



## **NSW kids to celebrate Children's Week**

Thousands of younger children across NSW will this year be involved in activities organised by schools, childcare centres, play groups, libraries, cultural and community groups during Children's Week (22-30 October, 2011).

"There are many people already organising events around NSW that focus on language and literacy, health, sport and recreation, the arts and science, as well as children's cultural, social and emotional needs," said Ms Jennifer Evans, the Chair, NSW Children's Week Committee.

"It is important that as a society we give strong messages on the importance of childhood and having a good start in life, so it is fantastic to see the enthusiasm for having a Children's Week in NSW."

"It's also a great opportunity for younger children to be able to display their talents, skills and achievements and simply celebrate the earlier years of childhood," Ms Evans said.

The NSW Children's Week Committee was re-established this year and they have launched an official website ([www.nswchildrensweek.org.au](http://www.nswchildrensweek.org.au)) that provides information and a coordination point for a diverse range of events and activities.

The NSW Children's Week Committee is comprised of the Australian Red Cross, NSW Commission for Children and Young People, Network of Community Activities, Community Connections Solutions Australia, Ethnic Child Care, Family and Community Services Cooperative, NSW Family Day Care Association, Playgroup NSW and Community Child Care Co-operative. Organisations are being encouraged to help 'celebrate the right of children to enjoy childhood' and register their Children's Week events on the official website. Some of the major NSW Children's Week events planned so far include:

- **As Eye See It: exhibition of black and white photos by young people in NSW out-of-home care.** Supporters include Salvation Army Westcare, NSW Children's Guardian, NSW Commission for Children and Young People, Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, Anglicare, Baptist Community Services – NSW & ACT, Benevolent Society, Community Services, CREATE, Guardian Youth Care, Life Without Barriers, Stretch-A-Family and UnitingCare Burnside. The exhibition will be open at the TAP Gallery (278 Palmer St, Darlinghurst) from Monday 24 October.
- **Middle Years of Childhood Seminar: "Contemporary Risks to Children in the Community: Real and perceived".** Hosted by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People the seminar will explore the risks to children in the middle years, where harm to children actually occurs in the community, and what the implications are for research, policy and practice. This is the final instalment in the Commission's Middle Years Seminar Series and will be held on Universal Children's Day (Wednesday 26 October).

During Children's Week, the NSW Commission for Children and Young People will also announce the winner of its state wide "**A Voice For Kids**" poster competition. The winning design will serve as the Commission's official poster and be distributed to NSW schools and other organisations. The Commission's poster competition will lay the foundation for future Children's Week competitions.

It's not too early to start thinking about Children's Week 2011 and there are many ways to get involved. Go to [www.nswchildrensweek.org.au](http://www.nswchildrensweek.org.au) to organise, register or find events and activities and learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Universal Children's Day.

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