



## TRANSCRIPT

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### A Learning Society

#### Commentary

#### National Youth Week - Lisa

#### Tony Ryan

*National Youth Week falls this year from 5 to 13 April. A young Adelaide woman taking those first steps to entering the workforce of today, Lisa is also the South Australian representative on the national planning committee for National Youth Week. With her views on the importance of National Youth Week, here is Lisa.*

#### Lisa

National Youth Week is the single largest celebration of young people on the Australian calendar and is a joint Australian, State, Territory and Local Government initiative. National Youth Week has been running as a national event since 2000 and has been growing in strength and support ever since.

National Youth Week in South Australia is run as a partnership between the South Australian Office for Youth and Local Government Youth Advisory Committees.

National Youth Week 2008 will be run from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of April and is an opportunity for young people to get involved in their communities and showcase what they have to offer.

This is an opportunity for young people to raise their voice on issues of concern to them in an environment where change is possible, showcase some of the skills, talents, ideas and ambitions which young people positively contribute to their communities and join together with other young people and celebrate what it means to be young.

Each year a different theme is selected to promote the week and for 2008 the theme is Shout Share Live Unite. This theme perfectly reflects the aims and objectives of what youth week is really about because it encourages young people to

**Shout** about the issues that concern them

**Share** their skills, talents, ideas and ambitions

**Live** life to the fullest and make the most of these opportunities and

**Unite** together and celebrate

National Youth Week is also an opportunity for the wider community to appreciate and acknowledge the positive attributes young people have and the contributions they can make as part of their community.

Being a young person today is not only exciting because of initiatives such as National Youth Week but because of the opportunities and resources we have available to us.

There are more opportunities for education and development, more resources, more medical and technical advances and more research is taking place into our history and the possibilities for our future.

The possibilities seem endless for what we want and what we want to achieve and from a young age we are being encouraged to dream and to dream big. This has provided us with the optimism that anything is possible and anything can be achieved so as we become young adults we are discovering and defining our ambitions in life.

These aspirations have given us a taste for achievement and success and it has also given us an intense curiosity about life and about the world. Through these realisations and through our knowledge and resources we have come to realise the potential for the future, for this country and for ourselves and we want to be part of it.

We want to be valuable contributors whether it's by educating others, being a leader in our community, creating new resources or ending poverty and fighting for social justice. We want to lead our country to a better future and with the opportunities available we have the ability to be the best, well equipped and well resourced leaders this country has seen.

After all we are the next generation of leaders, we are the next lot of politicians, CEO's and managers and we are keen to get started. We might not realise to full extent the hard work it takes to work our way up the career ladder and we probably won't realise that until we've actually taken our first step but we're just looking for somewhere to start.

Young people today are searching for opportunities to be involved, to demonstrate our leadership and learn from those who have gone before us and achieved success. We are seeking consideration in the decision making processes and a chance to participate in the planning for the future.

There are a number of programs and initiatives at a local, state and national level which have been established to give young people these opportunities. Some of the programs I have been involved in which have provided me with valuable skills and experiences are my local Youth Advisory Committee, Youth Parliament and other opportunities through the Office for Youth.

But National Youth Week is the perfect place to start and it's kicking off around the country on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. There's a variety of fantastic events taking place right here across metropolitan and regional South Australia from Battle of the Bands competitions, skating competitions, art exhibitions, workshops, forums, movie nights and comedy festivals.

So make the most of National Youth Week 2008 and get involved. Contact your local council to find out what's happening in your area or go to the youth week website [www.youthweek.com](http://www.youthweek.com)

**Tony Ryan**

*As well as taking those first steps to entering the workforce of today, Lisa is also the South Australian representative on the national planning committee for National Youth Week.*

*National Youth Week falls this year from 5 to 13 April. This commentary will shortly be online as both pdf and mp3 audiofile [www.learningworksradio.com](http://www.learningworksradio.com)*

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