PIRIE VOICES
Shaping our future, together

Pirie Voices 1,000 Voices Report – What we heard and what comes next

Today we launched the **Pirie Voices 1,000 Voices Report**, bringing together the hopes, experiences and ideas shared by 1,154 people from Port Pirie and surrounding communities.

Pirie Voices began with a fairly simple idea. What if we could build on the good things already happening in our community, bring people together and find better ways for local voices to influence the decisions that shape our future? Not just for today, but for the years ahead.

We didn't have all the answers about how to do this, but we knew it needed to start with listening. And over the past year, that's exactly what we've done.

Through surveys, school sessions, community events, workshops and everyday conversations, people of all ages and backgrounds have shared what they love about Port Pirie, their hopes for the future, the challenges they face and what we might do together to make things better.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey so far. To those who shared their thoughts, encouraged others to have their say, facilitated conversations, volunteered their time or contributed resources and support – this first stage of Pirie Voices would not have been possible without you.

What did we hear?

The report reflects a community that is proud of its strengths, honest about its challenges and hopeful about its future.

Some consistent themes emerged:

- **Community connection and belonging** – our people, relationships, volunteers, clubs and community spirit are among our greatest strengths.
- **Young people and future opportunities** – a strong desire for our children and young people to feel safe, supported and have opportunities to learn, work and build their futures locally.
- **Health, wellbeing and economic security** – concerns about cost-of-living pressures, access to services, community safety and employment opportunities.
- **Community voice and shared responsibility** – a desire for local people to have a stronger say in decisions and for organisations, government and community to work more closely together.

Many of these themes won't come as a surprise. We see and experience them in our everyday lives. But what makes this report valuable is the depth of local experiences, perspectives and ideas that sit

beneath them, providing an important foundation for understanding where we can do things differently and better.

We encourage you to read the report, reflect on what people have shared and consider what these findings might mean for you, your family, your organisation or our wider community.

Read the 1,000 Voices Report here: 1,000 Voices Report



Leadership Group above: Jessica Murrell (Department of Human Services), Paula Backstrom (previous Pirie Voices Coordinator), Kare Varcin (Nyrstar), Nathan Cox (Centacare Catholic Country SA), Jessica Harkness (Preventive Health SA), Anita Kuss (Pirie Voices Strategic Lead), Kellie Bails (Port Pirie West Children's Centre), Luigi Mesisca (Port Pirie Regional Council), Louise Johnson (Uniting Country SA), Jade Greenslade (Workskil), Lisa Brock (Workforce Australia – Local Jobs, Pirie Voice Leadership Group Chair).





So, where to from here?

Hearing from more than 1,000 people was always intended to be a starting point, not an end goal.

We know there are already many people and organisations doing good things across Port Pirie. Pirie Voices isn't about replacing that work or creating another layer of activity. It's about building on our existing strengths, connecting people and ideas, and finding ways to work together on the things that matter most to our community.

The next stage will focus on exploring the report findings in greater depth, strengthening community leadership and bringing people and organisations together around shared priorities and opportunities for action.

Over the coming months, there will be opportunities to be involved through:

- **A workshop for local organisational decision-makers** to explore the findings and opportunities for collaboration.
- **Community 'deep dive' conversations** to unpack key themes, share perspectives and work towards practical solutions.
- **Expanding our Community Conversation Leader network** so more local people can help bring others into conversations and support community participation.
- **Financial and in-kind partnerships** to help build the resources and capacity needed to sustain this work.
- **Community-led governance** – we will soon be sharing further information and inviting nominations for the Pirie Voices Community Steering Committee, an important step towards the community leading the future direction of Pirie Voices.

One of the things we've learned along the way is that people have different reasons for wanting to be involved, different experiences to share and different ways they can contribute. And that's exactly what we want. Pirie Voices should be something that people can see themselves being part of, in whatever way makes sense to them.

We don't expect to have all the answers, and meaningful change won't happen overnight. But we now have a much stronger understanding of what matters to our community, and an opportunity to use that knowledge to help shape what happens next.

Thank you again for being part of Pirie Voices. We look forward to continuing the conversations and working together as this next stage unfolds.

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