

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island**MEDIA RELEASE****Kangaroo Island Community Education Students Participate in the
UN Youth Australia Poverty Summit in Adelaide**

June 2019

Quote from Helen Connolly, the Commissioner for Children and Young People:

“This summit will be the first of its kind bringing more than 150 young people together in one place to identify how to end poverty by 2030. I am confident that the diversity of young people we are gathering together will bring a unique perspective to one of the big social issues of our time”.

Quote from Wendy Campana, the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island:

“When we heard about the summit through our interactions with Commissioner Connolly and her interest in having Kangaroo Island young people attend, we knew that with our past work with young KIC students there may well be some interest in this issue. Young people told us that they were keen to be engaged in government decision making, and this presented a real opportunity for this engagement as well as a chance to meet with other young people across South Australia to discuss an important issue facing families and young people. We provided a \$1,000 grant to KICE to offset the costs of the 4 young students who indicated an interest in attending the summit.”

Quote Sam Cockshell, Senior Leader 10-12, Kangaroo Island Community Education:

“The UN Poverty Summit was a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn more about the needs of others and to work collaboratively to generate possible solutions to real issues. Young people when they feel listened to and empowered can break down great barriers. This summit provided a chance for our students to be listened to and heard and a chance to work with other students to share views and challenges. It was amazing to see young minds working together to work towards positive outcomes. The students who represented KICE will continue to share their learning and experiences with other students and are most grateful that they were provided with the opportunity.”

Quote from Charlotte Nesfield - one of the Students:

“The 2019 Poverty Summit was an amazing opportunity for us all to attend. We learned and discussed important issues with students from around the state that will affect us in the future, it was really amazing that as young people we could have a voice and feel that our opinions mattered. WE are all very appreciative of the funding to attend, as being rural students there are some events that are not easily accessible to us.”

Information about the Summit:

The Commissioner for Children and Young people was established under the Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016. The Commissioner promotes and advocates for the rights, best interests and well-being of all children and young people in South Australia. The

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

Commissioner is committed to advocating for children and young people's involvement in decision-making that affects them, giving particular consideration to the needs of the vulnerable and at-risk children and young people. Since her appointment the Commissioner, Helen Connolly has met with more than 2,500 of South Australia's children and young people in various settings and in different contexts for many purposes. During this time the Commissioner has also heard from many agencies, families, community members and stakeholder groups regarding their concerns or hopes for South Australia's children.

During the Listening Tour children and young people told the Commissioner that 'Helping Poor Kids' should be one of her top five priorities. Children and Young people talked about wanting cheaper bills to make it easier for families, wanting all children to get a good education and access to activities, sports and fun things to do to be possible for everyone.

Much of the current research on poverty talks about the impact that poverty has on children, it is in the context of their parent/s or family living in poverty. The Poverty Project aims to learn more about what children and young people in South Australia consider are the contributing factors and what more should be done, and by whom, to create a South Australia where no child lives in poverty, if you would like to read more about the project please go to <https://www.cyp.com.au/poverty-project/>.

So far we have had conversations, held focus groups and surveyed more than 1100 children and young people across the state. We have learnt what children and young people think the causes of poverty might be and the impact it can have on a child's life. The Poverty Summit will aim to build on this learning and create a space where young people can come up with solutions to poverty in

South Australia. During the day, 150 young people from around South Australia will connect and propose solutions to a global issues that places South Australian young people as global leaders in developing community led responses to the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the day participants will be:

- exploring the impact of poverty on children and young people from a rights perspective.
- considering what are the current responses to addressing poverty.
- considering what more should be done, and by whom, to address issues associated with poverty.

The Poverty Summit was held on Friday 28th June 2019.

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Charlotte Nesfield, Samara Golder, Nataskia Bennett and Bridget Black with Sam Cockshell Teacher.

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Charlotte Nesfield, Samara Golder, Nataskia Bennett and Bridget Black with Helen Connolly, the Commissioner for Children and Young People.