

Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Australia is a signatory, recognises that children and young people have a right to grow, develop and participate in society 'in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity' (Preamble). The Convention acknowledges the fundamental interdependence in our society between children and young people, and adults who have a duty to care for them and protect them from harm and abuse.

The Holy See is also a signatory to this Convention.

Article 3

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff [including clergy, employees and volunteers], as well as competent supervision.

Article 19

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Convention on the Rights of the Child, opened for signature 20 November 1989, 15773 UNTS 3 (entered into force 2 September 1990).

www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx

UNICEF n.d., *A simplified version of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
www.unicef.org.au/Upload/UNICEF/Media/Our%20work/childfriendlycrc.pdf

UNICEF n.d., *Rights for every child* <https://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/rightsforeverychild.pdf>

UNICEF n.d., *Children's Rights and Responsibilities* https://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/rights_leaflet.pdf



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*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.*