

The Young Citizen's Jury Survey Analysis

How can we ensure we have a vibrant & safe Adelaide nightlife?

Report prepared by;

The Council for the Care of Children &

The Youth Affairs Council of South Australia

The Council for the
Care of Children



Government of
South Australia



youth affairs council
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Young Citizen's Jury Survey Analysis

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Introduction

The use of public space by children and young people has inspired much debate over the years. Passionate proponents for children and young people, including the Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia, have argued long and hard for the rights of children and young people accessing public space to be accepted and respected by authorities and the general public.

It is important to acknowledge that public space for children and young people is an important means of feeling connected to their community, meeting with and socialising with friends, engaging with their peer group/s, and engaging in sports and leisure activities¹. In other words, children and young people use public space in similar ways to the rest of the community. The difference is that many children and young people do not have the economic means or eligibility (such as age) to access other forms of entertainment, some venues and other social environments.

To capture the thoughts, opinions and ideas of how we can ensure a vibrant and safe Adelaide nightlife, the Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia developed a ten question quantitative and qualitative survey that was created and distributed via [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com). The survey was marketed via Twitter and Facebook and was open to participants in both primary schools and high schools up to eighteen years of age. Through the survey, we hoped to highlight the insights of children and young people and the ways they use public space and the ways in which they would like to use public space in the future.

Through the survey results, the Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia learned a great deal about what children and young people think would make Adelaide a safer and more vibrant place to visit. Some of these thoughts, ideas and opinions were similar to those expressed within the Citizen's Jury report while others were quite different and were voiced from the unique vantage point of children and young people.

This report provides a summary of the responses from the Young Citizen's Jury survey. We anticipate that the results of this survey will be used by the Premier to complement and inform any response to the Citizen's Jury recommendations.

¹ K Salmon, 'Space invaders? Young people and public space', Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc, 2005.

Recommendations

The Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia decided to undertake a parallel process to the Citizen's Jury, due to the voices of children and young people not being adequately represented within the Citizen's Jury process.

Informed by the results from the Young Citizen's Jury survey, YACSA and the Council for the Care of Children recommend the Premier considers the following;

1 Environmental design

Results from the Young Citizen's Jury found that there were elements of the social environment that needed to change, or be enhanced, in order for young people to feel safer accessing public spaces in the city. It was suggested by respondents that a safer Adelaide for children and young people would need;

- better lighting
- public areas based on meeting places rather than businesses (pubs/clubs/restaurants)
- areas designated only for children and young people (under 18 years of age)
- designated safe areas for children and young people to access should they need it
- retail outlets being open for longer periods (allowing for greater numbers of people to remain in the city) and;
- venues being available that would be of interest to younger people that don't centre on alcohol sales or consumption.

A recommendation that the planning of public spaces needs to consider, consult and meet the needs of all citizens including children and young people.

2 Events, meeting places and accessing public spaces

One of the chief ways to make a community feel safer is to attract people to engage with their environment in greater numbers. The Young Citizen's Jury survey found that unless a person is accessing a pub or a restaurant, options for people and particularly younger people in the city and the suburbs are limited.

In conjunction with local councils, there needs to be more arts, recreation and socialising spaces for children and young people to facilitate greater connections to each other and their communities in safe, inclusive ways.

3

Transport

The lack of safe options for transport is another factor preventing children and young people from utilising public areas. This was highlighted frequently by respondents to the Young Citizen's Jury survey. Providing additional, more frequent and safer options may encourage more people and particularly children and young people to utilise public transport.

4

The right of young people to access public spaces

It is necessary for the community to acknowledge the right of children and young people to access, congregate in and enjoy public spaces. This acknowledgement by councils, retailers, police and the general public will enable children and young people to feel connected to their environment as valued members of their communities.

5

Consult children and young people

The Government, the Adelaide City Council and local communities could use a variety of consultation methods to engage with children, young people and other stakeholders to develop the most appropriate ways to use public space in an inclusive and satisfactory way. This promotes social inclusion and social connectedness between children and young people and the wider community.

