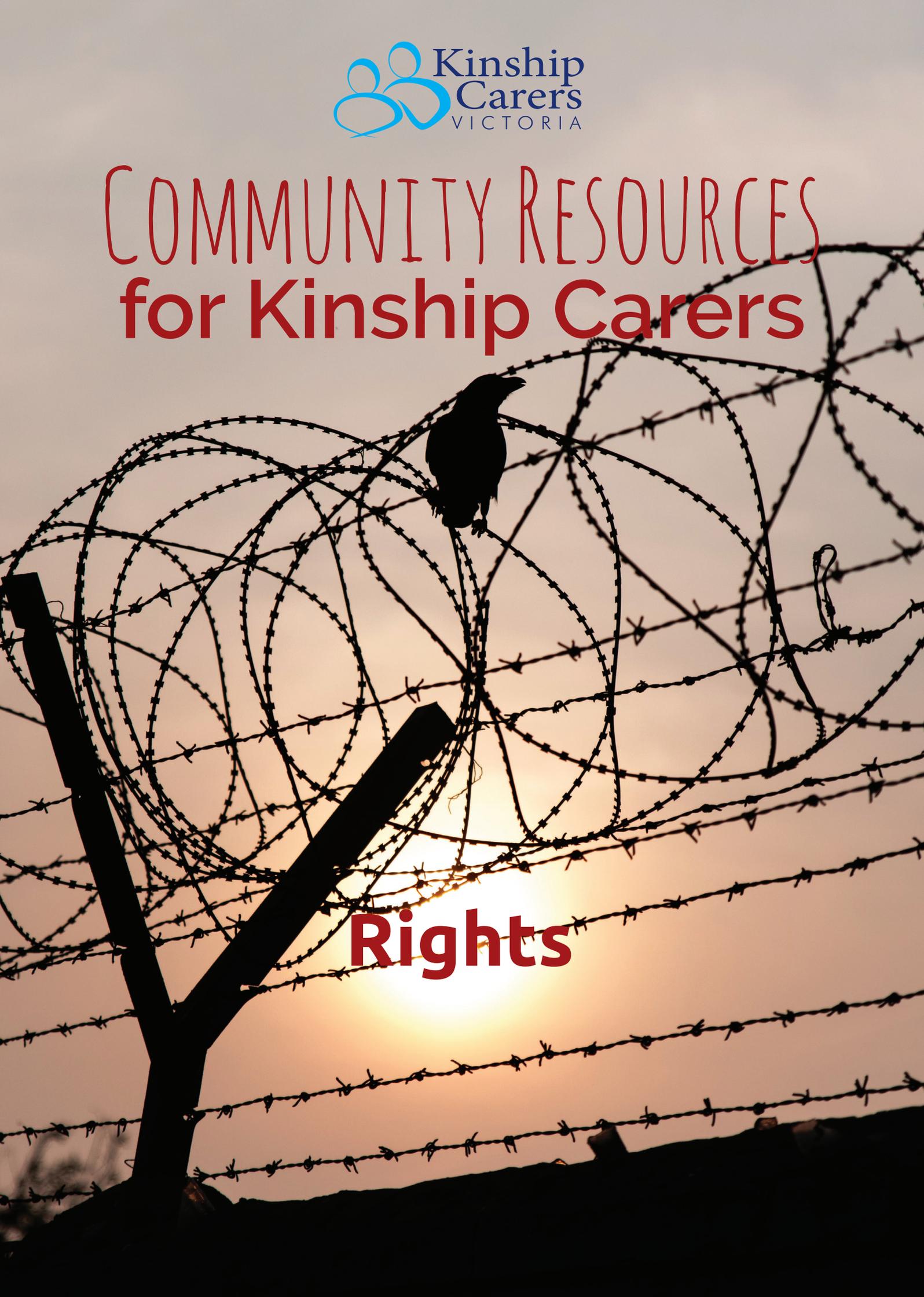


COMMUNITY RESOURCES for Kinship Carers

A silhouette of a bird perched on a complex, tangled structure of barbed wire against a sunset background. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the center, partially obscured by the wire. The overall scene is dark and evocative, symbolizing restriction or a barrier.

