PIRIE VOICES

Shaping our future, together

Hello from Pirie Voices!

What a month is has been!
Throughout June, our local community and especially the school have shown incredible support, helping us reach our milestone of **1,000 conversations**. This is a huge achievement, and we couldn't have done it without you, our community, walking alongside us on this journey.

June Highlights:
Connecting with community We were warmly welcomed by Uniting Country SA at Goods at Gertrude, the Port Pirie Community Centre, and the FoodHub. It was a pleasure meeting volunteers and community members, learning more about their work, and hearing their perspectives. And of course, enjoying Tasty Tuckers on a Friday was a delicious bonus—highly recommended!
Reaching 1,000 voices Our school sessions continued with St Mark's College – Benedict Campus, where we reached our 1,000-voice milestone. It was a special moment, with children of both our Leadership Group Chair, Lisa Brock, and Coordinator, Paula Backstrom, taking part highlighting our strong focus on future generations and community ownership
Meaningful conversations At Lighthouse Church Fellowship, we were welcomed for a thoughtful discussion filled with lived experience, knowledge, and insight. We left feeling inspired Learning and reflecting and grateful for the beautiful local flowers, chocolate clusters, and warm community spirit.
Learning and reflecting - Pirie Voices recently attended the **National Place-based Summit** in Brisbane with 300 community representatives from across Australia. Discussions focused on measuring impact in community-led work and the role of community power in shaping services and decisions. For Pirie Voices, it reinforced the importance of capturing data, lived experience and community voices over time, while staying grounded in place.
A heartfelt thank you - while we celebrate this milestone, we also say farewell to our Coordinator, Paula Backstrom. Over the past year, her leadership, energy, and dedication have been vital in building momentum and reaching 1,000 voices. Paula returns to her role with Country Arts SA at the end of June but will remain part of the Pirie Voices community.
Every conversation adds to the growing collective voice of our community and plays an important role in shaping what comes next.
Together, we can help shape the future of our community.

Thank you for being part of Pirie Voices.

What helps people live a good life in Port Pirie?
Themes:
Continuing - Connected Community/Belonging & togetherness, Quality Services & learning/strong foundations, Nature & culture/Our outdoor & arts
Quotes:

- "Big enough to get everything I want and need but small town vibes."

- “The community seems to rally and are ready to help when it is needed.”

What are your personal hopes and dreams?
Themes:
Continuing - Brighter futures for our kids/keeping families together, Health & happiness for all/wellbeing first, A place to work and call home, A community of action
Quotes:
- “Retire in Port Pirie and see the town thrive.”
- “Better access to the Northern Festival Centre - the new lift is great but there are very limited seats that wheelchair uses can access.”

What gets in the way of these hopes?
Themes:
Continuing - Cost of living pressures/financial struggles, policy gaps/regional neglect, community wellbeing challenges/social or age barriers
Quotes:
- “Economy, financial hardship, casual work, cost of living.”
- “Homelessness seems to be getting worse, and it is all ages - young and old.”

What hopes do you have for our children and young people in Port Pirie?
Themes:
Continuing - Future possibilities/opportunities for every child, Safe & nurturing spaces/supportive community for youth, Culturally responsive
Quotes:
- “That they understand how amazing Pirie is for growing a family and life. Building that community again!”
- “I hope that children and young people in our region grow up feeling safe, supported, connected, and confident that their future can be bright right here at home.”

What action can we take together to make these hopes happen here in Port Pirie?

Themes:
Continuing - Leading & working together/Community power, Attract new industries/thriving local economy, Positive pathways for youth/Empowering young people, Respect & Responsibility, Culturally responsive
Quotes:
- “Let locals lead."
- "I feel it’s important that we keep listening to young people directly, honour their lived experiences, and work alongside them as equal partners so the future we’re building in Port Pirie truly reflects their needs, strengths, and hopes.”

Get Involved!

We have reached 91.8% of our target, there is still time to make your voice matter.

✅ **Complete the survey** if you haven’t already - bit.ly/PV_ShapingourFuture

Don’t want to complete the survey online? Reach out and we can connect you with one of our Community Conversation Leaders.

If you'd like to have a conversation with a friend/your family/your workplace/community group, and not sure where to start, let us know.

We can help! Email hello@pirievoices.com

👍 **Follow us on Facebook** for updates and stories - https://www.facebook.com/PirieVoices/

🌐 **Visit our website** to learn more and stay connected - www.pirievoices.com

Pirie Voices is a way for our community to influence the decisions that are made for our community by taking acting together and shaping the future of Port Pirie in our own way. Don't forget to share and encourage others to join the conversation because change happens with us – not to us.

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