Consultation that involves all citizens is vital to gaining perspective about the issues concerning the entire community.

6

Limiting the sale of alcohol & diversification of businesses

Children and young people that responded to the Young Citizen's Jury survey identified not feeling safe in public areas where there are people drinking or people who are drunk. Limiting the sale of alcohol after certain times in certain areas, earlier closing times, lock out times and other elements which restrict the consumption of higher alcohol level drinks after certain times has worked well in other jurisdictions to curb public intoxication, violence and other alcohol related nuisance. A greater diversity of businesses in popular meeting areas would attract children and young people as well as those not wishing to visit pubs and clubs.

Discussion

Why the Young Citizen's Jury survey was developed

After observing the eligibility requirements and recruitment process for the Citizen's Jury, it became clear that people under the age of eighteen would not be recruited on the Jury and people aged eighteen to twenty-six were also scarcely represented. The dearth of young voices on the Citizen's Jury has resulted in a disparity in representation, and the resultant recommendations exclude the thoughts, opinions and ideas of young people who not only have a right to use public space but also have a right to be consulted on decisions that may affect them and their use and access of public space in the future.

Our concern about the exclusion of children and young people from the Citizen's Jury is informed and motivated by popular discourse surrounding the use of public space by children and young people. The use of public space by children and young people often stirs passionate debate in our communities and, unfortunately, during those debates the oft-cited negative depictions of some children and young people using public space arise, particularly when we start to talk about safety in our communities. Children and young people are also perennially targeted by politicians and decision makers when discussions about safer public spaces are raised. The public 'visibility' of children and young people is often reinforced by negative depictions of the perceived misuse of public spaces or anti-social behaviour². The media in particular perpetuate negative stereotypes of children and young people and their use of public space, suggesting that there is a link between this cohort and an increase in criminal behaviour and unsafe streets³.

These depictions and discourses tend to shape how we as a society perceive the use of public space by children and young people, and the presence of these population groups are sometimes viewed with suspicion or even seen as an annoyance. However, children and young people have a right to use public spaces, and they exercise this right in similar ways to older people. With this in mind, it is imperative that the voices of children and young people are heard when we talk about how we can ensure more vibrant and safer public spaces for all citizens.

The survey results

The 'Young Citizen's Jury' consisted of a ten question survey that was distributed via the Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia websites, social media and through networks. The survey was open to children and young people up to eighteen years of age, and the questions were designed to find out what respondents felt would lead to a safer and more vibrant Adelaide nightlife.

² R White, *Public spaces for young people: A guide to creative projects and positive strategies*, 2nd edn, National Capital Printing, Canberra, 2002.

³ K Salmon, 'Space invaders? Young people and public space', Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. 2005.

The survey results identified several key themes that ranged from what respondents thought would improve safety in public spaces (particularly at night) to what would attract them to visit the city more often.

For many children and young people who responded to the survey the following was consistently highlighted as important to making them feel safer in public areas in the city and their communities;

Environmental design

- Increased street lighting in public areas
- The creation of more areas tailored to the needs of children and young people, and for the exclusive use of children and young people
- Retail outlets being open after normal business hours
- Diversification of commercial businesses to ensure that night life is not centred on adult bars and clubs, and not characterised by the sale and consumption of alcohol.

Events and meeting places

- Alcohol free 'lock-in' style events
- More under 18 events and meeting places
- Alcohol free clubs for ages 18 and under
- Greater numbers of free or inexpensive events/meeting places and venues.

Transport

- Better, safer and more frequent public transport for people under 18 years.

Safety and Security

- 'Monitored' areas where young people can feel safe socialising, and;
- Designated safe areas in public spaces that children and young people can retreat to if feeling unsafe.

The overarching theme of the Young Citizen's Jury survey is that children and young people feel excluded from most entertainment and socialising options in public spaces as most venues and events are targeted at people over the age of eighteen. Children and young people are asking for a greater number of events, meeting places and safer places to meet, socialise and have fun; that cater to them, their needs and the ways in which they engage in public spaces.

