

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*7 July 2014*

### **Children's Commissioners and Guardians release Charter of Rights for young people in custody**

Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG) today released a *Model Charter of Rights for Children and Young People Detained in Youth Justice Facilities*.

The model charter is based on international agreements to which Australia is a signatory, and is designed to provide children and young people in custody with an easy to understand guide to their rights, and what they are entitled to while in custody.

The ACCG comprises all children's Commissioners and Guardians from across Australia, and works cooperatively to promote and protect the rights and well-being of children and young people, including children and young people in contact with the youth justice system.

Mr Bernie Geary, OAM, Principal Children's Commissioner in Victoria and the national convenor of ACCG, said, on releasing the model charter, 'Here, in one document and in plain language, we have some of the key rights that apply to young people in detention'.

'They may seem basic to most of us, like being treated with dignity and practising your religion, or not being unfairly punished, but most children and young people who are locked up don't know what they are entitled to, or what to do if they have been treated unfairly', Mr Geary said.

'Each of the Commissioners and Guardians will use the charter within their own jurisdiction, but will adapt how the information is conveyed to young people in custody depending on the individual circumstances in their State or Territory', Mr Geary said.

A copy of the model charter has also been provided by the ACCG to youth justice administrators in each State and Territory.

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*Attachment: A model charter of rights for children and young people detained in youth justice facilities*