

Member Profile, November 2009: National Children's and Youth Law Centre

The NCYLC is Australia's national community legal centre dedicated to representing the rights and interests of children and young people. The Centre provides advice and information about the law to children and young people and also works with those who support and advocate for children.



The non-profit organisation was established in June 1993 with a three-year seeding grant from the Australian Youth Foundation. It now receives funding from the Federal Attorney General's Department, but relies on its volunteers and supporters to maintain its services and advocacy for children.

Since its inception the Centre has developed a national profile and is recognised as one of few peak national bodies advocating for children and young people. The Centre Director James McDougall said it is a key provision of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) that children should have the right to accessible information including information about their rights and how to enforce them.

"Children and young people are often denied their rights," said James. "We all need to support the participation of children in decisions that affect them. This includes calling for systemic change that will ensure that the rights of children are recognised and given due respect."

On 20 November NCYLC will join ARACY, the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, UNICEF Australia and some of the nation's leading practitioners, policy makers and researchers to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the UNCROC.

"This event will provide an opportunity for us to reflect on what more needs to be done to implement the Convention in Australia today," said James. "We're very excited to be taking part in this innovative event."

In providing advocacy, education and information on human rights issues for children and young people in Australia, the NCYLC works to reflect the UNCROC, in particular articles 12, 13 and 17, summarised as: Children have the right to information, freedom of thought and to be heard. As the NCYLC seeks to be responsive to children's preferences, it has developed websites to provide information and advice that is relevant, timely and helpful. Check out [CROC](#) and [LawStuff](#).

More information on the National Children and Youth Law Centre can be found at www.ncylc.org.au.

To learn more about the benefits of ARACY membership, or becoming an ARACY Member, visit our [website](#) or contact our [Membership Officer](#).