

What you told me about the things that are important to you...



CCYP by the numbers

18,611

of you contributed to
online surveys, polls,
and consultations.

16,007

of you in years 2–6
completed postcards.

1,491

of you attended events,
focus groups, workshops,
and summits hosted
by CCYP.

25

submissions informed
by your ideas and
experiences submitted
on your behalf.

8

major reports written
with recommendations
based on your input.



Key focus areas in 2022/2023

Between July 2022 and June 2023 (the reporting period) thousands of you provided input on issues you told me needed attention. I undertook to explore these further on your behalf, communicating your ideas to those in government who can bring about changes. The issues covered included:

What Matters Most

16,007 of you in Years 2–6 sent me a postcard telling me what matters to you most.



“ [I worry about] not having enough friends and not doing well in school.” – 11 year old

“ [I want grownups to know] kids have good ideas not just grownups so I think we should have a say in things to.” – 11 year old

“ [The world would be better if] diesel and petrol and nuclear powered engines to be banned and only electric engines to be used and No pollution in water or air.” – 8 year old

Vaping

Over 900 of you participated in my Vaping Survey with 2 in 3 of you saying that you had tried vaping, and 1 in 4 sharing that you vape regularly. Most of you said that existing laws weren't restricting or discouraging vaping enough, and over three-quarters of you said that you had learned nothing or not much about the health risks associated with vaping, either at school or in the community.



“ I wish adults understood that young people aren't educated enough on vaping. They don't know or understand any facts in the harm of vaping and what it could do. I wish there was support and alternatives to support young people like myself in 'not vaping', to stop the damages and harm.” – 17 year old

Children and young people living with chronic illness

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



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

Child Protection

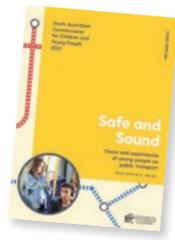
This year I met with 88 children and young people and received a further 40 postcards from young people who generously shared their experiences relating to foster care, kinship care and residential care with me. You shared your worries about the future and those of your families and you expressed a desire to have more of a say in decisions about you.



“ [I wish] I can have my own say in things like my decisions and I can share my views.” – 10 year old

Public Transport

Over 1,000 of you completed my transport survey saying that you rely on public transport for school, sports, employment, socialisation and hobbies, but that you often feel unsafe or let down when accessing public transport. You also said that the lack of public transport options in regional areas has a negative impact on your opportunities to participate in activities relating to school, work and fun, and that transport needs to be more affordable so you don't have to rely on parents and others to get you around.



“ I wish I could reach [public transport] easily and safely. I wish it were organised to maximise efficiency. It is a 20 min drive to my workplace but takes over an hour and two buses to get there using public transport.”
– 17 year old

High School

You've told me that school is stressful, and that high school is the most stressful of all. Over 300 of you participated in consultations about Year 12, sharing that you don't feel very prepared or supported for the intensity of Year 12. You also told me that school events and activities and relationships with your classmates are really the best things about being in Year 12.



“ I feel like we don't get enough time to choose what we want to do in the future, as I feel like having a few months to decide what your career is gonna be is unfair and not right.”
– 17 year old

Period Friendly Sports Clubs/ Child Friendly Sports Clubs

This year there was a lot of ongoing discussion about young people's involvement in sports clubs, especially how periods impact on young people who are playing sport. Thanks to your input I was able to create guides for how sports clubs could become more inclusive.



They were well received and I am confident that many sports clubs are implementing the changes that have been recommended by you.

“ Supplying sanitary items. Providing toilets with sanitary bins. Being educated and having a safe environment to talk to people about advice.” – 13 year old

Barriers to Civic Participation

You said, that as children and young people, you want more say in the decisions that affect your lives. However, when you do have this opportunity you feel as though adults don't really listen to you. In response, decision-makers said that they don't feel as though they do a good enough job of engaging with you, and that they believe they can do much better.



“ We feel like adults are not interested in hearing from us, and when we do speak, they ignore us.” – 15 year old

Barriers to Physical Activity

You told me that physical activity is important to your mental and physical health and wellbeing, but that you experience significant barriers to participating in many of the activities you want to be doing more regularly. You said that you need support from your families to participate, but that the cost of this can be too expensive for some of you and so you don't even ask anymore. You also said that you want sport and physical activity organisers to be more inclusive of gender, skill level, and cultural background, and to be more mindful of your other commitments, acknowledging and adapting to the reality that you have busy lives too.



“ I feel that people think we are less active than we really are and that being active is not only about doing club/school sport but just normal stuff in general like cycling to school or walking the dog.” – 14 year old

Major projects in 2022/2023

SA SRC

The second State-wide Student Representative Council (SA SRC) met in March 2023. Students in Years 10, 11 & 12 came to Adelaide from all over the state to discuss issues of importance to them. The group continued to meet online throughout the year and shared ideas on working with their local communities to bring about the changes they wish to see.



hubadl.com

A group of interns has worked on redesigning hubadl.com so that it is more appealing to young people aged 15 to 22. They had lots of input from young people contributing and sharing ideas and opinions, interests and achievements. The socials campaign has meant more young people are aware of what older young people are doing.



Civicsandcitizenshipsa.com.au

Civics & Citizenship is the new go-to website where young people of all ages can find info about civics programs, organisations, volunteering and upskilling opportunities. There is a comprehensive Civics Directory, chock full of resources and programs.



COP27

Young people passionate about the impact of climate change gathered for a workshop in October 2022. They wrote an Open Letter to the Australian delegates attending COP27, informing them of what they believed the priorities needed to be and highlighting their concerns about the lack of action being taken by adults, countries and businesses worldwide.



Focus areas in 2023/2024



Play, arts and culture in children's lives



Protecting children and young people's rights as consumers



Child and youth-friendly public spaces



Online safety

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

Thank you again for sharing so many of your views and opinions with me. Listening to you is the best part of my job. It enables me to communicate on your behalf, not guessing what you think or want. By providing advice on what you think will bring about positive change to your lives, I hope to improve the systems that have been setup to protect your rights and deliver services to you. I'll be listening again next year and look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible.

