



# RIGHTS IN ACTION

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



## What's new?

There seems to be such a lot happening in the news lately. Here are a few of the stories that caught my eye!

- Scientists say we will have another wet summer, with the La Nina weather pattern expected to continue into 2023. [Read more here.](#)
- We are celebrating Book Week by dressing up and taking part in readings at libraries in Canberra. The next one is in Gungahlin on Friday 26th August. [Click here for more info.](#)
- Chris Hemsworth (also known as Thor God of Thunder) and his brothers Liam and Luke, are giving money to a group of scientists who are trying to bring the extinct Tasmanian Tiger back to life! [Read more here.](#)
- This month, the National Museum opened the Tim and Gina Fairfax Discovery Centre, full of fun and interesting things to do, especially for children. [To book a visit, click here.](#)

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Hi everyone,

Welcome to the August edition of Rights in ACTION.

We have been busy in a good way these last couple of weeks! We have been going to events to have some fun and hear your ideas about how to make Canberra better for children and young people. It has been wonderful to have so many interesting conversations while out and about.

We've heard from many of you about racism in the ACT, but if you haven't had a chance to have your say, there's still plenty of time. You can fill out the online survey or send me a message using any of the contact details below.

I genuinely love hearing from you, so feel free to get in touch. You can tell me about issues that are important to you, share your ideas to improve Canberra, or just say hi!

*Jodie*



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[ACTKids\\_CYPC](#)



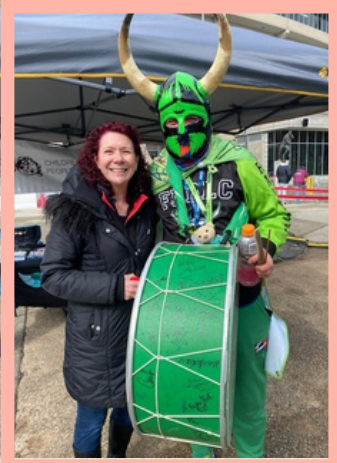
[ACTKids@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTKids@act.gov.au)



Young Thinker Forum  
[actkids.act.gov.au](http://actkids.act.gov.au)

# Out and about with the Commissioner

The best thing about my job is speaking to children and young people in person. It's an important part of shaping what I tell government and other organisations about the things we need to do to make Canberra better for children and young people. It's also really fun! Here's what my team and I have been doing over the past couple of weeks.



## The Raiders

We were at the entrance of GIO Stadium to greet Raiders fans for the Raiders v Dragons game on Sunday 14 August. We were there to talk with people about the Commission and our survey on racism in the ACT. We met so many people and had a great, but very cold, day!

## CareersXpo

CareersXpo was an amazing couple of days. We were very lucky to meet hundreds of students. We chatted about work in human rights as well as our consultation on racism. Our activities led to some great conversations about racism in the ACT and what needs to change to reduce it.

1818 students voted in our ball poll, which asked if we can stop racism. 1516 believe we can and 302 said we can't. Lots of interesting discussions took place when people voted.

185 students answered the question of what can be done to reduce racism. There's more information about that on the next page.



## Expo: Unleash the Resilience of Multicultural Canberra

We were also at the Expo: Unleash the Resilience of Multicultural Canberra. It was a very interesting day with lots of presentations. We learned tai chi and spoke to lots of community members about celebrating multiculturalism, addressing racism and the role of the Human Rights Commission.





## Your ideas to reduce racism in the ACT

Since March we have been speaking to children and young people throughout the ACT about your experiences and views about racism. Through face-to-face conversations, our online survey and chatting to you at events, we have heard from literally hundreds of you!

At the CareersXpo last week, we asked students what should be done about racism. They wrote their ideas on coloured cards, which we hung on ribbons at our stall. By the end of the Xpo, 185 students had their say on what should be done. Here are some of the ideas we received.

**SHOW RESPECT TO  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

**EDUCATE! RACISM IS  
TAUGHT THEREFORE WE  
CAN EDUCATE THE  
IMPORTANCE OF  
INCLUSION FROM A  
YOUNG AGE.**

**EXPOSURE TO REAL  
RACE ISSUES IN OUR  
COMMUNITY, NO MORE  
BLISSFUL IGNORANCE**

**INFORM PEOPLE ABOUT  
HISTORY AND PRESENT  
RATHER THAN GET ANGRY  
AND UPSET AS THAT CAN  
MAKE PEOPLE DEFENSIVE  
RATHER THAN GET THEM  
READY TO LEARN.**

**TALK TO PEOPLE**

**REPRESENTATION.  
HAVING VISIBLE PEOPLE  
FROM ALL COMMUNITIES  
ADVOCATING AND  
MAKING DECISIONS FOR  
THEIR OWN  
COMMUNITIES.**

**WE CAN STAND UP FOR  
WHAT WE BELIEVE IN AND  
STOP SOMEONE IF YOU  
SEE ANYONE BEING  
TREATED UNFAIRLY  
BECAUSE OF THEIR  
BACKGROUND.**

**INTEGRATE INDIGENOUS  
STORIES, WORKSHOPS  
AND AWARENESS IN  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS!**

**AN ANTI-RACISM  
STRATEGY!**

# Celebrating book week



Jodie got involved in Book Week by visiting some libraries as the guest reader at Story Time. She read 'What do you call your Grandma' while dressed up as her purple-haired Nanna!

The story is about all the different words we use around the world for our grandmas. What do you call yours?



## Indigenous Literacy Day



Celebrating  
Stories,  
Cultures and  
Languages

7 September



We'll be celebrating Indigenous Literacy Day on Wed 7 September and you can too.

Tune into the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's National Digital Event to share stories, songs and language with a group of children in the Northern Territory.

[Click here to find out more!](#)