

The Australian Children's Rights Media Awards

A Message From DCI-Australia National Patron, broadcaster and columnist, Mr. Phillip Adams

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child will be ten years old this November. It is an anniversary worthy of special celebration.

The Convention represents a landmark advance in respect for children. It recognises under 18 year olds as human beings with human rights that must be valued and taken seriously.

The Convention calls upon nations to make sure that laws, services and practices give effect to children's rights.

Our governments are accountable for how Australia measures up against those obligations, but it is equally essential that we can boast a public that is properly informed about children's rights and the Convention.

More needs to be done in Australia to promote the Convention because there are unfortunately still too many people in our community who misunderstand the Convention. Some even see it as a threat to family life when nothing could be further from the truth.

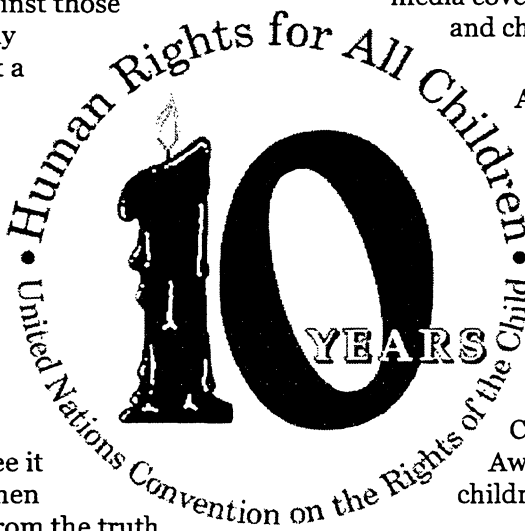
Given my heavy involvement in all forms of broadcasting, you won't be surprised that I am convinced that the media has a pivotal role to play in raising the level of our public understanding.

That is why I am particularly proud to be the National Patron of DCI-Australia.

DCI-Australia champions children's rights, and it is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Convention by launching a series of media awards to recognise and encourage high quality media coverage of both the Convention and children's rights in Australia.

I really think that DCI-Australia has come up with a constructive and creative strategy for improving our understanding of children's rights and the Convention. True to the spirit and deeds of DCI-Australia, our awards will help make Australia a better place for children.

Please support the Children's Rights Media Awards. The sure winners are our children.



CROC 10th Anniversary

Sir William Deane has agreed to be Patron-in-Chief of the CROC10 Network. This growing network of NGOs is working to organise activities and events to highlight the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC). The 10th anniversary is an ideal opportunity to promote the ideals and aspirations of the Convention to young people and to the community as a whole.

Many network organisations are holding public events to celebrate the 10th anniversary in Australia. Celebrations will continue

throughout next year, to recognise Australia's ratification (17 December 1990) and the declaration in Parliament (on 13 January 1993) that CROC is within the scope of HREOC. The Network is also planning national essay competition for next year.

A calendar of CROC 10 events is on the Websites of DCI, NAPCAN and other Network members. The CROC 10 logo (opposite) is available for use by any organisation which is organising events or publishing material about CROC (please contact DCI).