

# AWCH - CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES RIGHTS FACTSHEET



- Just like adults, children and young people (C&YP) have human rights.
- C&YP have the right to special protection because of their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.
- The main international human rights treaty on children's rights is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which was developed in 1989. The CRC is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world. Australia ratified the CRC in December 1990, which means that Australia has a duty to ensure that all children in Australia enjoy the rights set out in the treaty.
- The CRC incorporates the whole spectrum of human rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural. The CRC sets out the specific ways these rights should be ensured for children and young people. The CRC recognises that children have the same human rights as adults, while also needing special protection due to their vulnerability.
- Some of the guiding principles in the CRC are
  - respect for the best interests of the child as a primary consideration
  - the right to survival and development
  - the right of all children to express their views freely on all matters affecting them
  - the right of all children to enjoy all the rights of the CRC without discrimination of any kind.
- In 2010 (the 21st anniversary year of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) Children's Healthcare Australasia (CHA) partnered with AWCH, and a number of other stakeholders, to review the Convention, particularly as it related to children and young people in healthcare. From this project the Charter on the Rights of Children and Young People in Healthcare Services in Australia was developed [https://children.wcha.asn.au/sites/default/files/australian\\_version\\_final\\_210911web.pdf](https://children.wcha.asn.au/sites/default/files/australian_version_final_210911web.pdf)
- Later, the NSW Ministry of Health again partnered with AWCH and other stakeholders to create 2 videos outlining the rights of children and young people in healthcare.
  - Video - Listen Up: Rights of Every Child in Healthcare <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/kidsfamilies/programs/Pages/child-rights-video.aspx>
  - Video - Be in the Know: Rights of Young People in Healthcare <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/kidsfamilies/programs/Pages/young-people-rights-video.aspx>
- AWCH is committed to the promotion of children and young people's rights – it is why we were founded 46 years ago and why we exist today. There is still much work to be done in this important area!

**"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace" - Kofi Annan -**

