



Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

Child Protection Week

5 – 11 September 2021

The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) was co-founded in 1987, when the issue of child abuse and neglect was a taboo topic. Napcan's purpose is to bring an awareness of child abuse and neglect and create safer communities for children.

Protecting children from abuse is a whole of community responsibility.



Napcan facilitates National Child Protection Week each year, as a means to create awareness and prevention. NAPCAN's National Child Protection week campaign aims to bring abuse and neglect out of the shadows and put child wellbeing on the national agenda.

The NAPCAN theme in 2021 for National Child Protection Week is adeptly titled:

*Every child, in every
community, needs a fair go*

EVERY CHILD IN EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A FAIR GO



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
5 - 11 September 2021

SUPPORTED BY: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NAPCAN PREVENT
CHILD ABUSE
& NEGLECT
Find out more
www.napcan.org.au

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This theme is all about the importance of the “bigger picture” in addressing child abuse and neglect.

Children can thrive and be healthy when they have what they need to develop well, however not every family has these resources. It is our collective responsibility as individuals, professionals, volunteers, and members of the community, to do what we can to support every child and family according to their needs.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph’s theme from the most recent 27th Chapter held in 2019, is ‘Bring me what you have’. This theme works beautifully with the Napcan messages of community working together for the protection of children and vulnerable persons.

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.

The theme of ‘*Every child, in every community, needs a fair go*’, is based on the framing research of the ‘Core Story for Early Childhood Development and Learning’. The research informs us that the environments in which children grow and learn, have a significant effect on children’s brain development, physical health, resilience, and long-term outcomes.

DEEP LISTENING

CULTURE KEEPS US SAFE

Grandmothers' Story: "As you may know, in Aboriginal culture, our country and its landscape are our classroom. We connect to country as we learn and grow into adults. Our country is always ready to teach our mob and to look after us. This painting shows two grandmothers (sisters) sitting around the campfire teaching the young girls and boys about growing up and walking in two worlds. Here you can see the two grandmothers, emu footprints, bush tucker and spinifex. The boys and girls are sitting around their campfires using deep listening to learn about country and being ready for the two worlds. The footprints are the grandmothers walking around."

'DEEP LISTENING' BY SHIRLEEN CAMPBELL, ALICE SPRINGS



This poster has been created for National Child Protection Week 2021 to support the theme:

"To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy".
NAPCAN thanks the artist for sharing her knowledge from First Nations culture on the importance of deep listening in creating strong communities for children. Please use this poster to begin conversations in your community about connection, culture and belonging.

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This 'Deep Listening' poster is just one of NAPCAN's themed posters for the 2021 campaign. 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](#).

NAPCAN have a week-long series of free webinars during National Child Protection Week. The webinars are based around the 2021 theme of 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go. To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.'

The keynote speakers for the opening launch of this special week, are the National Children's Commissioner Ms Anne Hollands, and the Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd). It will be a privilege to hear their insights during this webinar and you are encouraged to register for this event which is scheduled on Monday 6 September 2021, 10am – 10:30am. You can register for this opening launch, and any of the other webinars throughout the week, by 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 12 September 2021.

Child Protection Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children, including by priests, religious and lay people within the Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to the practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people, especially children and other people who are at risk. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.

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](#).

Bravehearts

Educate Empower Protect Our Kids



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 10 September.



May I invite you to join with me in making Australia safer for our children by supporting White Balloon Day on Friday 10th 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 fundraise 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

23 OCTOBER – 31 OCTOBER 2021

Children's Week is a national celebration of children and young people and focuses the attention of the wider community on children, their rights and achievements as well as acknowledging the right of children to enjoy childhood.

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 2021 is Article 15 – 'Children have the right to choose their own friends and safely connect with others.'

You can click [here](#) to find out more about Children's Week and what is happening in your State or Territory to celebrate this week long event.

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 any kind 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