Rights



Australian Human Rights Commission

Australian Human Rights Commission

<https://humanrights.gov.au/>

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is an independent third party which investigates complaints about discrimination and human rights breaches. **Australia's Human Rights Commissioner: Lorraine Finlay**

General enquiries 1300 369 711, 9am to 5pm

What they do

- Investigate and conciliate discrimination and human rights complaints
- Advocate for human rights to be considered in laws and policy making
- Provide advice, review laws, and make submissions to parliamentary inquiries
- Promote and raise awareness of human rights in Australia
- Undertake research into human rights and discrimination issues in Australia
- Produce guidelines for employers

Email – infoservice@humanrights.gov.au

Postal address – GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001



ACT HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

ACT Human Rights Commission

<https://hrc.act.gov.au/>

The ACT Human Rights Commission promotes the human rights and welfare of all people living in the ACT. **Commissioner: Jodie Griffiths-Cook.**

Call (02) 6205 2222, 9am to 5pm, M–F

What they do

- Handle complaints in relation to health, disability and community services, abuse of vulnerable people, and complaints under discrimination law
- Increase awareness of rights & responsibilities of service users and service providers
- Provide advice to government and others regarding their human rights obligations
- Advocate for children, young people and adults experiencing vulnerability

Email – human.rights@act.gov.au

Postal address – GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

<https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au>

The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission is an independent organisation that protects human rights, promotes fair treatment for all Victorians, and advocates for a diverse and inclusive state. Direct support is also available for First Nationals peoples. **Victorian Human Rights Commissioner: Ro Allen**

Call 1300 292 153

What they do

- Provide information about equal opportunity and human rights
- Provide education and consultancy to create fairer organisations
- Help resolve complaints
- Carry out research and investigations to address systemic discrimination
- Advocate for stronger laws, and monitor and enforce existing legislation

Email – enquiries@veohrc.vic.gov.au

Address: Level 3, 204 Lygon Street Carlton Victoria 3053



Anti-Discrimination
New South Wales

Anti-Discrimination New South Wales

<https://antidiscrimination.nsw.gov.au/>

Anti-Discrimination NSW is the New South Wales state government body that administers the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (the Act).

Call (02) 9628 5544 or 1800 670 812

What they do

ADNSW strives to eliminate discrimination in NSW by:

- answering enquiries, and investigating and resolving complaints
- raising awareness about discrimination and its impacts
- granting exemptions to the Act
- advising the government about discrimination issues

Email – complaintsadb@justice.nsw.gov.au

Postal address – Locked Bag 5000, Parramatta NSW 2124



Queensland
**Human Rights
Commission**

Queensland Human Rights Commission

<https://www.qhrc.qld.gov.au/>

The Queensland Human Rights Commission works to protect and strengthen human rights in Queensland, and to help build a fairer, safer, and more inclusive community.

Call 1300 130 670

What they do

- Provide an expert dispute resolution service for discrimination, human rights, sexual harassment, and vilification complaints
- Provide a free and personalised information service on rights and responsibilities
- Train businesses, government and the community
- Support the development of policy and legislation to better protect rights
- Increase public understanding and discussion of human rights and responsibilities

Email – info@qhrc.qld.gov.au

Postal address – City East Post Shop, PO Box 15565, City East QLD 4002



Western Australian Equal Opportunity Commission

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/equal-opportunity-commission>

The Equal Opportunity Commission is responsible for the administration of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

Call (08) 9216 3900 or 1800 198 149

What they do

- Conduct community education and training
- Investigate and conciliate complaints of discrimination
- Provide information to the community about equal opportunity

The Commissioner is also involved in a number of projects designed to address the underlying causes of discrimination, often in partnership with other agencies.

