

## Children's Rights

'Rights' are principles that apply to everyone – they describe what people should be allowed to do, and how they should expect to be treated.

Upholding people's rights is complicated, so after World War 2, a group of countries joined together to form the United Nations (UN). Among other things, the UN write agreements (called 'conventions') about how they will act and treat people. These agreements are written in documents called "Conventions". One of the most important conventions that affects us is the Convention in the Rights of the Child (CROC). You can find more information about the CROC at <http://www.ncylc.org.au/croc/home.html>

The CROC describes the civil, political, economical, social and cultural rights of children under 18 years old. The CROC includes the right:

- to life
- to your own identity
- to be raised by your parents within a family or cultural grouping except when it is against your interest and your well-being (i.e. you are unsafe)
- to develop your full potential
- to be free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse
- to express your opinions and to have those opinions heard and acted upon when appropriate
- to have your privacy protected
- to separate legal representation in any judicial dispute concerning your care and to have your viewpoint be heard in such a case

Australia is a signatory to the CROC and has to make sure our laws and society protect and promote the rights of children. Australia has to report back to UN every 5 years about the CROC.

In all states and territories (except the N.T.) there is also a special list or 'charter' of rights for children who are in care. Look below for a link to your state's charter.

### Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

(Under 6 yrs) [http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/102987/charter\\_of\\_rights\\_0-6yo.pdf](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/102987/charter_of_rights_0-6yo.pdf)  
(7-12 yrs) [http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/102998/charter\\_of\\_rights\\_7-12yo.pdf](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/102998/charter_of_rights_7-12yo.pdf)  
(13-18 yrs) [http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/103055/charter\\_of\\_rights\\_13-18yo.pdf](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/103055/charter_of_rights_13-18yo.pdf)

### New South Wales

(Under 12 yrs) [http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/\\_assets/main/documents/charter\\_7-12.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/_assets/main/documents/charter_7-12.pdf)  
(over 12 yrs) [http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/\\_assets/main/documents/charter\\_13-18.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/_assets/main/documents/charter_13-18.pdf)

### Queensland

(Under 10 yrs) <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/resources/childsafety/foster-care/charter-kids-rights.pdf>  
(Over 10 yrs) <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/resources/childsafety/foster-care/charter-journey-care.pdf>

### South Australia

<http://www.gcyp.sa.gov.au/charter-of-rights/the-charter/>

## Tasmania

[http://www.stors.tas.gov.au/item/stors/1ed8de2b-1132-bdcb-9a5b-6b3ef0f691c5/1/web1/bookletforchildren\\_5.pdf](http://www.stors.tas.gov.au/item/stors/1ed8de2b-1132-bdcb-9a5b-6b3ef0f691c5/1/web1/bookletforchildren_5.pdf)

## Victoria

[http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/577565/charter\\_for\\_children\\_in\\_out-of-home\\_care.pdf](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/577565/charter_for_children_in_out-of-home_care.pdf)

And, check out these books about your rights

(Under 12 yrs) <http://www.create.org.au/files/file/Getting%20It%20Right/PlanetRightBookweb.pdf>

(Over 12 yrs) <http://www.create.org.au/files/file/Getting%20It%20Right/PlanetRightBookweb.pdf>

## Western Australia

<http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/ChildrenInCare/Documents/Advocate%20for%20Children%20in%20Care/Charter%20info%20for%20staff.pdf>

If you think your rights according to these charters are not being met, you should talk with an adult you trust like your carer or caseworker, or call the numbers listed on the Charter of Rights.