

A National Children's Plan

What's it all about?

The National Children's Plan is about making sure that you can **grow, learn, be safe, happy, supported, included, and have your views heard** - these are your 'rights'.

Rights

1. promises that the Australian government has made to children and young people.
2. things that all children and young people deserve.



The Plan
doesn't exist yet,
but it should

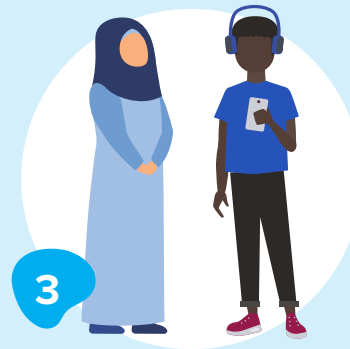
What are the main ideas of the Plan?



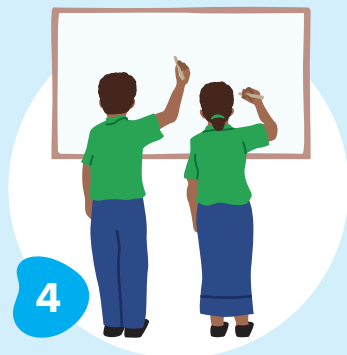
Your rights and experiences **matter** when adults make decisions that are about you or affect you.



You should always be treated with **respect**, and you have the right to **have a say** in decisions that are about you or affect you. Adults have the responsibility to listen and take you seriously.



All children and young people have the **same rights**. Everyone should be treated fairly. Your gender, sexuality, age, race and religion don't take away any of your rights.



Governments should **support** you, your family, and your community to have what you need. This includes being able to learn, at school or at home.



Adults should make sure that if you need **extra support**, you can get it when you need it. For example, more help from a teacher in school, or help if you feel unsafe at home.



We respect and support the right of **First Nations peoples** to have control over their own lives. This is called 'self-determination'. When this happens, children's lives are better.



The Plan will have a special focus on the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people who need extra support to achieve their rights.

Why do we need the Plan?

For many children and young people, Australia is a great country to grow up in. But sadly, not everyone has this experience.

The Plan will make children and young people a **focus** for adults. It will help create a better childhood and future for **all** children and young people in Australia.



How will children and young people be involved?

You can be involved in all steps of the Plan. This includes creating it, carrying it out, and seeing that it's working.

Adults will support you to take part in the Plan in a way that is safe and makes sense to you.

How will we keep track of the Plan?

There will be a 'Scorecard' (like a school report) to check in on what governments are doing to achieve the actions set out in the Plan.

Adults and organisations whose job is to support children's rights will:

- ✓ help to make sure governments are doing what they have said they will do
- ✓ help you to speak up about your rights and share your views on whether the Plan is working.



We all need to work together to
make Australia the best place for
children and young people!

An initiative of the Australian Child Rights Taskforce. Developed in 2023.

The Taskforce thanks Howard Choo (Save the Children and 54 reasons), Dr Georgina Dimopoulos (Southern Cross University) and John Livingstone (UNICEF Australia) for their roles in developing this 'child-friendly' document.

Thank you especially to the 54 reasons young advisors for their valuable input and involvement.

For more information about a National Children's Plan, including detailed information for Australian governments and adults and organisations who work with children, please visit the Taskforce's website: <https://childrightstaskforce.org.au>.