

RIGHTS IN ACTION

A newsletter for ACT children and young people about their rights, safety, and wellbeing



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What's new?

- The Australian Government has introduced new rules for search engines. From 27 December 2025, search engines like Google, and Microsoft will need to have a system to check the age of people using an account. The idea is to protect children and young people from inappropriate content. Find out more at [Behind the News](#)

Did you know...

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child took 10 years to write. Many experts all over the world helped, including governments, organisations, lawyers, social workers, educators, religious leaders and health professionals.

Yuma! I hope you all enjoyed the school holidays and are staying warm through the frosty mornings. Welcome to July Rights in ACTION. This month we are exploring your right to have what is best for you prioritised by adults making decisions that affect you. Learn more about this right on page 2.

We celebrated NAIDOC Week at the Next Generation Expo. Learn more about this wonderful event on page 3.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue. I'd love to hear what you think. You can send me a message to share your favourite article, or some ideas about what you would like to see in the next issue.



YOUR RIGHT TO YOUR BEST INTERESTS

When adults in power make decisions, they must think about the impact on children and make sure you are protected.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child



What do we mean by best interests?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child says that what is best for children and young people must be a part of decisions that governments make. This means what is best for you and other children and young people must be considered as one of the most important points when adults make decisions that will affect you.

If something is in your best interests, it means all of your rights have been taken into account and the decision supports your physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development.

When are best interests considered?

This is true whether a decision is being made about one child/young person or a group of children and young people. It also includes decisions that will affect all children, such as choices the government makes that impact the environment, education, or safety.



What is best for you?

It sounds like a simple question, but there are a lot of things to think about. Adults making decisions should ask what you think. They also need to consider other things like your age, family, personality, and your cultural identity. Your other rights need to be thought about too, like your right to safety, health, and education.

This can be hard even when deciding what is best for one child/young person, but when decisions will affect groups of children and young people it can be even more complicated, because what is best for one child or young person might not be best for everyone. So, adults need to gather a lot of information to make sure their decisions are the best they can be.

When a decision is made that is not what you wanted, adults should explain to you why they made that decision. Governments should also make sure there is a way for their decisions to be reviewed to make sure the process they used to make the decision has properly considered children's best interests.





THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

6-13 JULY 2025

NAIDOC Week is held across Australia in the first week of July every year. It is to celebrate and recognise the history, cultures, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The theme this year was "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy" and it marked 50 years of this celebration.

This year was also the first Next Generation Expo.



Natalie and Jodie (your Commissioner) at our stall.

The Next Generation Expo 'For Youth, By Youth' was a brilliant event organised by Message Stick Foundation and was led by young people. The expo was held at Boomanulla Oval on the 10th of July and was a powerful opportunity for Canberra's First Nations youth to connect and share.

Jodie and her team had a stall among many other market stalls, live entertainment, and cultural activities. We had a wonderful time speaking with children and young people while they joined us to make a badge and have a lucky dip. Thank you to all the children and young people who took the time to talk with us.



A young person designing a badge.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP - 30 JULY



International Day of Friendship celebrates the way friendship brings people together, through peace and cultural understanding. Here are some ideas to celebrate.



1. Invite someone new to eat lunch with you or to play at lunchtime.



2. Draw a comic with all your friends as superheroes, showing their friendship superpowers.



3. Grab a friend and together make a poster or book about the story of your friendship with photos, drawings, and stories.



4. Design a 'Wanted' poster for each of your friends listing their great friendship qualities.

WINTER WARMER

Set up a pizza station at home with your family or friends and design your own pizzas!

Ingredients

- Grated mozzarella cheese.
- Ready-made pizza bases.
- Pizza sauce or tomato paste.
- Pizza toppings (like ham, capsicum, pineapple, onion, olives and mushrooms...it is your choice!)



Instructions

- Read the instructions on your pizza base packet and preheat the oven to high or 200 degrees.
- Cut the vegetables, ham, and other ingredients and put them in bowls next to the cheese and pizza sauce on the bench or table.
- Put each pizza base on a piece of baking paper and ask each person to make their own pizza.
- Start with the sauce, then sprinkle the cheese, and lastly the toppings.
- Ask an adult to put in the oven.
- Cook until the cheese is bubbling and starting to brown.

