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Ms Jacqui Atyeo  
President  
The Rotary Club of Gawler  
PO Box 584  
Gawler SA 5118

Dear Jacqui

I am pleased to share with you my new report ***Hopes and Dreams of Regional Children in South Australia.***

The report is the culmination of conversations I had with more than 600 children in regional communities across SA in 2018. The conversations were focussed on finding out what regional children and young people hope for and what support they need to realise them.

I also wanted to know what children and young people would like decision makers in their local communities to do in their towns, to increase opportunities for all.

This report provides snippets from each region as discussion starters for local communities and to amplify the voices of regional children and young people. I trust you find what they have said informative, interesting and food for thought.

I look forward to working with you to continue to provide opportunities for children and young people to be supported to be all that they can be and achieve their hopes and dreams.

With kind regards

**Helen Connolly**  
Commissioner for Children and Young People



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Commissioner for  
Children and Young  
People's Regional  
Engagement

# Hopes & Dreams



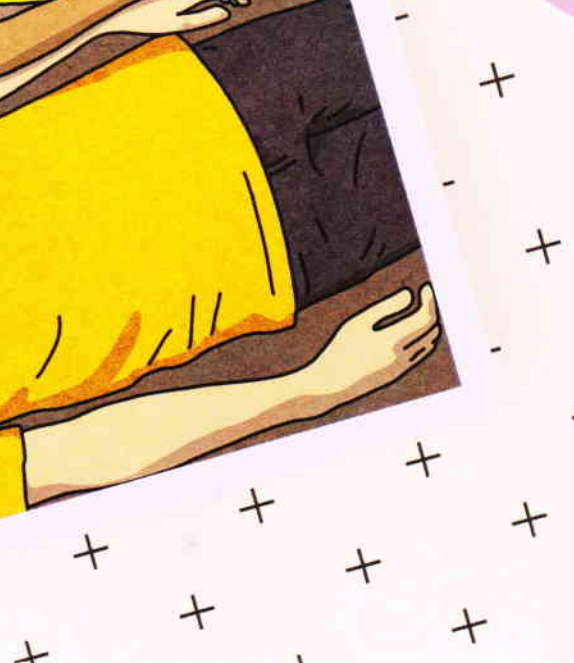
Commissioner  
for Children &  
Young People



Barossa, Light  
& Lower North



# Barossa



## What We Did

The Commissioner for Children and Young People visited Nuriootpa, Tanunda and Light Pass and met with 67 children and young people aged between 7 and 20 years old. We conducted five consultation sessions in primary and secondary schools, as well as one with a group of young carers.

**Population:** 23,558

**Median Age:** 44

**Indigenous population:** 0.9%

**Age under 18 population:** 23.5%

**Age 19 – 24 population:** 5.4%

**Most common industry and occupation:** Wine & other alcoholic beverage manufacturing and labourer

## Regional Data

### What Are Your Hopes & Dreams?

Participants in the Barossa Valley had some really creative aspirations, with some wanting to work for Marvel or Lego, be a full time DJ, an author and work in the film industry. Others wanted to become an analytical scientist, lawyer, farmer, police officer and journalist.

We heard a lot about having little opportunity to pursue your talents locally if you were artistic or creative; particularly in areas such as drawing anime, 3D animation and musical theatre. Participants talked about sports and fitness related goals, although not to the extent of other regions. We heard that young people wanted to continue to play basketball, football and soccer, but they also wanted to do Pilates, kickboxing and gymnastics.

### Reflections

What needs to change in the Barossa Valley to help you realise your dreams? Although there was a sense they would need to leave the Barossa to pursue further education for most careers, many participants also suggested they would come back to live in the Barossa when they were older. We heard that there are plenty of opportunities in the wine industry, tourism, hospitality or farming, but for those interested in other areas options are limited.

We also heard that young people in the Barossa wanted more mentoring, work experience choice, and leadership opportunities. They wanted to be more involved at a younger age in local decision making, and suggested that local politicians should visit schools to hear from children about issues that concern them. Participants wanted more “support for mental health”, and for educating their community to be more accepting of difference. We heard that being included and welcomed impacts not only on how you feel about yourself, but also your ability to hope and dream, and take up the opportunities available to you.

## What needs to change in the Barossa to help you realise your dreams?

- Basketball Courts
- Bigger library with books
- Safer footpaths and roads
- Cheaper and easier to get a driving licence
- A more accepting community
- Affordability
- Help homeless people
- A real gymnasium



what I wish for when I'm older:  
 Kids: girl because they are better than boys.  
 I'm going to live in the Barrasa vally when I'm older

Appointe young people in all decisi  
 Your future is with us, and you do  
 not engage in. Value your YBC in  
 local communities and celebrate  
 diversity and individuality of people.

My dream job is an Author  
 I want to go to school and see the Eiffel tower  
 I want to go to school and see the Eiffel tower  
 I want to go to school and see the Eiffel tower



Workshop Results

Where to From Here?  
(In Summary)

Young people in the Barossa Valley talked about wanting a more accepting and inclusive community. They felt the underpinning foundation of this was a community that supports, encourages and inspires children and young people in the region.

The Youth Advisory Group was a strong, active, passionate and committed group of young people who could be well placed to develop a campaign to create a more inclusive community. The Barossa community leadership could look at more public celebration and acknowledgment of diversity, with a focus on gender, culture and disability.