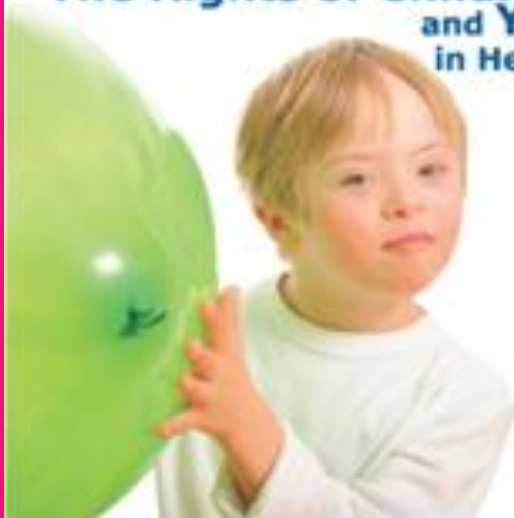


# DEVELOPING AN AUSTRALIAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HEALTHCARE SERVICES



Charter on  
**The Rights of Children  
and Young People**  
in Healthcare Services  
in Australia



## Authors:

Elizabeth Chatham

Elizabeth Harnett

Lynn Gillam

Joyce Murphy

Paul Watson

Judith Duncan

Les White

Presented by Virginia Binns



CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITALS  
AUSTRALASIA

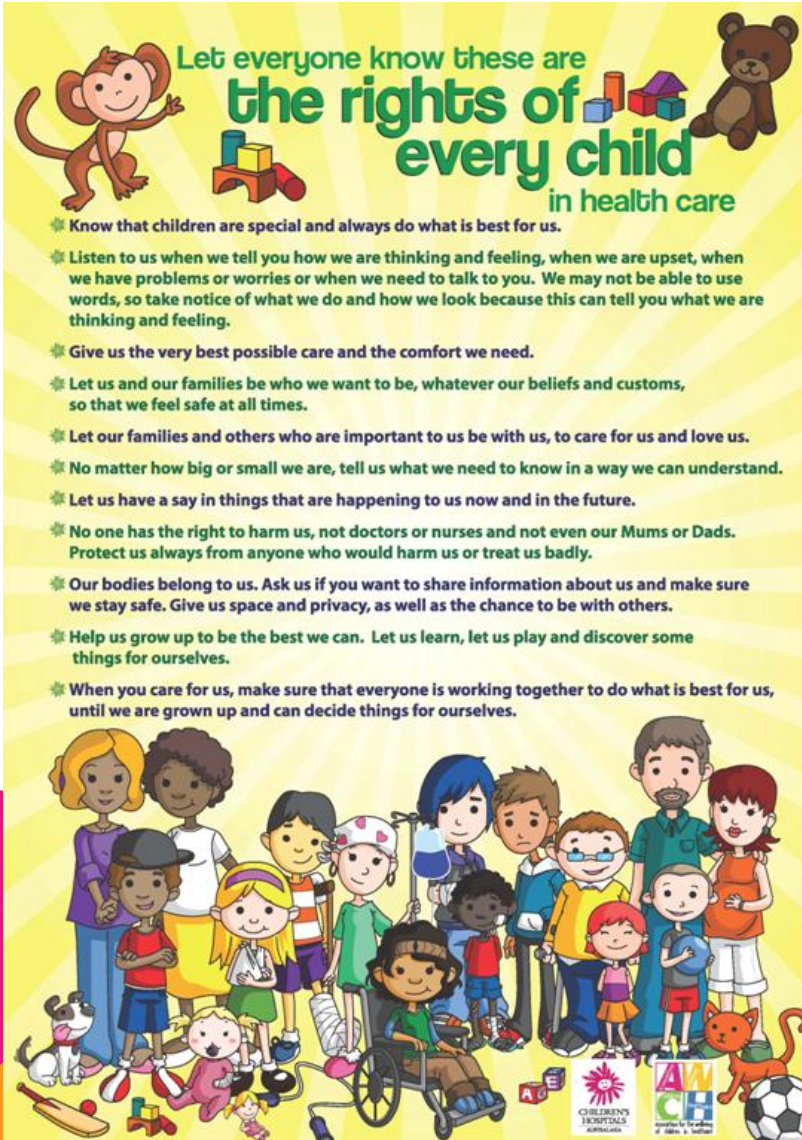
# Why a separate Charter on children's and young people's rights?

- Children and young people experience illness, injury and disability differently to adults
- They lack political and economic power in society
- They are vulnerable because of their developmental immaturity
- Aimed at healthcare professionals

# Development of the Charter


- CHA convened an Expert Reference Group; sub-committee oversaw development of the Charter
- Based on:
  - the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights
  - the New Zealand Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights
  - the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and
  - the Charter of the European Association for Children in Hospital.
- Separate Charter for Australia and New Zealand to respect the different needs of the Indigenous peoples of the two countries
- Broad consultation with key stakeholders and CHA member organisations

# Rights posters for children and young people



Let everyone know these are  
**the rights of every child**  
in health care

- ✦ Know that children are special and always do what is best for us.
- ✦ Listen to us when we tell you how we are thinking and feeling, when we are upset, when we have problems or worries or when we need to talk to you. We may not be able to use words, so take notice of what we do and how we look because this can tell you what we are thinking and feeling.
- ✦ Give us the very best possible care and the comfort we need.
- ✦ Let us and our families be who we want to be, whatever our beliefs and customs, so that we feel safe at all times.
- ✦ Let our families and others who are important to us be with us, to care for us and love us.
- ✦ No matter how big or small we are, tell us what we need to know in a way we can understand.
- ✦ Let us have a say in things that are happening to us now and in the future.
- ✦ No one has the right to harm us, not doctors or nurses and not even our Mums or Dads. Protect us always from anyone who would harm us or treat us badly.
- ✦ Our bodies belong to us. Ask us if you want to share information about us and make sure we stay safe. Give us space and privacy, as well as the chance to be with others.
- ✦ Help us grow up to be the best we can. Let us learn, let us play and discover some things for ourselves.
- ✦ When you care for us, make sure that everyone is working together to do what is best for us, until we are grown up and can decide things for ourselves.



CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS AUSTRALIA  
AW  
Association for the safety of children in healthcare



young people's healthcare rights  
our rights are:

- ✦ what's best for US.
- ✦ express our views respectfully, be HEARD and have something done about it.
- ✦ use, and receive the BEST available health care.
- ✦ be treated with RESPECT in regard to our values, beliefs and culture. we have a right to be us.
- ✦ be with and guided by our FAMILY, unless this is against our best interests.
- ✦ be INVOLVED in making decisions that affect us.
- ✦ be PROTECTED from harm.
- ✦ have PRIVATE and confidential information.
- ✦ education, rest, play, creative ACTIVITIES and recreation.
- ✦ planned COORDINATED health care
- ✦ be FULLY informed, ask questions and be given answers about all matters concerning us.

be in the know



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