

**Robert Ludbrook, Director of NC&YLC,** raised concern that young people might be left out of the Commonwealth Government's planned Justice Statement, due out later this year.

Concern was expressed that the International Year of the Family will have been devalued without a national justice strategy funded on a recurrent basis.

Two resolutions were passed by the Summit participants.

*Firstly*, that the Federal Government provide funding support for the National Children's and Young People's Legal Advocacy Program in association with the NC&YLC and appropriate state-based organisations.

The Summit called on all children's and youth advocates to 'work in partnership with all other disadvantaged groups to secure adequate recognition and resources for all Australians to enjoy access to justice.'

*Secondly*, that 'the NY&YLC and the National Network of Children's and Young People's Legal and Advocacy Services:

(i)...invite roundtable discussions and representatives of those interest groups that are presenting submissions to the Federal Government for funds in response to the report of the Access to Justice Committee, in order to develop a co-ordinated strategy for the presentation of those submissions; and

(ii)...co-ordinate the development of state-by-state plans in consultation with relevant state organisations and individuals.'

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### ***The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Australia***

Edited by Harvey, J., Dolgopol, U., & Castell-McGregor, S.

Produced by the South Australia Children's Interests Bureau, 1993.

The editors are to be congratulated on the timely appearance of this book. UNCROC is one of the more important measures affecting children that has happened in recent years. Australians need to become knowledgeable about this convention and its implications for institutions, attitudes and practices that impact upon children and youth in this country,

The book is a collection of papers from a forum in 1992 that included academics, government policy makers and non-government organisations. The range of contributors makes it a valuable and varied resource.

The papers are divided into sections and four of the sections look at particular themes - *Practical applications of the Convention, Law and Society, Research and Priority Setting and Advocacy*. The plenary section contains a range of papers leading into these issues and young people were given the opportunity to speak for themselves.

A volume like this is overdue and I would like to see something of this calibre coming out on an annual basis.

*A particular strength of the collection is the attention given to the Aboriginal child and youth population.* For child advocates in Australia this is an obvious priority area. I was also impressed at the input young people had to make. The quote from Leila Berg at the beginning of these few pages was a stark reminder of how often adults speak for children and how different our perceptions of the world, and how it works, can be.

This newsletter was produced by the Wollongong Branch of DCI - Australia. It was prepared by Berenice Nyland, Rosie Wells, Joan Ausburn and Florence Rankin. Word processing was done by Florence Rankin. The views expressed in Australian Children's Rights News are not necessarily those of DCI. **Merry Christmas** 