



DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNACIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI

19th November

**Defence for Children International Australia
and the Children's Policy Centre *invites you to***

AGM and Presentation by Dr Sharon Bessell

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.

Canberry/Springbank Room

The Crawford School of Public Policy

Australian National University

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Dr Sharon Bessell is Director of the Children's Policy Centre and senior lecturer at the Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University where she teaches in the area of social policy.

Sharon's current research interests revolve around issues of social justice and human rights, and focus on two broad areas. The first is social policy, social justice and the human rights of children, including children's participation and citizenship; child labour; child protection; support for children without parental care; children, communities and social capital; and quality education.

The second focus of Sharon's research is the gendered and generational dimensions of poverty. Sharon has a keen interest in research methodology and ethics, and has published widely on undertaking research with children. She has worked in Australia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Southern Africa as a researcher, with non-government organisations and as a consultant. Her research has focused on Australia, Indonesia and Fiji.



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