

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S CHARTER

A Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Australia

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) is undertaking a joint project with the Australian Youth Foundation to develop a Charter of Rights for children and young people in Australia based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Charter will be drawn up in the form of draft legislation to both protect and enhance the rights of children and young people.

The Project is being undertaken in four stages:

Stage one – the production of a Report and draft Charter.

Stage two – holding consultations around the country with young people and those who work with them to both promote the concept of the Charter and to get feedback on the terms of the draft Charter

Stage three – the production of a final version of the Charter based on the feedback obtained from the consultations

Stage four – the public launch of the final charter

The project aims to foster debate about the role of a Charter of Rights for children and young people in Australia and to develop a policy framework for implementing such a Charter.

As part of the project , we will be seeking the support of both the Commonwealth and state and territory governments for the implementation of the Charter.

*The Senior Project Officer is Nivek Thompson.
If you would like to know more about the Charter,
call Nivek at the NCYLC on (02) 398 7488*



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**Oz Child
Information Service**

Please send a sample copy of Nexus and list of journals indexed

Name

Organisation

Address

Tel Fax

RETURN TO: Oz Child Information Service
 PO Box 1310, South Melbourne, Vic 3205



Oz Child Information Service

The Oz Child Information Service (formerly NCBA Information Service) is a comprehensive, efficient and personalised service designed specifically to meet the information needs of human service professionals, researchers and managers in the field of child and family welfare. It provides up-to-date information, which is targeted, in-depth and easily accessible.

The Service has been operating since 1983, and has built up a valuable and significant collection and a solid reputation for the provision of an efficient and speedy response to the needs of its clients.

In addition to the approximately 180 workers within Oz Child, the Information Service also provides for the information needs of over one hundred external subscribers, agencies and individuals, located throughout Australia. The Service is specifically designed to assist workers and students in remote areas.

The key aim of the Oz Child Information Service is to provide access to current and useful information, as quickly and simply as possible, to anyone working with children and families or studying in this area.

The Collection

- **Journals** – there are approximately 120 journal subscriptions, from Australia and overseas, and since the service began, the abstracts of all relevant articles have been added to the Service's database, thus building a very strong information resource. The journal collection includes some material which is held nowhere else in Victoria, and in a few cases, in Australia. Back issues of all journals acquired by the Service are retained and their contents accessible via the database.
- **Books** – this is a very targeted collection of 5000 books which provides a solid complement to the journals. All books are available for loan.
- **Videos** – a wide range of subject areas are included in this collection of around 250 videos. All are available for loan.

The subject areas covered in all parts of the collection include the following:

- ▶ *child abuse/protection*
- ▶ *child/family legal issues*
- ▶ *adoption/fostering/substitute care*
- ▶ *child development*
- ▶ *child/adolescent psychology*
- ▶ *family counselling/psychotherapy*
- ▶ *early childhood*
- ▶ *child rearing and parenting*
- ▶ *social work/management*
- ▶ *domestic violence*
- ▶ *family relationships*
- ▶ *child health/disabilities*

The Services

Information Service subscribers are located throughout Australia, some as far away as Western Australia and far north Queensland. Therefore, the services are provided almost entirely by telephone, mail and fax.

NEXUS is the Information Service's principal vehicle for the dissemination of information. It is a monthly publication which contains abstracts, created by the Information Service staff, of over 200 articles drawn from the current issues of journals from Australia and overseas. These abstracts are grouped under broad subject categories, and each has a number of keywords attached so that readers can quickly ascertain which articles may be relevant to their work or study. **Photocopies** of the full text of the selected articles can then be requested.

Books and Videos recently added to the collection are listed in *Nexus*, or special subject lists.

Database searches – can be requested by subscribers who want information on specific topics. A search is then performed on the total database which includes, as well as all books and videos, the cumulated resource of journal articles indexed for *Nexus* over many years. For example, a subscriber may request material on the effects of divorce on children – a database search would be conducted and a printout of the abstracts of all relevant material held in the collection would be produced. As with *Nexus*, the requestor can then ask for the full text of the articles, or borrow the books/videos which best meet his/her needs.

