



THE COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

My role is guided by the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, the core international treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that belong to all children.

Why a Digital Challenge for South Australian children?

I've spoken with thousands of children across South Australia to find out what they think is important and what they would change if they could.

The direct voices of the children of South Australia led the implementation of my four strategic areas of focus.

South Australian children asked for ways to be creative now, ways to learn what they need to know now, and ways to start preparing for the jobs of the future – so the Commissioner's Digital Challenge was born.

We want children and young people in South Australia to be informed and skilled, and fearless, in the digital world. This year it's all about learning to speak Robot.

Bridging gaps

Children born this millennium are growing up in a digital world.

On the one hand, this is changing the way children and young people view their world, how they access information and services, gain knowledge, form opinions and participate in the things that matter to them.

On the other hand, digital access, although rapidly improving, is far from equal.

Beyond mere access, our children need inclusive active opportunity to understand digital technology and to develop digital literacy skills, operate as a digital citizen and reach their potential through digital empowerment.

My annual Challenge is about increasing digital opportunity for the children of South Australia.

Let's open up to the possibilities for technology to make a more humane world – a more inclusive and democratic world – and bridge just about every social and economic gap that exists.

A starting point

The inaugural year of my Digital Challenge is about introducing some basic digital technology skills.

The extended learning options are all about taking that learning much further – with comprehensive Massively Open Online Courses created for South Australian students and a range of resources to strengthen digital literacy and digital citizenry skills.

My Challenge will evolve to reflect SA's children's voices and explore the varied aspects within digital learning.

An engagement challenge for 2019

Some schools have jumped headfirst into the digital thinking our children need right now – some have dipped their toe - others simply aren't game at all.

This Challenge is an opportunity for every educator:

1. For early adopter educators to push further and share their expertise.
2. For those not yet on the digital bus to climb aboard and realise that the journey to digital empowerment is within reach.

Unplugged options

Many of the Challenge activities can be completed without the need for devices. You can use pens, paper, sticky notes, white boards, pebbles, chalk and beads to learn the basics.

It's my hope that my Challenge will encourage children, and the important adults in their lives, to start to engage with the abundant free quality digital learning material that is already out there.



Helen Connolly

Commissioner for Children and Young People

GPO Box 1146, Adelaide, South Australia 5001
E | CommissionersDigitalChallenge@sa.gov.au
CommissionersDigitalChallenge.net.au