

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

DCI-BRISBANE

DCI-Brisbane's Urgent Response Group has taken up the violation of children's rights in what has become known as the "Pinkenba Affair", when three Aboriginal youths were abducted by police from Fortitude Valley Mall on 10 May earlier this year.

URG has written to the Criminal Justice Commission, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties and several politicians expressing DCI's concern that the incident happened at all and urging a full and speedy investigation.

URG is also investigating allegations of a child prostitution racket in Townsville, particularly at the Lavarack Army Barracks.

A Media Monitoring Campaign has taken the form of monitoring TV programmes for biased presentations of young people and issues such as youth crime. Media awards for the best and worst examples are planned. The Campaign group plans to develop national guidelines and attract national media coverage.

DCI-Brisbane will hold a Conference on the Rights of the Young Child on Friday, 21 October at Queensland University of Technology. The Conference will be followed by the DCI-Australia Annual General Meeting at 4.00pm (see p.1).

Further information can be obtained from Ron Frey (pn. 07-864-4612 or fax 07-864-4995).

DCI-CANBERRA

A Community Workshop led by Delwyn and Eva Tattum from the UK on "Countering Bullying" was held on 5 September. The workshop was opened by the Secretary of the ACT Department of Education, Cheryl Vardon, and attended

by over 100 teachers, school counsellors, parents, youth workers and mental health specialists. Participants planned whole-school strategies to support bullied children and to enlist the help of onlookers to identify bullies, bullying behaviours and danger spots in the school.

The Canberra Branch is planning a two-day Conference on "Children's Rights in the ACT: How far have we got?" The Conference will be co-sponsored by several Affiliate Member organisations and will be held in March 1995. A flyer calling for papers and other contributions is being circulated.

More information can be obtained from Barbara Refshauge on 06-249-6176 or fax 06-247-0278.

DCI-WOLLONGONG

The Wollongong Branch edits and produces the Australian Children's Rights News. ACRN is DCI-Australia's main means of keeping the membership informed and developing our national identity.

This is the fifth issue that they have produced and all have been packed full of up-to-date information and comment, presented in a highly readable form. (From little ACRNs, mighty oak trees grow!)

The Wollongong Branch has done considerable work on children's rights in child care, and is also investigating the importation of child labour products, especially woven products, into Australia.

More information can be obtained from Florence Rankin, ph 042-296-412 or fax 042-290-626

AND NEW GROUPS MAY BE FORMING TOO....

Meetings of interested people have been held in Cairns (Qld) and Wagga Wagga (NSW) about forming new DCI-Branches.

The Wagga Wagga meeting was reported on local TV and radio and in the Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser.