

# Young People's Rights

It's important both young people and those who work with them are aware of their rights and the frameworks that have been established to support those rights. Below is a brief overview of some of those services and mechanisms that protect the basic rights of young people in the ACT.

## **Disability and Community Services and Children and Young People Commissioner**

---

The Commissioner considers complaints and encourages providers to make improvements to services and to ensure service standards are met. The role also consults, seeks advice and encourages the participation of children and young people in decision making.

**Phone:** (02) 6205 2222

**TTY:** (02) 6205 1666

**Email:** [human.rights@act.gov.au](mailto:human.rights@act.gov.au)

**Mail:** GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

**Web:** [www.hrc.act.gov.au](http://www.hrc.act.gov.au)

## **ACT Health Services Commissioner**

---

The Health Services Commissioner's mandate is to deal with complaints about the provision of health services and services for older people, and complaints about contraventions of the privacy principles or of a consumer's right of access to his or her health records under the *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997*.

**Phone:** (02) 6205 2222

**Email:** [human.rights@act.gov.au](mailto:human.rights@act.gov.au)

**Mail:** PO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

**Web:** [www.healthcomplaints.act.gov.au](http://www.healthcomplaints.act.gov.au)

## **ACT Human Rights Commission**

---

Promotes improvement and develops awareness of human rights. Also deals with complaints regarding discrimination, health services, disability services, services for older people, community services and services for children and young people.

**Phone:** (02) 6205 2222

**TTY:** (02) 6205 1666

**Email:** [human.rights@act.gov.au](mailto:human.rights@act.gov.au)

**Mail:** GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

**Web:** [www.hrc.act.gov.au](http://www.hrc.act.gov.au)

## **Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC)**

---

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissions responsibilities include education and public awareness, discrimination and human rights complaints, human rights compliance and policy and legislative development. The Commission is responsible for administering the following federal laws: Age Discrimination Act (2004), Disability Discrimination Act (1992), Racial Discrimination Act (1975), Sex Discrimination Act (1984) and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act (1986). The Commission have resources for children, young people and teachers on human rights, discrimination and social justice.

**Phone:** (02) 9284 9600

**Complaints Infoline:** 1300 656 419

**TTY:** 1800 620 241

**Web:** [www.hreoc.gov.au](http://www.hreoc.gov.au)

### **Public Advocate of the ACT (PA ACT)**

---

Has a range of statutory functions and powers with respect to children and young people, and adults with a mental illness or impaired decision making ability, who require protection from abuse, exploitation or neglect. Generally promote, and individually represent, the best interests of people who are not able to protect or represent themselves.

**Phone:** (02) 6207 0707

**Email:** [pa@act.gov.au](mailto:pa@act.gov.au)

**Mail:** PO Box 1001, Civic Square ACT 2608

**Web:** [www.oca.act.gov.au](http://www.oca.act.gov.au)

### **United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child**

---

Australia is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. The Convention sets out these rights in 54 articles and two Optional Protocols.

**Web:** [www.unicef.org/crc](http://www.unicef.org/crc)