



CHILDREN & YOUNG  
PEOPLE COMMISSIONER



### Lowering the Voting Age to 16 Years

In September 2007, the ACT Standing Committee on Education, Training & Young People's Inquiry into the Eligible Voting Age recommended that "support for the proposal to lower the voting age to 16 be reconsidered by the ACT Legislative Assembly before the end of 2010".

To find out what the children and young people of Canberra thought about lowering the voting age to 16 years, in May 2009, the Children & Young People Commissioner (CYPC) distributed a survey through a number of local schools and youth services.

The survey was also distributed to members of the CYPC's *ACTkids eMail Network*.

The CYPS received just over 250 responses to the survey, with results showing that:

- 44% of children and young people think that people aged 16-17 are capable enough to vote in elections;
- 39% of children and young people think that people aged 16-17 should be able to vote in elections; and
- 74% of children and young people think it should not be compulsory for people aged 16-17 to vote in elections.

The CYPC will continue to support consideration of lowering the voting age.

For further information, please phone the CYPC on 6205 2222, or email at [ACTkids@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTkids@act.gov.au).



ACT HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION  
Australian Capital Territory

THE ACT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE  
COMMISSIONER IS ONE OF THREE COMMISSIONERS  
WITHIN THE ACT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

To contact the Children & Young People Commissioner:

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