



Media Release

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Windmill Theatre Helps Create Child Friendly State

As part of the Government of South Australia's ***Child Friendly State*** initiative, Windmill Theatre recently facilitated a series of workshops to consult with young children on their views of what a child friendly state could look like.

Windmill Theatre's contribution to the project involved commissioning a group of four artists working across visual art/set design, drama, music and dance to deliver a series of workshops led by Windmill's Artistic Director, Rose Myers and Arts Education Manager, Julie Orchard.

"The idea of these workshops is to facilitate a deep engagement with the children about creating their ideal place to live," Rose Myers said. "Children are the core of our communities, and their ideas can be so creative and inspiring."

A general workshop initially explored the ideas of happiness, fairness and space through drama and creative play with the children at the Ocean View Childcare Centre.

"Kids have a voice that is often not heard when it comes to this sort of planning. It's important to start listening," added Ms Myers.

A group of five to eight year old children from Ocean View College took part in an animation project, where they created their ideal virtual worlds. Overall, they expressed a desire for colour, space and activity, such as dancing, running and playing. A concern for the environment was also a trend, with one child saying, "We need more bins."

The final stage was a short documentary film captures the processes of the project, and will be used by the Department of Premier and Cabinet's consulting board and policy makers.

Developed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Child Friendly State project aims to; assist communities to engage with young children from birth to eight years of age, to explore ways to include children in the review of the State Strategic Plan, and to document the children's views.

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