Email – eoc@eoc.wa.gov.au

Postal address – Albert Facey House, 469 Wellington St, Perth WA 6000



Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission

<https://adc.nt.gov.au/>

The Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission promotes equal opportunity for all Territorians. Established in 1993, the Commission aims to eliminate discrimination from happening by raising awareness about individual's rights and responsibilities under the *Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Act 1992*.

Call 1800 813 846 or (08) 8999 1444

What they do

- Public education and training
- Handle complaints
- Community engagement

Email – antidiscrimination@nt.gov.au

Postal address – LMB 22 GPO Darwin NT 0801



Koorie Youth Council Victoria

<https://www.koorieyouthcouncil.org.au/>

KYC is the representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Victoria.

Call (03) 9267 3707

What they do

- Community engagement
- Advocacy to government and community to advance the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- Self-determination
- Provide listing of support services

Postal address – 2/235 Queen St, Melbourne VIC 3000



National Youth Commission Australia

National Youth Commission Australia

<https://nycinquiry.org.au/>

The National Youth Commission Australia (NYCA) is an independent, non-partisan community inquiry into the challenges faced by young people preparing for and seeking work now and into the future.

Call (03) 9965 4911

What they do

- Build and draw on existing evidence, peoples expertise and lived experience, and ideas for solutions to challenges being faced by young people
- Educate the community about these issues and solutions by publishing articles and discussion papers
- Advocate for an ecosystem of education, employment and transition to independence that will see all young people equipped and supported to fully participate in work

Email – info@nycinquiry.org.au

Postal address – 1/29 Tinning Street Brunswick, VIC 3056



Victorian Multicultural Commission

<https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/>

The VMC engages with multicultural and multifaith groups to understand the issues they face and works to identify and recommend potential solutions to government, policymakers and community organisations to make public services more inclusive and accessible. **Victorian Multicultural Commissioner: Vivienne Nguyen**

Call (03) 9651 5901 or (03)

What they do

- Run regional advisory councils
- Make submissions to government
- Produce roundtable and research reports

Email – contact@vmc.vic.gov.au

Postal address – GPO Box 4698, Melbourne VIC 3001



International Play Association

<https://ipaworld.org/>

IPA is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1961. It provides a forum for exchange and action across disciplines and across sectors. IPA's purpose is to protect, preserve and promote the child's right to play as a fundamental human right.

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

"That every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

That member governments shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity."

Email – communications@IPAWorld.org



Proudly promoting the value of play and supporting all Australians to play every day

Play Australia

<https://www.playaustralia.org.au/>

Play Australia is the peak national advocacy organisation for PLAY. As the Australian branch of the International Play Association (IPA), Play Australia protects the human rights of all children to play, as recognised within Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (see above).

Call 0419 363 666

What they do

The purposes of the association are:

- to promote the value of play for children, young people and the wider community;
- to inspire active healthy outdoor play opportunities that are accessible to all;
- to be the peak body advocating for and supporting the value of play;
- to advance implementation of Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- to be the Australian Secretariat of the International Play Association (IPA)

Email – barb@playaustralia.org.au

Postal address – POBox 2060, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Commissioners for Children and Young People and Children's Advocate Commissioners



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Commission for Children and Young People – Victoria

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-commissioners/>

Principal Commissioner: Liana Buchanan

Aboriginal Commissioner: Meena Singh

The Commission promotes improvement in policies and practices that affect the safety and wellbeing of Victorian children and young people.

Call 1300 782 978 9.30–11.30am and 2–4pm, M–F

Email – contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au

Postal address – Level 18, 570 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000



Commissioner for Children and Young People – Tasmania

<https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au>

Commissioner: Leanne McLean

The Commissioner works to ensure the rights and wellbeing of children and young people are considered and promoted by adults when they are making decisions that may affect them. The Commissioner's role is to provide impartial, independent, and apolitical oversight and advice which promotes the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania.

Call (03) 6166 1366

Email – childcomm@childcomm.tas.gov.au

Postal address – GPO Box 708, Hobart TAS 7001

Office of the
Advocate for Children
and Young People



NSW Advocate for Children and Young People

<https://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au>

Advocate for Children and Young People: Zoe Robinson

The Advocate for Children and Young People is an independent statutory office reporting to the NSW Parliament through the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People.