What we learned

While the survey did not attract many respondents under the age of thirteen, (primary school children) there was a significant number of high school students who completed the survey particularly in the seventeen year age bracket (n=44).

Not surprisingly, respondents highlighted various ideas that they thought would lead to safer public spaces that would benefit broader society. Several themes ran through the results of the survey that are related to transport, environmental design, events and meeting places, safety and security.

A significant number of responses mentioned the use of bright street lighting as well as increasing the number of people using public spaces at night to make children and younger people feel safe while in public areas. To enable this to occur, respondents suggested allowing retail outlets and other businesses to open later on nights other than Friday night to encourage other demographics to the city (including children and young people).

Several respondents expressed their concerns about public transport and hoped something could be done to ensure that public transport was more frequent and safe to use. Others felt that adult orientated entertainment at night, such as pubs, clubs and restaurants dominated the city and that other meeting places that emphasised non-alcohol based entertainment should be encouraged.

The impetus for these responses was expressed by several respondents who indicated that they did not feel safe in precincts that were largely dominated by pubs, clubs and restaurants (due to the potential for alcohol fuelled violence) and suggested that the government increase the diversity of commercial premises in popular meeting areas with greater emphasis on non-alcohol based establishments.

Finally, one of the most popular themes expressed by children and young people was that there should be more events, venues and meeting places that are specifically for children and young people (particularly in the under eighteen age group). It was suggested that some of these venues and events could be lock-in style events that were safe, alcohol and drug free and specifically for those under eighteen years of age. Importantly respondents indicated that these venues and events should be free or inexpensive as many under eighteens don't have a regular source of income.

Interestingly, many of the suggestions made by the Young Citizen's Jury, such as extra street lighting, commercial diversification, meeting places that are child, youth and family friendly and more frequent and safer public transport, will benefit not only children and young people but also the general population by encouraging greater numbers of people to stay on in the city after work but also to visit the city at night.

How our results compare to the results from the Citizen's Jury

On Saturday, the 19th of October the Citizen's Jury released their recommendations to the Premier. The recommendations addressed the areas of commerce, infrastructure, alcohol advertising, transport, medical, education, events and activities.

Interestingly, reviewing the Citizen's Jury recommendations there were some similarities expressed within the results of both consultations. These similarities included calls for a diversification of businesses, rather than a reliance on alcohol based venues and events, safer and more frequent public transport, pop-up events around the city that are non-alcohol based (and cater for a greater and more diverse range of people), and regulations that enable retailers to open for extended hours to offer alternatives to restaurants, bars and other alcohol based venues.

However, while there were similarities, there were also many differences within the results of both processes. Fundamentally, the Citizen's Jury arrived at the decision that Adelaide already had a vibrant and safe nightlife when compared to similar cities. Their remit then turned to ensuring that Adelaide could become more vibrant, inclusive and safer with a focus on liquor licencing laws, education programs in schools and community groups to promote safety, establishing an 'injury and outcome reporting system' and establishing an independent strategic planning and infrastructure advisory body to ensure vibrancy and safety.

Conversely, many respondents to the young citizen's jury did not share the belief that Adelaide was a vibrant and safe city. Numerous responses cited a lack of appropriate venues to go to and socialise, a lack of age appropriate entertainment options and events, no 'safe' spaces to access when feeling unsafe, and several respondents reported feeling unsafe in areas characterised by the sale and consumption of alcohol. This disparity in perception is a crucial distinction to highlight as young people up to eighteen years of age view the safety and vibrancy of public spaces in different ways to older people.

We suggest that several of the recommendations in the Citizen's Jury Report to the Premier were characterised by the priorities of older South Australians, many of whom are already able and willing to access pubs, clubs, restaurants, theatres and other adult orientated venues. The results of the Citizen's Jury report when compared to the Young Citizen's Jury survey analysis, again highlights the dearth of representation of children and young people within the Citizen's Jury process.

