



CHILDREN'S WEEK

"AS PATRON of the Children's Week Council of Australia, I join parents, grandparents, families and friends, teachers and mentors in celebrating the lives of Australian children. Marking this year, we draw attention to their rights and needs, and rejoice in their accomplishments as the young and vibrant champions of our nation's future. We are touched every day by the lives of these little ones; their thirst for adventure, their innocence and openness, their capacity to embrace this brave new world without prejudice. I send warm wishes to all Australians marking this very special week."

Message from Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Children's Week in Australia is an annual national event dedicated to celebrating kids around the country. The program, based around the theme A Caring World Shares, provides a range of activities for schools, playgroups, childcare facilities, libraries and other community groups to participate in.

This year, the week runs from October 22-30 held around Universal Children's Day on Wednesday, October 26. It is an opportunity to engage in a variety of activities that encourage children and their families to play, learn and grow together.

The mission of the Children's Week Council of Australia is to encourage, support and coordinate participation of all states and territories in Children's Week. Check out what's happening in your area at www.childrensweek.com.au or nswchildrensweek.org.au.

CHILDHOOD DREAM

"IT IS the right of all children to enjoy childhood and allow them to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities."

For most of us it is hard to comprehend that millions of children around the world are denied the basic necessities of a happy, healthy childhood

and the education to develop their abilities. But the reality is that many children's needs, ideas and development are not valued. It is important to consider the conditions in society that affect the lives and future of all children.

WHAT'S RIGHT?

RIGHTS are those things such as life freedom, education, health and safety that every human being is entitled to.

Protection against the violation of these rights should be guaranteed to all people especially children, who are not in the position to speak up.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that sets out the basic rights of children and the obligations of governments to fulfil those rights.

There are basically four fundamental principles:

Children should not be discriminated against nor benefit because of their race, colour, gender, language, religion, national, social or ethnic origin, or because of any political or other opinion; because of their caste, property or birth status; or because they are disabled.

Laws and actions affecting children should put their best interests first.

Authorities must protect children.

Children have the right to have their say in decisions that affect them.

SING LOUD

THE following lyrics are from the song or jingle Care For Kids that was used during the 1979 International Year of the Child campaign.

Care for kids
Find a minute to spare for kids
Such a lot you can share with kids
It's important to care for kids

Care for kids
Try to always be there for kids
Won't you let down your hair for kids
It's important to care for kids

Oh kids
With the stars in their eyes there's so much to be learning Kids
You can help them to rise and keep the new world turning
Though they're small
We need them all

Care for kids
Find a minute to spare for kids
Such a lot you can share with kids
It's important to care for kids
It's important to care for kids

ARE KIDS SAFE?

EACH year approximately 350 Australian children aged up to 14 are killed and 60,000 hospitalised by accidentals, many of which are easily prevented. The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia through the Kidsafe organisation has made it its mission to make it a safer world for Aussie kids. Kidsafe aims to help teach parents and others who care for children about the hazards children face and what can be done to prevent these injuries.

NEXT WEEK: SPECIAL DAYS