



---

# INTERNATIONAL REPORT

---

## DCI'S CALL FOR A FEDERAL ROYAL COMMISSION ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In the wake of the release of the Queensland Children's Commission's Report "Paedophilia in Qld" and the findings of the NSW Wood Royal Commission, DCI has called for the Australian Federal Government to create a Royal Commission to investigate child sexual abuse and exploitation on a national scale.

While these State investigations were valuable in highlighting the extent of paedophilia activity within Qld and NSW, the emotional and physical scars of sexual abuse carried by paedophilia victims and the close connection of child exposure to paedophilia with child pornography, prostitution and homelessness, a national investigation would be far more effective. DCI's argument in support of a Federal Royal Commission is that paedophilia is a national problem and therefore national action to prevent it is required.

When the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Child Prostitution and Pornography visited Australia in 1992, he was told there was no evidence of paedophilia networks in Australia. However, the NSW and Qld investigations have revealed that well-established paedophilia networks exist and, in some cases, have been protected. DCI has made clear that, as a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Australia is bound to ensure the safety and well being of its children and young people from sexual abuse and exploitation.

---

## ILO BACKGROUND DOCUMENT Distributed At The Amsterdam Child Labour Conference.

Work is an integral aspect of life. It is an end and important in itself, and a means of participation in the economy and society at large. The same is also true of the work of children. Most children in almost all societies work in one way or another, though the types of work they do and the forms and conditions of their involvement vary among societies and over time. Work by children can be an essential part of the socialisation process and a means of transmitting acquired skills from parent to child. Children are also often involved in craft workshops and small scale services, assisting their parents in ancillary tasks, acquiring skills and gradually becoming fully fledged workers in family establishments or trades. Work of this kind is not without its problems, especially as regards the children's health and safety and their schooling.

**But this is not what is meant by child labour.** Nor are we talking about teenagers, in both developing and industrialized countries, who work for a few hours to earn pocket money to buy the latest sports shoes or electronic gadgets. What we are concerned with are children who are denied their childhood and a future, who work long hours for low wages, often under conditions harmful to their health and to their physical and mental development, who are sometimes separated from their families and who are frequently deprived of education.

That is child labour - **work carried out to the detriment of the child and in violation of international law and national legislation.**