Nevertheless, many of the suggestions made by the Young Citizen's Jury such as extra street lighting, commercial diversification, meeting places that are child and youth centric and more frequent and safer public transport stand to benefit not only children and young people but also the general population. Many of these initiatives could result in greater numbers of people staying on and visiting the city public spaces at night, ensuring greater vibrancy and safety for all citizens.

Conclusion

When comparing the results of the Young Citizen's Jury survey to the Citizen's Jury report, what became clear is that young people have a different perception of safety and vibrancy with an accompanying range of alternative suggestions on what they believe would create a safer and more vibrant city. Disappointingly these thoughts, opinions and ideas along with the voices of young people were mostly absent from the Citizen's Jury process.

It is worth remembering that public space should be enjoyed by all and that children and young people also have a right to access and enjoy public areas. It is clear from the results of our survey that children and young people feel that many of the city centre's amenities and 'drawcards' are aimed at the adult market (characterised by clubs/pubs and other events where alcohol is sold and consumed) and as such exclude them.

Many of the suggestions that have been highlighted by this survey, such as environmental design, better street lighting, greater police presence, safer and more frequent public transport and venues that are safe/free/inexpensive and not centred on the sale and consumption of alcohol, stand to benefit many in the community.

There is a plethora of ideas, initiatives and processes that could enable governments and councils to create safer, more vibrant public spaces that utilise innovation and inclusiveness to ensure representation of all groups who utilise public space. As such, the Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia strongly supports and advocates for broad consultation when devising recommendations for creating a safer nightlife in Adelaide. The views of everyone, including those of children and young people, should be sought to adequately inform and underpin this significant process.

References

C Jones, K Kypri, S Moffatt, C Borzycki, B Price, 'The impact of restricted alcohol availability on alcohol-related violence in Newcastle, NSW', *Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice*, Number 137, November 2009, pp. 1-24, available from BOSCAR, viewed 26 August 2013.

K Salmon, 'Space invaders? Young people and public space', Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. 2005.

R White, *Public spaces for young people: A guide to creative projects and positive strategies*, 2nd edn, National Capital Printing, Canberra, 2002.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Survey marketing flyer

Young Citizen's Jury

As you may be aware, South Australia (SA) will have a Citizen's Jury involving 43 randomly selected people, over 18 years of age, who will consider the following question:

'How can we ensure we have a vibrant and safe Adelaide nightlife?'

The Citizen's Jury will hear evidence from experts and deliberate on five Saturdays between 20 July and 12 October 2013 and the jurors will present the Premier with a minimum of five reform recommendations at the end of October 2013. The Premier will table the recommendations in Parliament.

The Citizen's Jury process is independent of government and is being conducted by the Research Committee of The newDemocracy Foundation.

There is a Blog at www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/citizensjury for people to have a say and submissions may be lodged via email to SACitizensJury@newdemocracy.com.au.

The Council for the Care of Children (the Council) and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA) are partnering in running a parallel process for children and young people to be involved in a Young Citizen's Jury online forum from 20 July to 15 October 2013.

The aim of the Young Citizen's Jury is twofold including to ensure that children and young people are encouraged to have a say in this matter and to demonstrate the value of consulting with children and young people by providing tangible evidence of their considered opinions, advice and recommendations.

The Council and YACSA are running a survey monkey with three questions for primary school children and a Facebook discussion for secondary students. They can be accessed by following this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/195488733945469/?context=create>

or from the Council's website at:

<http://childrensa.sa.gov.au/CCC-YoungCitizensJury.htm>

For any questions or clarification please contact:

The Council for the Care of Children on 8463 6429 **or**

Youth Affairs Council of SA on 8211 7546

We hope you can participate by leading a discussion in your class and/or by encouraging children and young people to respond to the survey monkey questions and/or to participate in the discussion via Facebook.

The Council for the
Care of Children



Appendix 2: Young Citizen's Jury survey

Young Citizen's Jury

Please talk to a parent/caregiver/teacher before you complete this survey.

