

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



CCYP by the numbers

24,234

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

18,328

of you in years 2–6
completed postcards.

1,397

of you attended events,
focus groups, workshops,
and summits.

24

submissions prepared
by CCYP were
informed by your
ideas and experiences
and submitted.

6

major reports
were written with
recommendations
based on your input.



Key focus areas in 2023/2024

Between July 2023 and June 2024 (the reporting period) thousands of you provided input on issues you told me needed attention. On your behalf, I undertook to explore these further, communicating your ideas to those in government who can bring about the changes you wish to see. The issues covered included:

What Matters Most

18,328 of you in Years 2–6 sent me a postcard telling me what matters to you most.



“[I wish grownups would] listen to me a bit more and understand our problems.” – 9-year-old

“[A good friend is someone who] is trustworthy. Helps you. Listens to your views. Is kind. Doesn't talk behind your back. Backs you up. Stands up for you.” – 11-year-old

“[SA would be better for kids if] Everyone would care for the environment, prices were cheaper and if we didn't have to go to school for 5 days.” – 12-year-old

Work and Employment

Over 907 of you participated in my Teenagers and Work survey, with almost half of you telling me you undertake paid employment. You told me that you experience a range of issues at work, particularly around pay rates, working conditions, sickness, bullying, harassment, and negative interactions with the people you work with. In response to these issues, you shared that you want your workplaces to understand and value your work and provide you with appropriate support.



“A welcoming workspace where colleagues are happy to help if you require, and just a generally friendly atmosphere, are what I find make a workplace a good workplace.” – 15-year-old

High School

In 2023, I met with 549 of you studying in Years 8, 9 and 10 from 28 schools across South Australia. In these consultations, you highlighted the diversity of your school experiences, ranging from enjoying making friends and gaining new freedom, to disliking workload expectations and “bad teachers”. Most of all, though, you told me that you want your school environments to be positive and inclusive for all.



“Stop reacting to symptoms and actually solve the problem. Namely people's attitudes toward learning and bullying and friend groups.” – 15-year-old

Racism

I've heard from children and young people of colour and those from migrant backgrounds about the discrimination you face at school and in your communities. My *Everyday Racism* report is based on your responses received from over 600 of you who come from migrant and refugee backgrounds and who told me about the racism and racial barriers you face at school and in your communities.



“Our school has normalised racism. Students aren't being penalised harshly enough for inappropriate behaviour and people aren't being given the same opportunities, rights in schools.” – 15-year-old

Early Years

This year I launched my Early Years Postcards initiative, which saw 180 preschoolers from ages 2–5 draw me a picture of their favourite place and tell me what makes it special to them.

You told me about your homes and families, playgrounds, childcare centres and other places where you feel safe and have fun.



“The outdoor playground. I go there a lot with my pa and sister. There’s a big rainbow slide!”
– 4-year-old

Vaping

This year, I released my guide for schools on how to address this growing issue. My guide is based on the things you’ve told me about vaping in my 2022 survey. You said that you want schools to have a better understanding of why young people vape, and to be more supportive in helping those who want to stop. You also told me that you want more education about the impacts vaping can have on your health.



“Teach kids about it, so kids are equipped with the knowledge on vaping and make better informed decisions.” – 15-year-old

Youth Friendly Communities

You’ve told me that you value feeling welcome and included in your local communities, so I created a guide for communities to create youth-friendly environments. The guide highlights that, as children and young people, you have specific needs that differ from grownups, and deserve safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces that are designed for you.



Major projects in 2023/2024

SA SRC

Now in its third year, the Commissioner’s 2024 State-wide Student Representative Council (SA SRC) has 155 members who were selected from applications that came from across the state.



These students from Years 10, 11 and 12 met to discuss the key issues identified at the SA SRC Summit held in March and have worked together throughout the year on key campaigns around lowering the local government voting, offering free public transport to school students, greening school canteens, offering free fitness for those who need it and measuring diversity in schools. Their civics in action efforts have included awareness raising, polls and petitions and visits to local decision makers and relevant members of parliament to promote change. Read details about each of the five key campaigns [here](#).

Hub

Hub, the website for SA’s 14–17 year olds, has grown rapidly this year. There is now a team of 10 interns who are delivering entertaining and informative content on hubadl.com. They’ve been able to partner with local organisations and events to provide you with relevant coverage of what’s happening for young people in South Australia. Haven’t had a chance to check it out yet? You can do so [here](#)!



Youth Period Summit

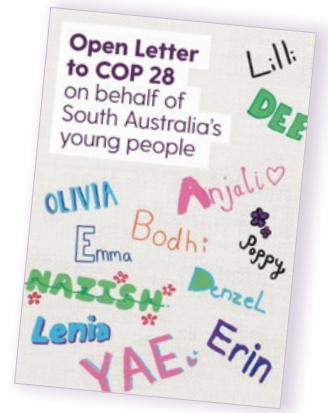
In July 2023, 75 young people from across South Australia met with experts and educators to discuss how period justice is crucial to everybody, not just those who menstruate.

The Summit was organised and led by the Period Justice Working Group which has since co-designed an updated health and physical education curriculum with the Department for Education. They have now established a [Period Justice Movement SA Facebook Group](#) so other young people interested in advocating for period justice can get involved.



COP28

31 young people who are passionate about the impact of climate change gathered for a workshop in October 2023. They wrote an Open Letter to the Australian delegates attending COP28, informing them of what they believed the priorities needed to be for the year ahead and highlighting their concerns about the lack of action being taken by adults, countries and businesses everywhere. Read their Open Letter [here](#).



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

This will be the final Annual Report to Children and Young People to come from me. That's because my term as your Commissioner comes to an end in April next year (2025). It has been my absolute privilege to be your inaugural Commissioner and to establish this office so that the voices of South Australian children and young people can be heard, listened to, and acted upon. I am proud of the work we've done together over the past seven years as I've consulted, surveyed and polled children and young people throughout the state to determine what matters most to you. With your help, there is greater awareness of issues relating to children and young people and I am

very proud of the resources (over 300) that we have created together. My hope is that those who provide services to you will continue to serve your needs and best interests by ensuring your voices, ideas and feedback are being listened to, considered and acted upon. I encourage you to continue speaking up and making your voices known as the experts on your own lives!

