



Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

Child Protection Week

6 – 12 September 2020

National Child Protection Week is a campaign held annually across Australia to raise awareness of child abuse prevention. The objectives of the week are to raise the profile of all issues connected with child protection. Protecting children from abuse is a whole of community responsibility.

KEEPING CHILDREN
SAFE AND WELL
IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Together we can
help every child thrive

We can all...

...speak up if we see something that is
not safe for children

...talk respectfully with children and value
and act on their ideas

...help children thrive by supporting
families

...create places where children feel
safe to live, play and learn

For more information about how to play your part, visit www.napcan.org.au

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
6th-12th September 2020

SUPPORTED BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NAPCAN NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
PROTECTIVE COUNSELLORS
www.napcan.org.au

© 2020 Napcan 1800 00 0000

Research shows that one of the best ways to prevent child abuse and neglect, before it starts, is by building child friendly communities that support and value children and families.



Napcan celebrates 30 years of the National Child Protection week campaign, which was aimed at bringing abuse and neglect out of the shadows and putting child wellbeing on the national agenda.

The Napcan theme in 2020 for National Child Protection Week is adeptly titled:

Putting Children First

This means prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children so they can grow up to **feel** and also **be**, safe and loved.

Mr Richard Cooke, the CEO of Napcan, states “Child abuse and neglect is preventable. If we all work together as a community, we can create an Australia where children can grow up safe and well.” Mr Cooke challenges all Australians by posing the question “What role can you play in supporting children and their families?”

SOSJ are actively committed to fostering communities and a culture of safeguarding that recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children. SOSJ have developed a Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement to reflect and honour this commitment to child safety and respect. We invite you to read more about our Child Commitment Statement by visiting our website or clicking [here](#).

The Australian Catholic Church observes ‘**Child Protection Sunday**’ on the second Sunday in September each year. Child Protection Sunday coincides with National Child Protection Week and falls on Sunday 13 September 2020.

Let us take this time to reflect and celebrate how we have ‘put children first’ in the past, whilst also looking forward to consider how we may plan to ‘put children first’ in the future.



Napcan have a range of resources and events planned to celebrate National Child Protection Week, and these can be accessed on their website or by clicking [here](#).

The Kids Helpline is another great resource to access support materials for children and young people, particularly in light of the current global pandemic. The Kids Helpline has a free session for students titled: 'COVID-19: Strategies for coping. Understand emotional responses and learn ways to cope.' There is also a 'COVID-19 Time Capsule' resource activity which can be downloaded for free and used with students or young people whom you may have relationship with. You can access these resources via the Kids Helpline website or by clicking [here](#). What better way to 'Put Children First', than to recognise the significant impact the pandemic has on their wholistic wellbeing.





Bravehearts, is Australia's leading child protection charity dedicated to holistically preventing child sexual assault and exploitation. Bravehearts' vision is to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child. In 1996, Bravehearts established 'White Balloon Day', aimed to raise awareness about child sexual assault in Australia and help empower survivors to break their silence. White Balloon Day is held annually on the first Friday during National Child Protection Week and shall be celebrated this year on Friday 11th September.



May I invite you to join with me in making Australia safer for our children by supporting White Balloon Day on Friday 11th September and wearing the colour white. You may choose to hold a morning tea within your workplace, your community or with your family and friends, and raise awareness to this important topic. You may choose to collect a gold coin donation fundraiser by signing up at whiteballoonday.com.au. Everyone who signs up will receive a free support pack. You can learn more about Bravehearts and donate by clicking [here](#).

CHILDREN'S WEEK

24 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2020

Children's Week is a national celebration of children and young people's rights and celebrate their capacity to actively contribute to the world around them.

Australia recognises and celebrates Children's Week on the fourth Wednesday of October, which coincides with Universal Children's Day. Each year the theme of Children's Week highlights a particular Children's Right (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

The Theme for 2020 is Article 15 – 'Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.'

This includes being free to:

- Meet individual people and groups of friends
- Set up an organisation
- Join an organisation
- Take part in peaceful protest
- Come together to discuss the issues that affect their lives.

I encourage you to celebrate and raise awareness of National Child Protection Week, by 'Putting Children First', within the community in which you work, minister and live.

United Nations Convention on the rights of the child



A collaborative Children's Week Project between Meerlinga Young Children's Foundation Inc., the Department for Communities and the United Nations Association, WA Branch. Children's Week acknowledges UNICEF for kindly permitting the reproduction of their original text and poster design.



'Rights' are things that every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important.

Sometimes, we have to think about the rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm.

As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

Article 1
Everyone under 18 has these rights.

Article 2
All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3
All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 4
The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

Article 5
Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

Article 6
You have the right to be alive.

Article 7
You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognised by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

Article 8
You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.

Article 9
You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.

Article 10
If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.

Article 11
You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.

Article 12
You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 13
You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 14
You have the right to choose your own religion and

beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

Article 15
You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Article 16
You have the right to privacy.

Article 17
You have the right to get information that is important to your well being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Article 18
You have the right to be raised by your parent(s) if possible.

Article 19
You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 20
You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

Article 21
You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

Article 22
You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 23
You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

Article 24
You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 25
If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

Article 26
You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27
You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

Article 28
You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29
Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30
You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion – or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31
You have the right to play and rest.

Article 32
You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

Article 33
You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

Article 34
You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

Article 35
No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

Article 36
You have the right to protection from all kinds of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Article 37
No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel and harmful way.

Article 38
You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

Article 39
You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected, or badly treated.



NAPCAN
PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE



Meerilinga
promoting positive childhoods