

NATIONAL CHILD & YOUTH FORUM

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH 2018 | 3PM-4.30PM | FORUM THEATRE, ARTS WEST
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



Australian
Human Rights
Commission



The National Child and Youth Forum was co-hosted by the University of Melbourne's Children's Lives Research Initiative and the National Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell.

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Thanks to the following organisations who have provided support to the research process and the Forum preparations (in alphabetical order):

ABC Behind the News

Anglicare Western Australia

Collingwood All Stars Basketball Association

Columba Catholic College Charters Towers

Fawkner Primary School

Human Rights Commission

Jesuit Social Services

Leongatha Netball and Football Club

Melbourne Boomers

UNICEF Australia

University of Melbourne team: Lisa Gibbs, Hannah Morrice, Katitza Marinkovic, Lauren Carpenter, Alana Pirrone.



ABOUT

The University of Melbourne and the National Children's Commissioner worked with teams of child and teenage co-researchers across Australia to co-develop surveys based on kids' rights and opportunities to contribute in their daily lives. The Kids Contribute and the Kids' Rights stories and related surveys were aired by partner ABC Behind the News. Over 33,000 children and teenagers participated in the surveys overall, providing significant insights into the views and experiences of Australian children and teenagers.

The National Child and Youth Forum is an opportunity for the young researchers to present their key research messages and recommendations for action to a panel of influential Australians in relevant sectors.

PRESENTERS

These young presenters represent a team of over 80 child and teenage co-researchers from across Australia. (In order of appearance):

- **Daniella Nagnda**
- **Logan Valentine**
- **Syd Greenacre**
- **Ayuen Akot**
- **Charlie Gough**
- **Kaitlin Gough**
- **Adol Achol**
- **Awien Kuel**
- **Emma Bekhit**
- **Harper Geary**
- **Rory Stevens**
- **Finn Corr**
- **Achol Achol**
- **Matisse Chalkey**
- **Arek Akot**
- **Margaret Akol**
- **Lulu Kheder**
- **Angus Ford**
- **and pre-prepared clips from a team of Sydney co-researchers**

PANELLISTS

Megan Mitchell (Panel Chair)

National Children's Commissioner,
Australian Human Rights Commission

Eva Massey

UNICEF Young Ambassador

Josh Brittain

UNICEF Young Ambassador

Derek McCormack

A/Executive Director,
Raising Children Network

Sarah Larsen

Journalist, Behind the News, ABC

Dennis Yarrington

President, Australian Primary
Principals Association

Nadine Liddy

National Coordinator, Multicultural
Youth Advocacy Network

Madeleine Garrick

Basketball Player, Melbourne Boomers
& Australian Opals

AGENDA

Master of Ceremonies: Professor Lisa Gibbs, Chair of the Children's Lives Research Initiative and Director of the Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program, University of Melbourne

15.00	Welcome address	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor James McCluskey AO
	Acknowledgement of Country	Brent Watkins
15.10	Research background to the Forum	Professor Lisa Gibbs
	Role of Human Rights Commission and Panel introduction	Ms Megan Mitchell, National Children's Commissioner
15.15	Presentations from young researchers and targeted responses from panel members	
16.00	Discussion of issues raised, including opportunity for audience contribution	
16.25	Final response and commitment	Ms Megan Mitchell, National Children's Commissioner
16.30	Close	Professor Lisa Gibbs

RESEARCH FINDINGS



The Kids Contribute results showed that:

10,817 children



99%

of children and teenagers were contributing at **home** and at **school**, and many were contributing in their **community** as well.

The results showed that children valued opportunities to contribute in the places they **live**, **learn** and **play**.



Approximately half reported that they receive pocket money but they were more likely to be motivated to contribute by the **rewards** of feeling proud and helping others.

Children and teenagers who reported higher levels of contributing also showed **higher levels of resilience**.



The results revealed clear **gender differences**.

Girls were more likely to report **contributing more often**, received **less monetary** rewards, and showed higher levels of **resilience**.



The Kids' Rights results showed that:

22,700 children



most children felt that their rights were being met in their lives most of the time (ranging from 79% to 96% for each right)

The top three rights selected by children as most important to them were:



TO FEEL SAFE



TO BE CARED FOR AND HAVE A HOME



TO BE ABLE TO BREATHE CLEAN AIR AND DRINK CLEAN WATER.

These top three were consistent across all subgroups, with the exception of older children who ranked 'getting an education' third.

When considering which rights were true for them in their own lives, they were least likely to say that they: **can get accurate information when needed; are treated fairly; or can have a say about things that are important to them.**



The most common place that children reported learning about their rights was at **school**, followed by **home**. A greater proportion of older children and children who did not speak English at home reported learning about their rights **online**.



A greater proportion of **girls** (compared to boys) felt that they could **participate in decisions** that affect them at home and school,



whilst a greater proportion of **boys** felt they had **more control online** compared to girls.

For further information contact **Hannah Morrice**, Research Fellow, Jack Brockhoff
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