

Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. Ottawa: Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth.

¹⁷ Rigby K, Manual for the Peer Relations Questionnaire: (PRQ) Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia, The Professional Reading Guide; also referred to in a chapter by Rigby in *Bullying Solutions* edited by McGrath and Noble Pearson Education Australia, French's Forest NSW 8

¹⁸ Rigby K; *Bullying Solutions* (supra) 8 – see also

¹⁹ Rigby K, et al *Bullying in Schools* at p1; Cambridge University Press 2004

²⁰ E Field and P Carroll; *Bullying Solutions* (supra) 215

²¹ Rigby K et al *Bullying in Schools* (supra) 1

²² *Ibid* *Crossing the Line*, 28

²³ Strassberg, K A Dodge et al *Development and Psychopathology* 6 (1994) pp.445-461

²⁴ Keiley, M.K., Howe, T.R., Dodge, K.A., Bates, J.E., & Pettit, G.S. (2001). The timing of child physical maltreatment: A cross-domain growth analysis of impact on adolescent externalizing and internalizing problems. *Development and Psychopathology*, 13, 891-912.

²⁵ *Ibid* Victorian Law Reform Commission, *Review of Family Violence Laws* 20

²⁶ *Ibid* Victorian Law Reform Commission, *Review of Family Violence Laws* 14

²⁷ Victorian Law Reform Commission, *Review of Family Violence Laws, Consultation Paper*, Melbourne 2004 19

²⁸ *Ibid* Smith at 14

²⁹ Accessed 22 April 2007 at

<http://www.unviolencestudy.org/>

The full text of the study can be accessed at the same website.

Parliamentary Inquiry into the impact of illicit drugs on families

The House of Representatives Families Committee is currently undertaking a public Inquiry into the impact of illicit drugs on families. The Committee will report on how the Australian Government can better address the impact on families of the importation, production, sale, use and prevention of illicit drugs. The Committee is calling for people to have their say. Issues being considered include:

- the financial, social and personal costs to families who have a member using illicit drugs, including the impact of drug-induced psychoses or other mental disorders
- the impact of harm-minimisation programs on families
- ways to strengthen families who are coping with a member using illicit drugs.

For more information or to make a submission please visit the website of The House of Representatives Families Committee or phone (02) 6277 4566.

Australia Signs Landmark Treaty on Human Rights and Disability

30 March 2007

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has welcomed the Australian Government's announcement that it will sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York today.

"I'm very proud and happy that Australia will be among the first nations to sign this Convention," Human Rights Commissioner and Commissioner responsible for Disability Discrimination, Graeme Innes AM, said.

Commissioner Innes served as part of the Australian Government delegation which negotiated the Convention.

"Australia played a very constructive role in producing this Convention and it is pleasing to see that commitment continuing," Commissioner Innes said.

The Convention adds to existing human rights laws by confirming once and for all that people with disability are entitled to the full range of human rights. It also provides clearer goals for governments throughout the world to work towards ensuring human rights in practice for people with disability.

Signing the Convention allows governments to show commitment to the purposes of the Convention. The next step is to ratify, or formally become party to, the Convention.

Nations which ratify the Convention commit themselves to taking measures to implement in practice the rights which are recognised by the Convention, including through reviewing laws and government programs.

"We now look forward to the Australian Government working positively towards ratifying and implementing the Convention in consultation with state and territory governments and with the disability community," Commissioner Innes said.