

PUBLICATIONS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA

Alston, P and Brennan, G (eds), *The UN Children's Convention and Australia*, published by Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the ANU Centre for International and Public Law and the Australian Council of Social Service.

Brewer, G and Swain, P, *Where Rights are Wronged - A critique of Australia's compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, published by the National Children's Bureau for the Children's Rights Coalition, March 1993.

McDowell, K, *Children's Rights - An Annotated Bibliography*, published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, 1992.

Interesting periodicals:

Human Rights Defender, published quarterly by UNSW Human Rights Centre, Law School, PO. Box 1, Kensington, NSW, 2033. (Annual Subscription: Institutions \$35, Individuals \$25, Students \$10)

Children Australia, published quarterly by National Children's Bureau of Australia, PO Box 686, Mulgrave, Vic 3170. (Annual Subscription: Standard \$35, Student \$30, OS \$60)

Unity, published monthly by the United Nations Association of Australia, Peter Le Cornu, 54 Dumaresque St, Dickson, ACT 2606. (Annual Subscriptions \$25)


International Journal of Children's Rights, published quarterly by Kluwer Academic Publishers, PO Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, Netherlands. (Annual Subscription: Dfl.284, US\$177.50) Vol I being issued in 1993.

ChildAsia, published quarterly by Foundation for Children, 29C Soi Pracha Nimit 1, Phaholyothin Soi 11, Bangkok 10400, Thailand. (Annual Subscription US \$12).

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Continued from page 1. 

- > Focus our activity on:
 - Campaign for a National Commissioner for Children and a Commonwealth Ministry for Children;
 - Children's participation rights;
 - The representation of children in the media;
 - Juvenile justice issues and legislation;
 - The exploitation of children.

- > Make public statements and write letters to governments and relevant organisations on these and issues raised by members
- > Identify state and national issues which constitute possible breaches of the Convention and bring them to public attention, nationally and internationally if appropriate
- > Investigate the feasibility of running a national "child value" campaign in IYF, based on a similar campaign recently run in Western Australia.
- > Develop links with non-government organisations in the Asia-Pacific Region
- > Seek ways of supporting an Asia-Pacific workshop on the Convention and a Regional Meeting of DCI sections.

ACTIVITY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL Networking

DCI - AUSTRALIA has now had formal contact with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the National Children's and Youth Law Centre, UNICEF Australia, the UNICEF Office in Sydney, the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Amnesty International, the Australian Council of Social Service and the ACT Council of Social Service. *All these national organisations are pleased to see the emergence of DCI - AUSTRALIA.* They are willing to support, co-operate and collaborate on children's rights issues in Australia.

DCI - AUSTRALIA has endorsed the End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism Campaign. We have also written to the National Secretariat Aboriginal Islander Child Care, Children's Rights Coalition, ACROD, Australian Early Childhood Association, Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition, Australian Bicentennial Multicultural Foundation, National Children's Bureau of Australia (or Oz Child) and United Nations Association of Australia. (And there are many more organisations yet with which to "network"!)

World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights.

In July, DCI - AUSTRALIA's National Convenor, Helen Bayes, represented the worldwide movement of DCI at the First World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights held in Sydney. DFAT/NGO Forum on Human Rights
In September, DCI - AUSTRALIA was invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to attend a meeting of the DFAT/NGO Forum on Human Rights, at which there was a report on Australia's participation in the

World Conference on Human Rights which was held in Vienna in July.

Urgent Responses

DCI – AUSTRALIA has made urgent representations to the Governor of Texas and the USA Embassy appealing for a stay in the execution of Gary Graham (sentenced to death for a murder committed when he was 17), to the President of the Philippines and the Philippines Embassy calling for the investigations into the alleged military detention, torture and hanging of Allen Laurena (aged 15) and the arrest and harming of Jimboy Longhoop (a high school student) and to President Milosevic of Serbia and President Lilic of Serbia-Montenegro about the denial of the right to education of Albanian children living in the Republic of Kosova.

Media

Media releases have been issued about the establishment of DCI – AUSTRALIA , the Olympic Sarajeva Campaign and the denial of children’s right to education in Kosova, a region of Serbia where 90% of the population is of Albanian origin.

Monitor

Finally, 200 copies of the International Children’s Rights Monitor have been sent out to people on our mailing list, together with, in many cases, a letter from the National Treasurer, Grace Chu Te, asking non-financial members to pay their subscriptions. Subscriptions are currently flowing in at about one per day.

LOCAL GROUPS

The Wollongong and ACT groups are now meeting regularly. Members are making efforts to establish active groups in Brisbane, Sydney and Hobart. Hopefully other centres will follow as DCI – AUSTRALIA’s profile and activities increase.

It is up to local members to get together and decide what you want to do. Anyone interested in starting up a local group can get a list of members and contacts, resource material and up-to-date news from me at any time. Please don’t hesitate to phone or write.

I believe the time is right. Children’s rights is “an idea whose time has come” -to Australia - at last! The effort is therefore urgent and demanding, and we have the potential to make a real difference for children in Australia and in the world.

DCI – AUSTRALIA is a means by which any of us, *all of us*, can make a contribution to advancing children’s rights. It does not exist for itself. It is not a cosy, self-serving group. It is a framework for ordinary people -young people, old people, children themselves, in

any walk of life - to join in solidarity with children, to participate in a world-wide movement, to become more aware and informed about what is happening to children, and to do something.

So far we are making very good progress. Let’s keep up the pace!

Helen Bayes, Interim National Convenor.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN’S RIGHTS NEWS

This newsletter was produced by the Wollongong branch of DCI – AUSTRALIA. The editorial board consisted of: Rosie Wells, Susan Wood and Berenice Nyland. Assistance with typesetting and layout donated by Jolyon Sykes of the *Australian Coin Review*.

Thanks to Dr. Seuss for inspiring the cartoons.

ARTICLES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Individuals and organizations are requested to send articles, reports or news clippings of interest to DCI – AUSTRALIA, Wollongong Branch, PO Box 5, Wombarra 2515 or fax them to (042) 681435.

For information on DCI – AUSTRALIA

- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Publications: *International Children’s Rights Monitor*, and *Australian Children’s Rights News*
- ✓ Branch activities
- ✓ General information

To: Helen Bayes,
PO Box 383,
Dickson, ACT 2602

Please send me information on
DCI – AUSTRALIA

Name.....

Address.....

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.....Postcode.....

Please Note: This newsletter has been sent to you free of charge in order to introduce DCI – AUSTRALIA. If you want to receive future issues by subscription, please send us your name and address.

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