

RIGHTS IN ACTION

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



CONTENTS

Your right to good living conditions

Celebrating Children's Week

Fun activities to support native wildlife

Dates to look out for next month

Your invitation to the Big Birthday Bash

What's new?

- On 17 September 2025, a new law was passed in the ACT adding the right to housing to the ACT Human Rights Act 2004. This law will take effect in January 2027 to give the government time to get ready for the changes.

Did you know...

- Canberra has some of the cleanest air in the world. We are in the top 25 cities in the world for clean air!
- Ninety per cent of Australians living in urban areas have access to water that is clean, but there are some places in Southern and Western Australia where climate change has made the water not as good, and it needs improving.

Yuma! Welcome to October Rights in ACTION. This month we explore your right to good living conditions. There are also some highlights from our Children's Week celebrations.

Check out some upcoming events and important dates to keep in mind for November, including a special invitation to our Big Birthday Bash event, celebrating 35 years of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child! Tell your school to come celebrate with us!



Jodie



actkids@act.gov.au



02 6205 2222



actkids.act.gov.au



Your right to good living conditions

You have the right to a standard of living that supports your physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. The government must help families to do this if they need it.

Article 27, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

You have the right to a good standard of living, which supports your development. This includes things that support your physical health, mental health, and your spiritual wellbeing. During our Listening Tour last year, many of you shared worries about the cost of living. This included things like the cost of food and access to housing, so we know you are already interested in learning more about this right!

You need a home where you can rest and feel safe. Last year, many of you also shared concerns about people who are homeless. On 17 September 2025, housing was added as a right to the ACT Human Rights Act 2004. This is a really important step toward making sure everyone has a place to live. The change will come into effect in January 2027. Adding this right to our laws means that the government needs to consider this right when they make decisions.

Along with a home, you also need access to good food, clean water, and clothing. These things help keep you safe and healthy. It is your parents' responsibility to provide the things you need to the best of their ability. But sometimes it can be hard for parents to meet all these needs. So, the government also has a responsibility to help parents and carers do this.

We are running another listening tour this year, if you are interested in getting involved, check out page 3.



Children's Week 18-27 October

'Everyone should know about Children's Rights'

Children's Week is a very special week in Australia to celebrate children and your rights! There are events all over Australia to celebrate the achievements and contributions of children. The theme this year was 'Everyone should know about Children's Rights'. We were very busy meeting with children and young people in Canberra and attending events as part of the celebrations. Here are a few highlights!



Listening Tour

We launched our second annual Listening Tour during Children's Week. This will run until Universal Children's Day on 20 November. We listen to children and young people to find out what you wish adults knew about growing up in the ACT. Jodie really appreciates all the children and young people who have shared their ideas so far and is looking forward to all the tour dates still to come. Ask your teacher or coach to book a workshop if you would like to be involved this year. They can call us on [02 6205 2222](tel:0262052222) or email us at actkids@act.gov.au.

Children's Week Launch and Awards Ceremony - 22 October

This year, Jodie was very excited to be able to present another award for outstanding commitment to human rights and making a positive difference in the lives of others. There are so many wonderful children and young people doing amazing things across Canberra, which made it hard for her to choose just one to give her award to.



PlayFEST - 24 October

PlayFEST is a wonderful celebration that happens every year in Children's Week to highlight your right to play. This year, we set up an art station to celebrate children's right to self-expression. Children attending were asked to paint a picture responding to the question 'What do you love?' There were so many incredible paintings! Check out a few below.



Fun activities to support native wildlife



Make a bee drinking station

Find a container you can put in the garden and fill it with water. Make a place for the bees to perch so they can drink safely. You can put rocks, pebbles, marbles, or sticks into the container to make safe landing places for the bees to sit on while they drink.

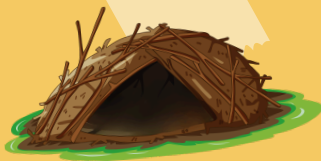


Build a bee hotel

There are native bees in Australia that do not live in a hive with other bees. They live on their own. They are called solitary bees and are important pollinators in our gardens.

You can make them a place to stay using materials you probably have at home.

