

Submission regarding the introduction of a Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2010.

I am writing to support the introduction of a Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2010. This would ensure that children's needs are recognised as different from those of adults. It would provide a single point of reference as a statutory office for the needs of children. There is a need for advocacy for young people, who may not be in a position to know their rights and how to access them.

The need for an independent advocate who can communicate as legally required with the Minister yet remain a national independent agency is important for the recognition of those who are particularly vulnerable in our society.

I support the role of the Commissioner will as an advocate and a person who can also monitor the development and application of laws affecting children and young people. I support the national coordination of all pertinent related policies, programs and funding across Australia, which impact on children and young people, so that there is a comprehensive understanding throughout all the states and territories.

I think that it is imperative that the introduction of this Bill provide support for Australia's commitment to its international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Yours sincerely,

Philomena Murray