

# RIGHTS IN ACTION

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



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## What's new?

- You can learn a song in Kriol that was written by students in Barunga, Northern Territory. The song is part of Busking for Change which aims to raise money to help Indigenous communities create books in their own languages. [Find out how to get your school involved!](#)

## Did you know...

- Some cultures believe your name can influence your future and success in life.
- The oldest name in history that is still in use is believed to be Kushim. This is the first name recorded in history and is 3,100 years old!



Hi! Welcome to the August edition of Rights in ACTION! This month is about your right to a name and nationality. Try the fun activities to celebrate your name.

The last few weeks have been very busy, so we thought you should know a bit about what we have been doing. Check out page 4 to learn about two events we have been part of recently.

We are also asking what makes you feel safe at school? Let us know on page 5 - this will help us with some research we have started this year.

*Jodie*



You have the right to a name and a nationality from birth, which is recorded and recognised by the government.

Article 7, Convention on the Rights of the Child

A name and nationality are key parts of our identity, and when governments recognise your name and nationality, it is part of making you visible to them.

When your birth is recorded, the government knows you exist, and you have a legal identity. This means you can get a lot of your other rights, like education and healthcare, and the government can make decisions knowing how many children live in the country, where they are, and how old they are.

Not having a legal identity means you may not be able to access your rights and can be more vulnerable to abuse. If you have no record of who you are or how old you are, then it is difficult to access the rights other children get and difficult for the government to protect you.

When your birth is recorded, this also records your nationality. You may inherit your parent's nationality, which will give you certain rights in that country. For example, as an Australian citizen you have the right to vote, attend school for free, and travel with an Australian passport.

Sometimes the name you are given at birth is not the name you want to use when you get older. In the ACT, you can change your given name/s on your birth certificate on your own from the age of 14 years old. If you are 12 or 13 years old, you can apply to change your name if both your parents agree or, if that is not possible, you can ask the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) for permission. If you are under 12 years old, your parents can apply to change your name for you if they both agree. If you are under 12 years old and want to change your name yourself, you need at least one parent to agree and also have to meet some very specific conditions.

Changing your given name/s when you are under 18 is free but you cannot change your surname. [You can find out more through Access Canberra.](#)

## Celebrate your name!

Each time someone uses your name, they acknowledge a part of who you are. Sometimes the name you are given when you are born is perfect for you, other times you need to choose another one, or you feel more connected to a nickname. Either way, the name you use should be celebrated because it is part of you! Here are some ways you can celebrate your name.

### HELLO MY NAME IS

Write an acrostic poem using your name (an acrostic poem is when the first letter of each line spells out a word).

### HELLO MY NAME IS

Design your own flag that represents you, your culture, your name and identity. You can put it up in your room!

### HELLO MY NAME IS

What is the story of your name? Why were you given this name, or why did you choose it? What does it say about you? You can also find out what it means and how old it is.

### HELLO MY NAME IS

In a group, draw a picture for each letter of your name but don't write the letters. Swap your drawings. Work out what letter each picture represents to spell the name and find out whose picture you have!



## Wear it Purple Day: Your passion, your pride!

By wearing purple, we can all demonstrate to rainbow children and young people that they are celebrated and respected. Wear it Purple Day was created by students in response to stories of bullying and harassment. It is now a movement of love and support.

Take part by wearing purple on Friday 30 August. [Find out more here.](#)

# Out and about with CYPC

One of the most important parts of Jodie's work is to listen to you! One way we do this is to be at events that children and young people are at so we can hear directly from you. This month we have been to CareersXpo and we held a roundtable discussion about listening to children and young people in out-of-home care.



CareersXpo is held every year for years 9-12 students to find out about study and career paths. We always go to talk about human rights careers and so we can ask students there about different human rights issues. This year we asked **'what makes you feel safe at school?'** Students wrote their answers on coloured paper and stuck them to our banners. We had lots of amazing responses. You can tell us what makes you feel safe at school too. Check out page 5!



Our recent Youth Advisor, Tayla, spoke to young people with lived experience of out-of-home care (OOHC) about how adults can listen better. This month we launched her report to adults who work in OOHC. Each adult made a commitment to improve the OOHC system, which they wrote on coloured cards. You can read the [Listen to Me report](#) here.



# What makes you feel safe at school?

At CareersXpo we spoke to 279 year 9-12 students about what makes them feel safe at school. We want to hear from students of all ages, so you can let us know too. Do you have a special person, place or subject that makes you feel safe? Is it routine, sport, or cultural celebrations?

Telling us what makes you feel safe will help us understand what adults need to do to make sure school is safe and feels safe to you.

You can write or draw in the space below then take a photo of this page and upload it at [actkids.act.gov.au/ytf](https://actkids.act.gov.au/ytf) or email us at [actkids@act.gov.au](mailto:actkids@act.gov.au).

