



B R A N C H N E W S



SYDNEY-SIDERS LAUNCH NEW BRANCH

At a meeting chaired by Justice Richard Chisholm on 22 May, 15 enthusiastic members and friends of DCI began a new Sydney Branch. Members Barbara Stephen and Vicki Thomas gathered the meeting, opened by Justice Chisholm's short address. He emphasised three issues for success.

1 To gain support from other organisations with similar interests to work together and add more weight.

2 To set specific achievable projects and goals.

3 To achieve credibility - to identify who, as an organisation we are and to determine *"What gives us the right to speak for children?"* Credibility can be gained in the several ways - by research so that we can speak authoritatively, by having children as members, and by interviewing children to gain their views.

He went on to discuss the impact on children of corporations and the profit-motive, the control of media, economic rationalism and the current withdrawal of funds from human rights. He noted

social research that shows that people are sad even in a family environment.

Catherine Johnson, Barrister, mediator and post-graduate student of children's rights was elected Convenor and nominated for the National Committee. Valerie Joy became treasurer, and several other members undertook other responsibilities. The Branch is planning to meet at Catherine's chambers in central Sydney, on 20 June to plan its activities. All interested members and supporters of DCI are welcome. For further information phone Catherine Johnson on 02-9233-2440 (w) or Barbara Stephen on 02-9525-4572 (h). CONGRATULATIONS SYDNEY☆



CANBERRA BRANCH LOVES WINTER TREATS.

A Winter Literary Dinner was held by the Canberra Branch on 7 June, to raise funds for DCI. Two Canberra writers, Craig Cormick and Kathy Lituai spoke on "The Child's View of the World", drawing from their own writing for children and young people.

We gratefully acknowledge the hospitality of the Austrian Ambassador H.E. Mr Stephan Toth and Mrs Toth, and their

generous donation of wine. As well as a delicious dinner prepared by Canberra cook and writer, Claudia Hyles, a Winter Treats raffle was held, prizes - a basket of winter warmers like chocolate and wine, and a load of firewood. The Branch was delighted to have raised over \$1800.☺



DCI ARRIVES IN SUNNY PERTH

Brian Gordon of Meerilinga and Theresa Hutchins of Edith Cowan University gathered DCI supporters to a meeting on 26 June and formed a Perth Branch. They made plans for a launch in August. All interested people are welcome to contact Brian on 089-424-5210 or Theresa on 089-400-5743



**Big THINGS
FROM
LITTLE ACORNS
GROW!**