Find more information and instructions at: happytoddlerplaytime.com/make-a-bee-hotel-with-kids/



Mini bush shelter

Make a mini shelter in your backyard. Gather different sized sticks and lean them against each other to create a hut. It is all about balance. Only use fallen branches, never break them from trees.

Once you have your structure, you can use fallen bark or leaves to cover the shelter and make it cozy.



Make a bird feeder

Make a snack for birds who visit your garden using peanut butter, apple, birdseed, string, and a straw.

Learn how at:

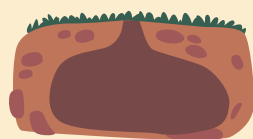
messylittlemonster.com/2020/12/apple-bird-feeder.html

Draw your Dream Home



Match the animal to its home and food.

1. Draw a line from each animal to the picture of their home.
2. Next, draw another line from their home to something the animal likes to eat.



Dates to look out for next month

November

13

World Kindness Day - 13 November

A special day to remember the importance of being kind to each other. Why not try one of these kind acts:

- compliment someone
- open the door for someone
- help someone with a chore.

If every Australian did something kind today, that would be more than 25 million acts of kindness!



November

13-19

Transgender Awareness Week - 13 to 19 November

Transgender Awareness Week is a special time to celebrate people who are transgender, gender diverse, or non-binary. It is a wonderful time to celebrate pride in identity. Research shows that 96% of trans-diverse young people experience abuse resulting from transphobia. That's why it is important to be kind, speak up, and be a good ally.

Why not use this week to celebrate trans- and gender-diverse pride, learn more about what it means to be trans, and how to be a good ally at minus18.org.au/articles/how-to-be-a-trans-ally.

Statistic from minus18.



November

20

Universal Children's Day

Universal Children's Day is a special day that marks the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This year, we celebrate these rights being in place for 35 years!

In the ACT we have even more reason to celebrate as it is the 20th year you have had your very own Children and Young People Commissioner, someone whose job it is to make your views heard. Celebrate Children's Day this year by attending our Big Birthday Bash. Learn more on page 7.





Children's Rights Big Birthday Bash



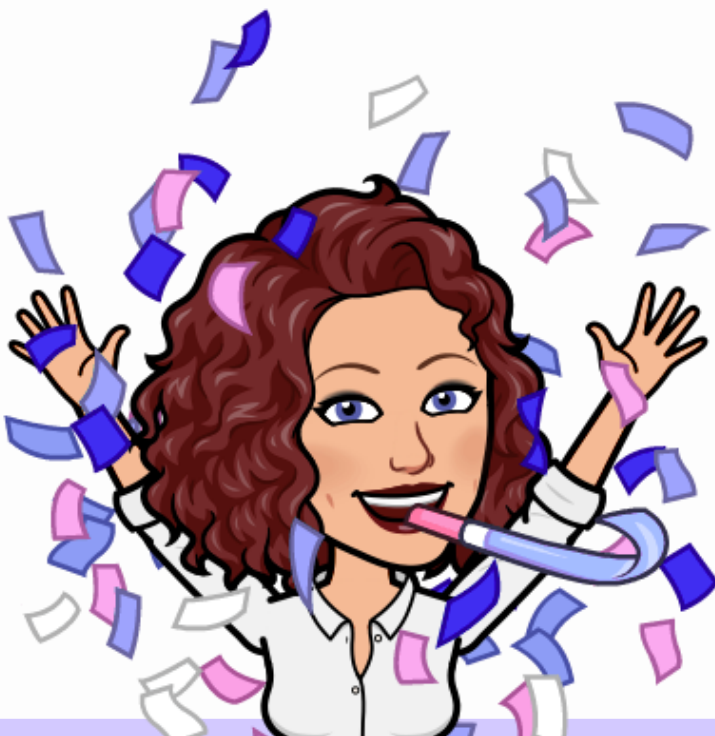
20 November 10am - 2pm

Weston Neighbourhood Hall at Weston Community Hub,
6 Gritten Street Weston (Entry on Hilder Street).



Join us to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 years since the ACT established the Children and Young People Commissioner role, and the 10th year Jodie Griffiths-Cook has celebrated this day as the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner.

There will be performances, fun activities for children and young people, and special guests! Come celebrate with us!



RSVP by Friday 14/11/2025
at actkids@act.gov.au

If your organisation would like to hold a stall to provide free activities, please contact us.