Call (02) 9248 0970

Email – acyp@acyp.nsw.gov.au

Postal address – Ground Floor, 219-241 Cleveland Street, Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012



Queensland
Family & Child
Commission

Queensland Family and Child Commission

<https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au>

Principal Commissioner: Luke Twyford

Commissioner: Natalie Lewis

The QFCC works to ensure Queensland's children are empowered and respected and they have their rights upheld. QFCC influences systemic change by assessing the child protection system's performance, collaborating for impact, and amplifying the voices of Queensland's children and their families.

Call (07) 3900 6000

Email – info@qfcc.qld.gov.au

Postal address – PO Box 15217, Brisbane City East QLD 4002



OFFICE OF
THE CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Office of the Children's Commissioner – Northern Territory

<https://occ.nt.gov.au>

Children's Commissioner: Colleen Gwynne

The Northern Territory Children's Commissioner is an independent statutory officer whose core functions focus on the wellbeing of vulnerable children. The Commissioner deals with complaints about services provided, undertakes enquiries related to care and protection, monitors implementation of government decisions, monitors responses of Territory families, promotes an understanding and informed discussion, and monitors the administration of the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*.

Call 1800 259 256, 8am–4pm, M–F

Email – occ@nt.gov.au

Postal address – GPO Box 3779, Darwin, NT 0801



Commissioner for Children and Young People
Western Australia

Commissioner for Children and Young People – Western Australia

<https://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au>

Commissioner: Jacqueline McGowan

The Commissioner undertakes projects, commissions research, publishes reports, and hosts events to highlight specific aspects of children and young people's wellbeing. Using research and the other evidence available, the Commissioner seeks to positively influence legislation, policy, services and attitudes.

Call 1800 072 444 or (08) 6213 2297

Postal address – Level 1, Albert Facey House, 469 Wellington Street, Perth WA 6000



Commissioner
Y for Children &
Young People

Commissioner for Children and Young People – South Australia

<https://www.ccyp.com.au/>

Commissioner: Helen Connolly

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory office established by the South Australian government in 2017. The role of the Commissioner is to promote and advocate for the rights, development and wellbeing of all children and young people in South Australia.

Call (08) 8226 3355

Email – CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au

Postal address – 251 Morphett Street, Adelaide SA 5000, Karna Country



ACT HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

Children and Young People Commissioner – ACT

<https://hrc.act.gov.au/childrenyoungpeople/>

Commissioner: Jodie Griffiths-Cook

The role of the CYPC includes promoting the rights of children and young people; consulting and talking with children and young people; encouraging other organisations to listen to children and young people, and take their views seriously when making decisions; providing advice to government and community agencies about how to improve services for children and young people.

Call (02) 6205 2222

Email – human.rights@act.gov.au

Postal address – Allara House, 56 Allara St, Canberra, ACT, 2601



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/convention-rights-child>

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 1989. The Convention came into force on 2 September 1990. (See the full convention at the back of this booklet.)



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

United Nations Human Rights - Office of the High Commissioner

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

Volker Türk of Austria is the current High Commissioner for Human Rights.



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations

<https://www.un.org/en/>

The United Nations is an international organisation founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.



Carers Recognition Act

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/carers-recognition-act-2012/003>

The Carers Recognition Act 2012 formally recognises and values the role of carers and the importance of care relationships in the Victorian community.

The Act includes a set of principles about the significance of care relationships, and specifies obligations for state government agencies, local councils, and other organisations that interact with people in care relationships.



**Australian
Human Rights
Commission**

Charter of Children's Rights

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/about-childrens-rights>

https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/AHRC.2030.The%20Big%20Banter%20A3%20poster%20-%20web%20version.pdf?_ga=2.215760727.1379529005.1673390402-518864285.1672717865

Under the Charter, every child has the right to be protected and to be treated in a way that takes into account his or her best interests. This section of the Charter recognises that children and young people can be particularly vulnerable because of their age. It applies to people younger than 18 years old.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

A Summary

ARTICLE 1 (definition of a child) The rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) apply to everyone under the age of 18.

