

 Australian Human Rights Commission

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Rights of children in schools: A human rights perspective on behaviour

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 Australian Human Rights Commission

The Big Banter

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<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/what-does-children-s-rights-report-2013-say>

"I think it's important that everyone goes to school, gets an education and understands the importance of positive participation in the community. But I know that this doesn't always happen. Even in a country like Australia..."

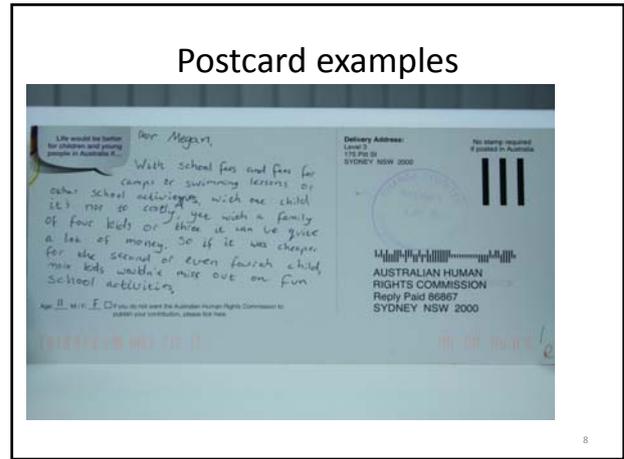
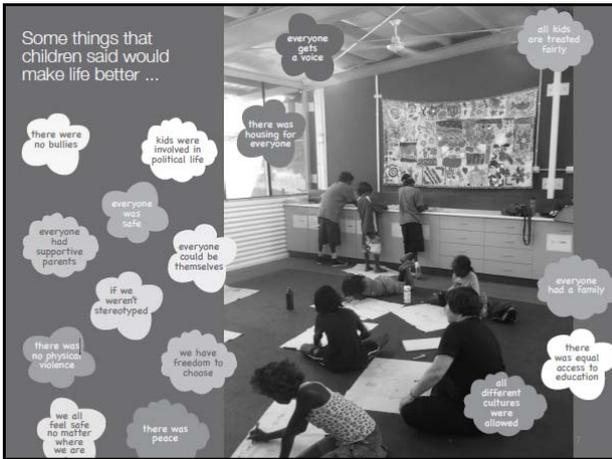


The Canberra College, ACT

- *People have respect for each other;*
- *Children and young people are heard;*
- *There is freedom from judgement, so people can be who they want to be;*
- *Everyone is treated as intelligent individuals; and*
- *People who you trust make you safe.*

Fitzroy Crossing Primary School, WA





Themes from my 2013 report to Parliament

1. A right to be heard
2. Freedom from violence, abuse and neglect
3. The opportunity to thrive
4. Engaged citizenship
5. Action and accountability



CHILD
Convention on the Rights of the Child

- General measures of implementation
- Definition of the child
- General principles
- Civil rights and freedoms
- Family environment and alternative care
- Disability, basic health and welfare
- The right to education
- Special protection measures

The Convention on the Rights of the Child – the 'general principles'

- Non-discrimination (article 2)
- Best interests of the child (article 3)
- Right to life, survival and development (article 6)
- Respect for the views of the child (article 12)

Education (Article 28 & 29)

Article 28
Children have the right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthier countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29
Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their cultures and other cultures.



UN Committee's General Comment No 1: The Aims of Education

- Provides more comprehensive guidelines to fulfilling our obligations under Article 29 of the Convention
- Article 29 must be viewed in the context of the CRC as a whole as it reflects a number of core principles that underpin the entire Convention
- "The overall objective of education is to maximise the child's ability and opportunity to participate fully and responsibly in a free society"



The importance of connectedness



School connectedness

Positive effect on:

- School attendance
- Academic achievement
- Emotional and physical health

• Reduced likelihood of risky behaviour

Lack of school connectedness:

- Alcohol consumption
- Drug use
- Cigarette smoking
- Delinquency
- Violence

• Identified as 'protective factor' (Chapman et al, 2013, 3) in reducing adolescent risk taking behaviour and related physical/mental harm



"I know kids of my generation are exposed to so many distractions nowadays and it's incredibly hard to concentrate on school work and that leads to more stress."
- 16 year old survey respondent

National Children's Commissioner examines intentional self-harm and suicidal behaviour in children





Thank you

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