The survey is completely anonymous and the only information we can collect from it is your answers to the questions. Your answers will be shared with the Premier in a report.

If you have any questions or concerns about the survey or would like more information, please contact Council for the Care of Children on 8463 6429 or Youth Affairs Council of SA on 8211 7546.

1. Do you want to take the survey?

- Yes
 No

We need to know what level of school you're in and how old you are to make sure we ask you the right questions.

*2. What level of school are you in?

If you don't go to school, what level would you be in if you did go?

- Primary School
 High School

Primary School

We need to know what level of school you're in and how old you are to make sure we ask you the right questions.

*3. How old are you?

- 5 or under
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13

High School

We need to know what level of school you're in and how old you are to make sure we ask you the right questions.

Young Citizen's Jury

*4. How old are you?

- 12 or under
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18+

Primary School

5. If you went out after school or at night what would make you feel safe?

6. What fun things do you do when you go out after school or at night? (e.g. late night shopping, movies, festivals)

7. What fun activities would you like to do if you go out after school or at night?

High School

8. What would make you feel safer when you're out at night?

9. How can we make Adelaide a fun place for young people at night?

10. What would make Adelaide more inviting for people under 18 at night?

Thank you!

Young Citizen's Jury

Thanks for being part of our Young Citizens' Jury.

We'll take all of your answers, put them into a report and give them to the Premier around the time he receives the Citizens' Jury report.

Feel free to pass on the link to this survey to your friends. We want to hear as many people's ideas as possible and pass them on to the Premier.

So you're over 18?

Thanks for wanting to take our survey. Unfortunately this survey is for people under 18 only, but you can still participate!

Head over to the Your SAy Citizens' Jury website at <http://saplan.org.au/pages/citizens-jury> and either write a submission or contribute your ideas to their blog.

APPENDIX 3: SURVEY RESULTS

The following section contains the results from the ten question Young Citizen’s Jury survey. Each set of results is numbered to correspond to the relevant survey question.

Methodology

The Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia developed a ten question quantitative and qualitative survey that was created and distributed via surveymonkey.com. The survey was marketed via Twitter and Facebook and was open to participants in both primary school and high schools up to eighteen years of age.

This document provides a summary of the results/data from the above survey. It is intended for use by the Council for the Care of Children and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia to inform our response to the Premier.

Demographics

The respondents to this survey were predominantly high school aged students aged between 16 and 18 years of age (89.7%). Five respondents indicated that they were attending primary school, two indicated that they were twelve years old, and three participants indicated that they were ten, eight and seven respectively.

Surveys were initiated by 93 individuals and completed by 52 demonstrating a response rate of 55.9%.

1

Do you want to take this survey? (n=90)