ARTICLE 2 (non-discrimination) The rights set out in the UNCRC apply to every child whatever their race, colour, gender, language, religion, ethnicity, disability or any other status.

ARTICLE 3 (the best interests of the child) In all decisions and actions that concern children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

ARTICLE 4 (implementing the UNCRC) The state must do all it can, through passing legislation and creating administrative systems, to promote and protect children's rights.

ARTICLE 5 (parental guidance) The state must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child in exercising his or her rights and in a way that is consistent with a child's developing capacities.

ARTICLE 6 (children's survival and development) Every child has the right to survive. The state must do all it can to make sure children survive and develop to the full extent possible.

ARTICLE 7 (birth registration) Every child should be registered at birth and has the right to a name, to a nationality and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

ARTICLE 8 (identity) Every child has the right to their identity – including their nationality, name and family relationships. Where a child is deprived of one or more elements of their identity, the state will act to re-establish them.

ARTICLE 9 (separation from parents) No child should be separated from his or her parents against their will unless it is in the child's best interests. Children whose parents have separated have the right to contact and a relationship with both parents, unless that's not in the child's best interests.

ARTICLE 10 (family reunification) Where a separated child or his or her mother or father wishes to move to another country to be reunified as a family, the states involved should respond quickly and sympathetically. Children whose parents are separated and living in different countries have the right to maintain a personal relationship and direct contact with both parents.

ARTICLE 11 (abduction) States shall take steps to stop children being illegally taken abroad by their parents or other relatives, or from being prevented from returning to their country.

ARTICLE 12 (respect for children's views) Every child has the right to express their views on matters that affect them, and for these views to be taken into consideration.

ARTICLE 13 (freedom of expression) Every child has the right to find out and distribute information and to express their ideas – through talking, writing, art or any other form of expression.

ARTICLE 14 (freedom on thought, conscience and religion) Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose, and to practise their religion, provided this does not prevent others from enjoying their rights. The state should respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to provide direction to their child that is appropriate to his or her development.

ARTICLE 15 (freedom of association) Every child has the right to meet other people and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not prevent others enjoying their rights.

ARTICLE 16 (privacy) Every child has the right to privacy, including their family and home life, and they should be protected from unlawful attacks on their reputation.

ARTICLE 17 (mass media) Every child has the right to find out information and material from a variety of media sources. The state should encourage mass media information that supports children's wellbeing and development. The mass media should be encouraged to consider the linguistic needs of children from minority groups. The production and dissemination of children's books should be encouraged. Children should be protected from information that may be damaging.

ARTICLE 18 (parental and state responsibilities) The state should recognise that both parents have responsibility for a child's upbringing and development, and the best interests of the child should be their primary concern. States should assist parents in this through support for care services.

ARTICLE 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) The state must do all it can to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect, bad treatment or exploitation by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

ARTICLE 20 (alternative care) If a child cannot be looked after by their parents, the state has a responsibility to provide alternative care. The child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background should be considered.

ARTICLE 21 (adoption) In adoption cases, the state should ensure the process is lawful and the interests of the child are paramount. Children should only be adopted overseas if a suitable family cannot be found in their own country.

ARTICLE 22 (refugee children) Children seeking or who have refugee status have the rights set out in the UNCRC. Governments must provide protection and support, and must help children who are separated from their parents to be reunited with their family.

ARTICLE 23 (disabled children) Disabled children have the right to enjoy a full life, with dignity, and to participate as far as possible in their community. The government should support disabled children and their families.

ARTICLE 24 (health and healthcare) Every child has the right to the best possible health and to healthcare. The state should ensure children have healthcare services, nutritious food, clean water, a clean environment and healthcare information. Richer countries should support poorer countries in this.

