



Sturt Street Community School

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15 May 2017

Ms Helen Connolly
Commissioner for Children and Young People
GPO Box 1146
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Commissioner,

Firstly, congratulations on your appointment, you have a very important job ahead of you and we wish you all the best in your new position.

On behalf of all children in South Australia, we think that you should have some priorities.

We think you should ensure that you represent all children, not just some, especially children with disabilities or mental health problems. Children's health is really important because the future is in their hands. We think all children should be healthy and have enough to eat and that shops and parents should be educated about proper nutrition. Most importantly we think you should protect children from family violence and abuse. You could do this by making sure that all children have lots of safe places to go and play and keep active.

We think you should be visiting as many schools as you can to talk to young people and find out how they are going with their education. It would be great to ask the children what they think could make education better.

If you have your own child, speak to them regularly and ask them questions. You could send letters to children who are deaf or who live far away to let them know you are there for them and also make sure you do visit them as well.

You could have regular community gatherings to allow children to come and see you and talk to you, but you may need to visit children in hospitals who wouldn't be able to come.

We also think it would be great if you spoke to other Children's commissioners to get ideas from them about how to listen to young people.

Sincerely,

The senior students of Sturt Street Community School