

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER

Children's Week 2018 - give children a voice

Children have the right to have a say in matters that affect them, and for their views and opinions to be taken seriously.

This is the 2018 theme for Children's Week, which kicks off today as a celebration of children's rights, talents and citizenship.

NAPCAN - the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect – is a representative on the Children's Week Council of Australia and a strong supporter of children's rights.

NAPCAN's National Manager Prevention Strategies, Lesley Taylor, said Children's Week this year provides an opportunity to learn about one of the most important rights afforded to children through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"Every child has the right to be listened to and to have their opinions taken seriously when decisions are being made about their lives", said Ms Taylor.

"It's important that, as adults, we take the time to listen to children's views, and work with them to find the best way to solve their problems."

To promote this year's theme, NAPCAN has produced a poster highlighting the right for children to speak and be heard.

The poster is designed to be read by children and adults and includes tips for how we can all play our part in giving children a voice. Simple tips include:

- Stop and listen to children when they are talking to you.
- Believe children when they tell you something important.
- Show them that you have heard what they have said and tell them how you will act on it.
- Be an advocate for children if necessary, or help them to share their views if they're not being heard.
- Have meetings that include children and young people (this can be done at family level, or as part of a social group, child care centre, school, club or organisation).

To download the poster, or find out more about how you can get involved with Children's Week visit www.napcan.org.au/childrensweek/

For more information or interviews contact:

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United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Children have the right to speak

Article 12:
You have the right to speak and for others to listen and value your ideas and opinions. For children this means:



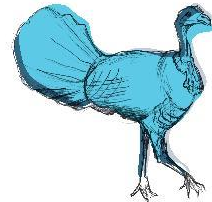
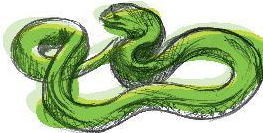
I have the right to speak and be heard.



I have the right to have a say when adults are making decisions that affect me.

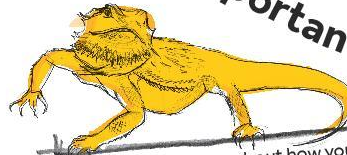


Adults should believe me when I tell them something important about my safety.



Children are important and childhood is a precious time of life. That's why the United Nations has developed a set of 54 Articles that outline the rights that apply to every child in the world to live a safe and happy life.

See www.unicef.org/crc/



Adults, for ideas about how you can help to support the rights of children to have their say, see the other side of this poster or visit www.napcan.org.au