		Percentage
Yes (Frequency)	89	98.9%
No (Frequency)	1	1.1%
Skipped question	3	

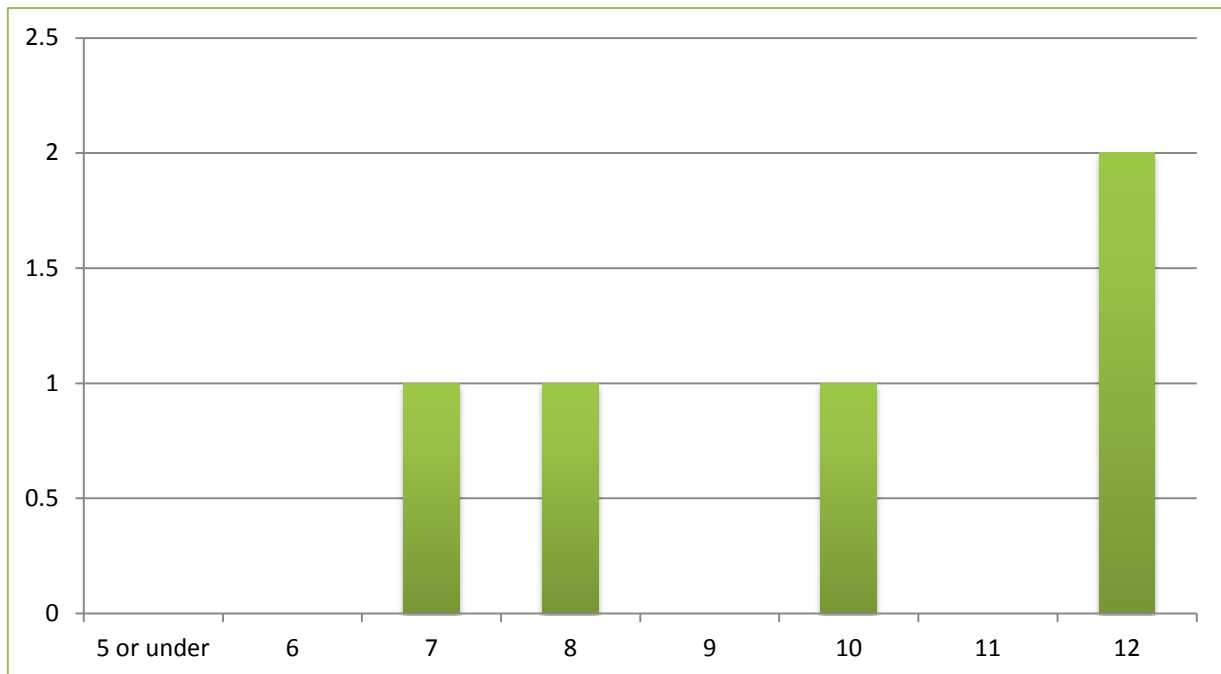
2

What level of school are you in? If you don't go to school, what level would you be in if you did go? (n=84)

		Percentage
Primary School (Frequency)	5	6.0%
No (Frequency)	79	94.0%
Skipped question	9	

