

CHILD SEX TOURISM - act locally!

Next time you pass your local travel agent, drop in to see whether they are using the ECPAT window sticker and ask if they have received the travel industry information kit. Tell them you would like them to include the ECPAT leaflet in travel wallets.

The travel industry has responded magnificently to the campaign, adopting an important role as watchdogs. In August, the Australian Federation of Travel Agents presented ECPAT with a National Tourism Award for the most significant contribution to the Tourism industry.

And tell QANTAS!

Qantas on the other hand has been in two minds about it! It has contributed financially but has declined to be acknowledged as a supporter and has refused to print a message on tickets, put an article in the inflight magazine or show a short inflight film produced by ECPAT.

Write to Qantas and tell this great Australian airline what you think about their refusal!

THE MORRIS REPORT ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

This Parliamentary Inquiry has recommended the creation of a Child and Youth Bureau within the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. The Bureau would monitor Australia's compliance with the UN Convention and oversee legislative, policy and program initiatives in youth and family policy.

The Attorney-General should report regularly to the Prime Minister on Australia's performance on CROC and the implications of this for policy and Commonwealth/State responsibilities. COAG would become the vehicle for Commonwealth/State consultations on CROC implementation. Commonwealth departments should incorporate the principles of CROC in mission statements, annual reports and budget statements.

These things all need to be done, but is A-G's the department to ensure they are done? The Prime Minister's Department is the proper national location for promoting the interests of children and youth, alongside the Office of the Status of Women, the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs and the Office of Indigenous Affairs. We should not accept second-best for our children. Nor should the Commonwealth Government! If children could vote....

Appointment to UN

The General Secretary, Ricardo Dominice reports with some satisfaction the appointment of Carol Smolenski as the new DCI Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

Carol is a young, very committed woman who has previously been Representative/ Director in New York of the Christian Children's Fund office. She has solid experience with INGO'S and UNICEF. She has participated in the organization of a number of NGO initiatives in relation to children's right and children's social welfare issues.

Carol's role will be an important one in this new moment in the life of our organization.

