



KIDS DEMAND CHANGE!

Today, more than 100 twelve-year-old children from across Victoria delivered the 'Kids Manifesto' onstage at the Arts Centre, Melbourne.

Children from Benalla P-12 College, Altona North Primary School and Northern Bay College in Corio/Norlane joined together to call out the change they want to see for the future, in front of an audience of politicians, policy-makers, educators, families and friends.

The inaugural event opened by Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Liana Buchanan during Children's Week highlighted Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children have a right to be heard and their views and opinions respected.

The Kids Manifesto was received by members of parliament with a promise to take the children's words back to politicians making decisions on behalf of communities.

The team manifestos are printed here in this newspaper and were also creatively presented onstage to a live audience using movement, music, and visuals.

The children gathering for the Kids Manifesto have spent the past six months becoming local change-makers through the Kids Thrive programs 'Kids as Catalyst' and 'KiCarts'.

In these programs the children begin community partnerships with organisations and individuals, creating volunteer projects on issues that range from the environment and the elderly, to cultural diversity and animals.

In 'Kids as Catalyst' the children have created community projects with a local community organisation such as making and providing care packs for women fleeing family violence, making and installing habitat boxes for endangered species or making special events for their local elders.

In 'KiCarts' children have co-created and co-delivered awareness-raising arts events with a community organisation to address local issues such as creating a film / performance to highlight the need to address isolation for their elders, or a photographic installation to encourage people to keep their dogs onlead in vulnerable bird nesting areas.

Children are finding amazing ways to

strengthen the relationships they have with their schools and their wider communities by taking action locally.

Today some of the children left home in the dark. They traveled by bus and train to join state teams to focus on a bigger vision, looking beyond their local communities to the wider world. The sense of determination and cooperation in the room was awesome showing in their own words that 'kids can be small and still make a big difference in the world.'

In this Kids Manifesto you can read (and feel) how much children care and want to be involved in finding solutions to community issues. Please remember to make space for children to not only have a say but to have an active role in making communities healthier and happier for all. Kids are amazing people. Just ask them!

A creative partnership with:



Supported by:



EVERYONE'S WELCOME IN AUSTRALIA & EVERYONE'S STORIES ARE HEARD

*By Cultural
Diversity 2*

Our dream is of a democratic future with new opportunities for all cultures. For everyone to have a say and all stories to be heard.

We are all important as each other and you know that is the important thing!

Together we want to create a cultural gathering place. We want to include different cultural plants, signs that we all understand and a DJ stage that's open for everyone. We want cultural radio stations that play different cultural songs, and news reports from all around the world. We want a community kitchen where all food is welcome.

And we want it now!

ALL ABILITIES AS I!

By Disability 2

All abilities as one, perfectly imperfect, feeling confident and included through increased access to bonding activities.

We need every sporting arena in Victoria to be accessible to all by 2020 so that everyone can achieve their hopes, dreams and goals through teamwork and determination.



TWEENS MAKE THE WORLD SAFE & COMFORTABLE FOR GIRLS, WOMEN & EVERYONE

By Girls & Women

A safe world is a calm world. Free from Fear. Free from Shame. Trust pride and love.

We are asking you, the leaders of our community, not to FIGHT about things that could be solved by talking calmly.

We are asking you to help stop violence against women. Physical violence. Verbal violence. RESPECT.

We are asking you, the leaders of our community to make sure boys and girls, men and women have

EQUAL opportunities to do activities in the HOUSE, in SPORTS and BEYOND.

We are asking you, the leaders of our community, to find and fund a well-being centre for 10-18 year olds to help them with issues they need to keep private. It needs to be well-advertised, accessible to this age group - and it needs to be a place with no judgment, no backlash and private.

BOYS WANT TO GET OUT OF THE BOX OF EXPECTATION! BOYS HAVE FEELINGS TOO

By Boys & Men

Boys and men are human beings.

We don't want to be trapped in a box of expectation.

We want to be able to express our feelings and not be judged for it.

We want to be free to have

long hair, do yoga, drink tea, be a midwife or wear skirts if we want to.

Help us get out of the box!

We ask the Government to create a national mental health week for boys, starting in early 2019!

ARE YOU WILLING TO SAVE THEM?

By Animals 1

If we are willing to save all animals, the animals would be healthy, happy and have homes, through people and community trust and support.