ARTICLE 25 (children receiving healthcare away from home) Children who are living away from home for healthcare have the right to regular reviews of their treatment and their situation.

ARTICLE 26 (social security) Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must consider the circumstances of children and their family in assessing their need for assistance.

ARTICLE 27 (adequate standard of living) Every child has the right to a decent standard of living to enable them to grow and develop. Parents are responsible for providing this. The state should support where necessary, particularly with a child's nutrition, clothing and housing.

ARTICLE 28 (education) Every child has the right to education. Primary education should be compulsory and free. Different forms of secondary education should be available to every child. School discipline should respect children's dignity and rights. Richer countries should support poorer countries in this.

ARTICLE 29 (education and children's development) Education should help develop every child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the full. It should develop children's respect for their own rights and those of others, for their parents, for their own culture and the cultures of others, and for the natural environment.

ARTICLE 30 (minority and indigenous groups) A child from minority group has the right to enjoy their own culture, practise their own religion and use their own language.

ARTICLE 31 (play and cultural and artistic activities) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities.

ARTICLE 32 (child labour) Every child has the right to be protected from any work that is dangerous, that interferes with their education or that is harmful to their health. Governments must set a minimum working age and make sure working conditions are safe and appropriate.

ARTICLE 33 (drug abuse) Children should be protected from using, producing or distributing illegal drugs.

ARTICLE 34 (sexual exploitation and abuse) All children must be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including unlawful sexual activity, prostitution and in pornographic materials.

ARTICLE 35 (abduction, sale and trafficking) The state should do all it can to prevent children being abducted, sold, or trafficked to another country and exploited.

ARTICLE 36 (other forms of exploitation) The state should protect children against all other forms of exploitation.

ARTICLE 37 (cruel treatment and detention) No child should be tortured or treated in a cruel or inhuman way. Prison should be a last resort. Children who are detained should not be imprisoned with adults and they should have the opportunity to remain in contact with their family. No child should be given the death penalty or a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of release.

ARTICLE 38 (armed conflict) States should do all they can to protect children under 15 from taking part in conflict of joining armed forces. Children in conflict zones should be given special protection.

ARTICLE 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration) States should do all they can to help any child who has been neglected, exploited, abused, tortured or involved in armed conflict to recover their health, self-respect and dignity, and to reintegrate.

ARTICLE 40 (juvenile justice) Every child accused of breaking the law should be presumed innocent until proven guilty, have the option of legal assistance and be given a fair hearing. The state should establish a minimum age for criminal responsibility. It should avoid judicial proceedings where appropriate and desirable, and should have alternatives to institutional care.

ARTICLE 41 (national law and standards) If a country's laws and standards go further than the UNCRC in promoting children's rights, they should be kept.

ARTICLE 42 (knowledge of children's rights) The state must make sure adults and children know about the principles and provisions of the UNCRC.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 1: We are all born free and equal

Article 2: Freedom from Discrimination

Article 3: Right to Life

Article 4: Freedom from Slavery

Article 5: Freedom from Torture

Article 6: Right to Recognition Before the Law

Article 7: Right to Equality Before the Law

Article 8: Right to Remedy

Article 9: Freedom from Arbitrary Detention

Article 10: Right to a Fair Trial

Article 11: Presumption of Innocence and International Crimes

Article 12: Right to Privacy

Article 13: Freedom of Movement

Article 14: Right to Asylum

Article 15: Right to Nationality

Article 16: Right to Marry and to Found a Family

Article 17: Right to Own Property

Article 18: Freedom of Religion or Belief

Article 19: Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Article 20: Freedom of Assembly and Association

Article 21: A Short Course in Democracy

Article 22: Right to Social Security

Article 23: Right to Work

Article 24: Right to Rest and Leisure

Article 25: Right to Adequate Standard of Living

Article 26: Right to Education

Article 27: Right to Cultural, Artistic and Scientific Life

Article 28: Right to a Free and Fair World

Article 29: Duty to Your Community

Article 30: Rights are Inalienable



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