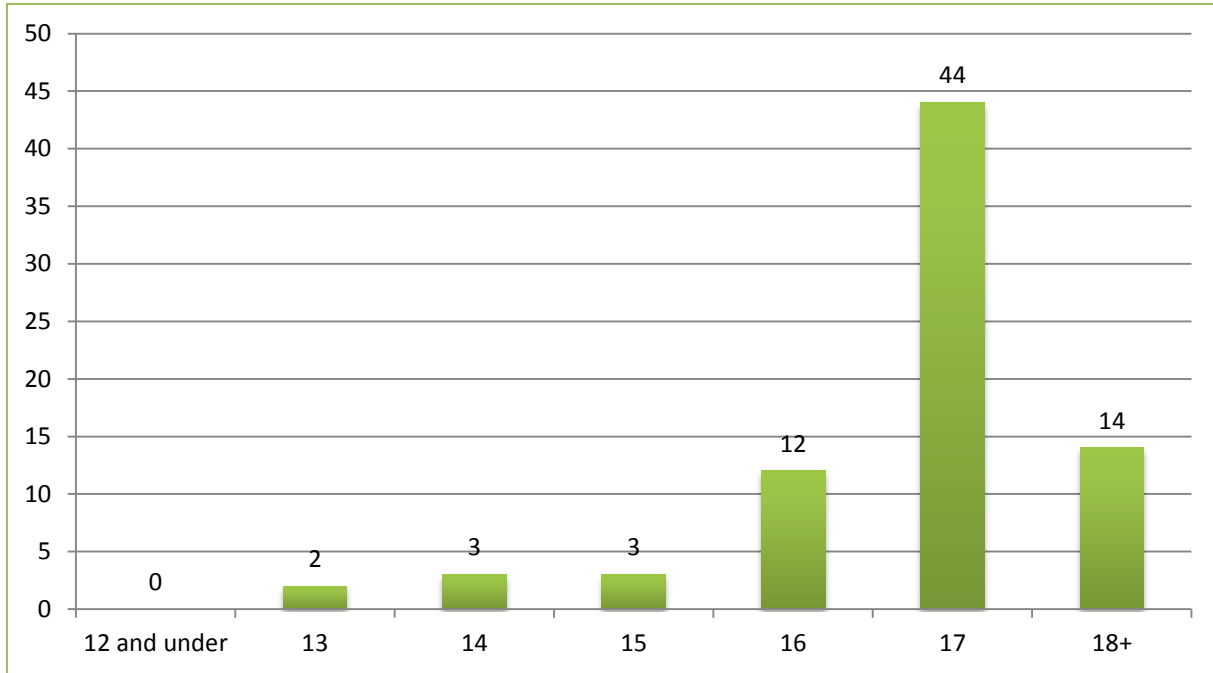
3

Primary School – How old are you? (n=5)



4

High School – How old are you? (n=78)



5

Primary School - If you went out after school or at night what would make you feel safe? (n=1)

		Comment/s
Answered (Frequency)	1	"Being in a group of people"
Skipped question	92	

6

What fun things do you do when you go out after school or at night? (e.g. late night shopping, movies, festivals) (n=1)

		Comment/s
Answered (Frequency)	1	"walk around with friends"
Skipped question	92	

7

What fun activities would you like to do if you go out after school or at night? (n=1)

		Comment/s
Answered (Frequency)	1	"Play spotlight"
Skipped question	92	

8

High School - What would make you feel safer when you're out at night? (n=40)

		Comment/s
Answered (Frequency)	40	<p>"Knowing there are designated places I can go if I feel threatened"</p> <p>"Bright street lights"</p> <p>"More lights and more shops open"</p> <p>"Public Transport after midnight as it is kinda dangerous to be walking from Place A to place B"</p>

Skipped question	53	"Bright, open areas"
		"Bus routes that have a 15 minute wait time, all the time"
		"Company of other people. Street lighting"
		"Well lit streets"
		"More policemen/women out"

Note: each line in quotations is a separate individuals' comment.

9

How can we make Adelaide a fun place for young people at night? (n=38)

		Comment/s
Answered (Frequency)	38	<p>"By having effective government spending, building more areas designed with youth in mind and less emphasis on corporations doing what they want"</p> <p>"Have more underage events. Reach out to parents as well as young people, most young people don't go out because there [sic] parents won't let them because they are not correctly informed"</p> <p>"Night clubs that doesn't [sic] have alcohol, that is suitable for teenagers 15-18 that's not church based"</p> <p>"More underaged supervised events"</p> <p>"More Clubs, Better Places to go, Shops open later at night"</p> <p>"Hosting events that are alcohol free or that</p>

		<p>are suitable for both over 18s and minors"</p> <p>"More exciting things to do at night, fairs (showgrounds)"</p> <p>"Have non-alcoholic 'clubs'. A safe gathering place with music, food, drinks, sofas etc"</p> <p>"More events. more all ages events"</p> <p>"Free functions"</p> <p>"Need places where people can hang out or catch up without being expensive"</p> <p>"Keep some shops open - young people can't shop during school time"</p> <p>"Lockin type events where there is a guarentee of not drugs/alcohol or people who have consumed drugs/alcohol"</p> <p>"Actually build a city which isn't based on sex/night clubs, drugs alcohol/pubs, make social centers with free internet seating areas cafes...."</p>
Skipped question	55	

Note: each line in quotations is a separate individuals' comment.

What would make Adelaide more inviting for people under 18 at night? (n=36)

		Comment/s
Answered (Frequency)	36	<p>"Safer places to hang out"</p> <p>"Specific 12 to 17 events"</p> <p>"Places for under 18's to hang out"</p> <p>"Safer public transport, with more security guards"</p> <p>"Not as many drunk people around and not as many pubs and clubs open..."</p> <p>"free things to do"</p> <p>"more safe underage clubs – With plenty [sic] of security and accessible transport to and from venue"</p> <p>"More events for ages between 16-20"</p> <p>"More activities. Place to hang around and catch up with friends"</p> <p>"More organisaed [sic] activities and the knowledge thast [sic] you are being looked after"</p>
Skipped question	57	

Note: each line in quotations is a separate individuals' comment.