We ask you to introduce ANICARE for all animals within the next 12 months to begin to make our vision of healthy, happy animals a reality.

ANICARE, like Medicare, will provide the opportunity for all animals to have access to health, care and happy homes.

GREEN, CLEAN & PRISTINE BY 2019!

*By
Environment*

By 2019 we want to make the blue earth shine.

by 2019 we want to make littering a crime.

By 2019 our roads will be clean. We can do it we can work as a team.

By 2019 there will be no pollution.

By 2019 there will be a solution.

Solar panels, Water tanks, Wind turbines.

By 2019... Do we have enough time?

No littering - harsher laws for littering and introduce the "Environmental Warrior Award" to acknowledge a hard working Australian who dedicates their time to protecting the environment.

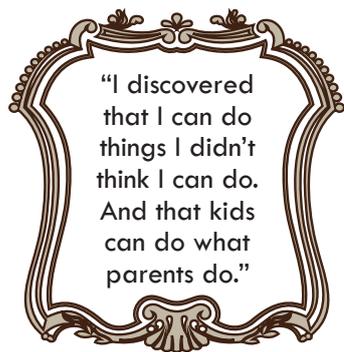
ALL SCHOOLS INVITE ELDERS INTO THEIR SCHOOL

By Elderly 2

That our homes, schools, communities include older people. In sharing stories, activities and teaching what they know.

We will invite our elders because they will bring knowledge and wisdom in to all our schools and our lives.

We want them to feel included and important.



**ELDERS:
HAPPY,
HEALTHY
& ALIVE!
(WE'RE IN
KIDS THRIVE!)**

By Elderly 1

Just like the rest of us, the elderly are people who need to be happy, healthy and alive!

We want you to fund the Elderly Week program and make it available to communities in Victoria.



THE YOUNG PEOPLE DEMAND: IT'S TIME TO FACE A NEW WORLD

By Cultural Diversity 1

A thousand different faces, a million different stories - no bystanders - together we rise up for shared power. Instead of tears, smiles.

Instead of borders, open.

Instead of violence, kindness.

Instead of abuse, respect.

Instead of fear, learning.

Instead of danger, help.

Because we're all human.

By 2022, all Australian companies must have 25% of their jobs going to non-white people.

By 2030, all Australian companies must have 50% of their jobs going to non-white people.

EQUALITY FOR ALL!! DISABLED & ABLED

By Disability 1

We want equal access.

We want equal rights.

We want equal lives.

We want equal opportunities.

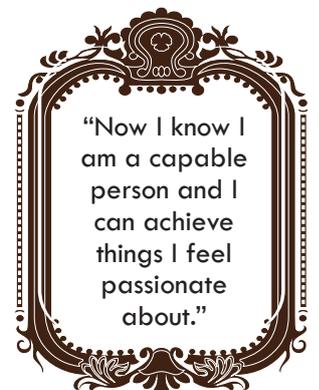
We want more sports teams.

We want inclusion.

We want to be visible.

We demand equality.

We want the building codes to be changed so that all buildings must be accessible for all disabilities.



**THE WORLD AS A
SAFE HAVEN
FOR ALL
ANIMALS**

By Animals 2

What we want is a world that's animal friendly with food, water and habitat for ALL animals.

Make new national parks by 2019.





TEAM FOR KIDS MANIFESTO

Kids Thrive Team on the ground

Alison Bradfield, Andrea Rieniets, Dr Andrea Lemon, George Bradshaw, Karen Trentini, Jeremy Watson, Sarah Mathers, Sue Beale

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ABOUT KIDS THRIVE

Kids Thrive is Victoria's leading arts and community development organisation nurturing child-led social change. We support children to be brave and creative. We partner artists with specialists in children's education, health, welfare and social justice to create groundbreaking programs promoting child-led change, and cultivating positive celebrations of diversity in schools and other child-friendly locations.



JOIN US

www.kidsthive.org.au
facebook.com/kidsthive
twitter – kids_thrive
instagram – kids_thrive

WHAT IS CHILD-LED CHANGE?

Kids Thrive defines child-led change as: through their own actions. Children identifying community problems

Children taking a lead in identifying community strengths and finding ways to increase those strengths and finding solutions and actions they can take – with or without the support of adults.

Children taking life - transforming ideas and skills back into their homes and communities, leading their adults by example into new ways of being in the world.



OUR AWESOME CONTRIBUTORS

- | | | | | |
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