



**Early Childhood Australia**  
A voice for young children

**OUR  
VISION:  
EVERY  
YOUNG  
CHILD IS  
THRIVING  
AND  
LEARNING**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

31 March 2015



**Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission**

### **National Children's Commissioner launches significant children's rights resource**

The National Children's Commissioner, Ms Megan Mitchell, has today launched a document that takes another significant stride for the development of the rights of children, 25 years after Australia signed on to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The *Supporting young children's rights: Statement of intent (2015–2018)* document has been developed by Early Childhood Australia, in conjunction with the Australian Human Rights Commission, and highlights the central role of children's rights for quality teaching and learning.

Speaking at the Lady Gowrie Love Street Community Kindergarten, which is also celebrating its 75th anniversary, the National Children's Commissioner said that the statement of intent outlined concrete steps to reinforce children's rights in daily practice.

'The early years are critical for laying the foundations for the sound development of a child. Building a strong foundation in supporting the rights of children in the early years increases the probability of positive outcomes.'

CEO of Early Childhood Australia, Sam Page, praised the practical nature of the report—highlighting its usefulness for young children, educators, families, the sector and the Commissioner.

'The statement is designed to support teachers, educators, the community, families and children to ethically and authentically support the rights of children in early childhood; to understand and implement child rights education in early childhood education and care settings, and to advocate for children's rights.'

Using Ms Mitchell's inaugural *Children's Rights Report 2013* to Parliament, ECA was able to highlight five key themes, and these are:

- The right to be heard
- freedom from violence, abuse and neglect
- the opportunity to thrive
- engaged civics and citizenship
- action and accountability.

The Australian *Early Years Learning Framework* states that ‘early childhood educators will reinforce in their daily practice the principles laid out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child’ (2009, p. 5). In 2014, Early Childhood Australia worked with our members, child rights advocates, academics and experts in the sector to develop *Supporting young children’s rights: statement of intent (2015–2018)*.

You can download a copy of *Supporting young children’s rights: Statement of intent (2015–2018)* by [clicking here](#). Hard copies are available for purchase on the [ECA shop](#).

### **Contact**

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### **Reference**

Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations (DEEWR). (2009). *Belonging, being and becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.