Advancing and Securing the Human Rights of Children in Australia: How far have we come?

Australia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on 17 December 1990. Twenty two years on, we have recognition of children's human rights reflected in several important pieces of legislation and policy, both at the Commonwealth level and within state and territory jurisdictions. Rights language has entered the vocabulary of children's policy. Earlier this year, the Commonwealth Government announced the establishment of a National Children's Commissioner. There has been a formal recognition, through the National Apologies to the Stolen Generations, Forgotten Australians, and Former Child Migrants of the devastation caused by past violations of children's human rights.

This overview might suggest that great strides have been made in advancing and securing the human rights of children in Australia, yet in reality progress has been slow and tentative. Moreover, there remain serious challenges if children's human rights are to be fully recognised, advanced and secured. These challenges are both at a policy level and at a societal level.

This presentation will examine how far Australia has come in advancing and securing children's rights since 1990, focusing on some of the key issues that must be addressed if Australia is to be a society that both respects children's human rights and is fully inclusive of its youngest citizens.

12:30pm - 1:30pm - Presentation
1:30pm - 2:30pm - DCIA AGM

Light lunch and coffee and tea provided.

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