tampons freely available within the Gawler Civic Centre.
Uniting Communities	Development of a Streetlink Youth Advisory Group to inform decisions about the program, which is an inclusive, respectful service for young people aged 10-25 years who come from diverse backgrounds.
Volleyball SA	Providing free sanitary products for volleyball club kits and communities to use on game days during the SA Volleyball League competition season.
Yup Yup Labs Pty Ltd	A camp, school holiday program, and launch event as a celebration of the online digital media platform co-created by young women.

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 Meeting – 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 – Member
- Child Development Council – Committee Member
- Ending Physical Punishment Against Children – Committee Member
- Human Rights and Coercion Reduction Committee – Member
- South Australian Child Protection's Awards Selection Committee – Member
- Suicide Prevention Council – Member
- Support and Inclusion Reference Group – Committee Member
- National Strategic Partnership on Child Sexual Exploitation – Member
- Strategic Ministerial Advisory Group: Strong foundations and clear pathways – Chair
- Apprentice and Trainee Training and Safety Committee – Member
- Swallowcliffe Children's Precinct Committee – Chair

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

- Adelaide Aquatic Centre Inclusive Design Working Group
- SAFECOM Children and Young People in Emergency Services Organisations Project Steering Committee
- Early Years Taskforce
- Governor's Civics Awards for Schools Reference Group
- Local Government Youth Development Network
- National Child Voice Community of Practice
- 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 Meeting
- Youth Voice Initiative Roundtable

Summary of Enquiries

A total of 42 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 2023/2024 reporting period.

Some particularly concerning issues that arose include:

- allegations of violence against children in the home, which would be illegal if the acts were committed against adults. The defence of ‘reasonable chastisement’ is used to defend these acts
- reports of sexual abuse not being treated seriously by authorities, including the family court; and
- the over representation of children living with disability being excluded from school.

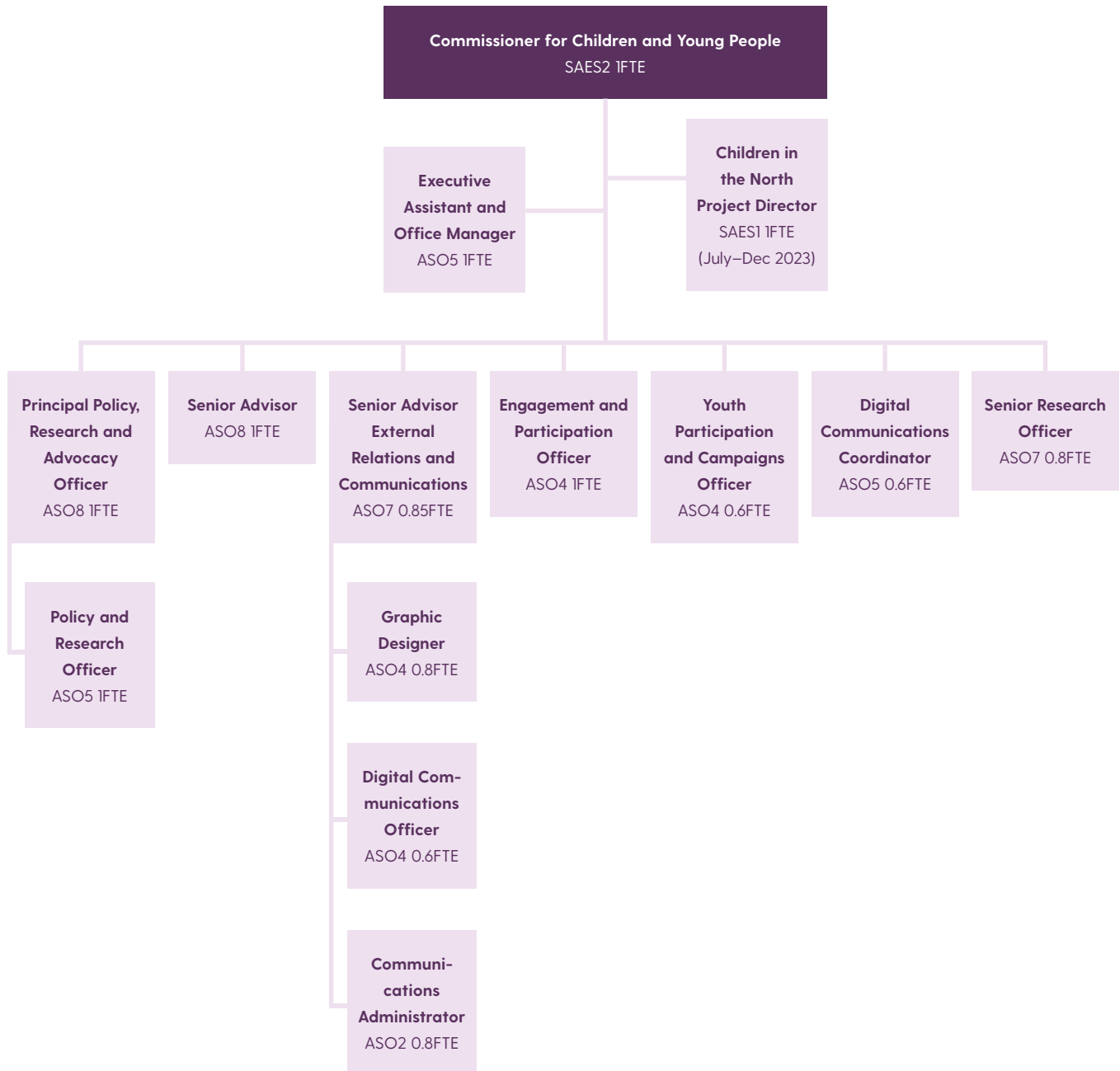
The nature of these enquiries were as follows:

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 and reunification and carers accessing services.	10
Concerns about schools, including children being excluded, bullied, discriminated against.	10
Concerns in family court matters, including court not believing family and domestic violence. Judge orders requiring officers to use force to take children in breach of orders.	5
Concerns for children living with disability, including those living in voluntary out of home care, those not getting support as no NDIS, but no guardian to advocate for them, use of restraints, being excluded from school arising from behaviour that comes from disability.	9
Other	8

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 2023/2024	Past year 2022/2023	% 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 2023/2024	Past year 2022/2023	% 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 2023/2024	Past year 2022/2023	% 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	Three high school students had the opportunity to undertake work experience with CCYP.
CCYP Volunteer Internships Program	Twelve including ten internships with HubAdl and three individual internships with university students researching projects relating to child rights.

Executive Employment in the Agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES2	1
SAES1 (July–December 2023)	1

Consultants

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

Consultants	Purpose	Actual payment (\$)
Project 18 Pty Ltd	Consulting with children and young people to inform the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	14,000

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 2023/2024 Commissioner for Children and Young People

Item	Actual (\$)
Salaries and wages	1,532,484
Grants (allowing for overlapping)	88,128
Goods and services	339,572
Depreciation and amortisation of expenses	46,469
Total expenditure	2,006,653
Commission received	0
Other revenue	88,369
Total revenue	88,369
Net operating	1,918,284

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*.

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

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
---	-----

