



15 March 2018

## **Commissioner for Children and Young People to visit Murray Bridge as part of Hopes and Dreams Regional Tour**

SA's Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly will be visiting Murray Bridge on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March as part of the '2018 Hopes and Dreams Regional Tour'. The Commissioner visited the Riverland last month to kick off the tour and has committed to visiting 10 regions in 10 months to talk to children and young people about their hopes and dreams.

The Commissioner will listen to the aspirations of local children and will be holding consultations with small groups in organised sessions with agencies, youth groups and schools.

Ms Connolly says the idea for the Hopes and Dreams regional tour came out of her Listening Tour in 2017:

"During the Listening Tour young people talked a lot about what they wanted in the future, what type of job they would like or what their sporting aspirations were.

"On the regional visits many children and young people talked about the importance of feeling proud of where they lived. We heard that they didn't want to leave their towns when they were older, but many felt there would be more opportunities if they did.

"I want to share any emerging themes with local leadership and build strong relationships between young people and local decision makers," said the Commissioner.

The consultations will use creative and engaging approaches to facilitate the discussion. Helen Connolly hopes that after the tour she will know more about what is needed to help children and young people in regional areas realise their dreams.

### **Background**

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly was appointed in April 2017 and is responsible for promoting and advocating for the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and young people across South Australia.

Shortly after taking office, the Commissioner went on a 'Listening Tour' and met with over 1400 children and young people across South Australia to find out what was important to them.

### **For more information**

**Contact the Office for The Commissioner for Children and Young People**

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The Commissioner is committed to supporting SA children and young people to be involved in decision making that affects them, giving particular consideration to hearing the voices of kids who are doing it tough.

For further information on the listening tour and the work of the commissioner go to [www.ccyp.com.au](http://www.ccyp.com.au)

### **Notes to Editors**

On her visit to Murray Bridge, the Commissioner will be stopping at Murray Bridge High School, Tyndale Christian School, Minya Porlar Creche and Headspace/The Station.

The commissioner will be in the following regions at the dates outlined below. Please note some of these dates are subject to change.

Murray Bridge: 21<sup>st</sup> March

Adelaide Hills: 11<sup>th</sup> April

Yorke Peninsula: 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May

Ceduna: 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June:

Whyalla: 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July

Barossa Valley: 14<sup>th</sup> August

Ernabella: TBA September

Naracoorte: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October

Kangaroo Island: 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November

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