



7 September 2009

The Law - Young People, Parents and Schools

STUDY GUIDE

Program 2: The Rights of the Child

First broadcast – 8.30pm Monday 7 September 2009. 89.7, PBA FM in Adelaide, South Australia
Producer/Presenter: Tony Ryan Education Consultant: Greg Carey
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Program summary

Schools have a duty of care to their students – for example, students have a right to receive an appropriate education and to be safe physically and from inappropriate behaviour such as bullying. In this program, we hear about the rights of young people over some centuries through to the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child, and then take a first look at some of the issues that face schools in meeting the duty of care requirements.

Interviewees

Margaret Coady, Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne
David Thomson, Teacher-in-residence, Victoria Law Foundation, Melbourne

Listen

Download this program – from www.learningworksradio.com – and listen at home or in your car, or in a group around a table at home or in the staff room. Duration approx 15 mins.

Table Talk

Use these questions as springboards to a discussion on some of the issues raised in the program. Before you end the discussion, agree on some action outcomes.

The right to be safe is the most often used phrase about the rights of young people. What does this really mean in a school?

In the 1980's and 90s a major change in the recognition of children's rights occurred. The rights of children began to reflect those of adults, in particular the right to be heard, to privacy, freedom of religion and freedom of association. What does this say about the nature of childhood?

Young people are very conscious of their right to be heard. How are schools responding to this?

The 1998 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has been accepted and acted on in all but two countries, the United States of America and Somalia. What reason could be put forward by these countries not to ratify this Convention?

Some parents are very concerned that this movement has eroded the role of the family. What are some of the issues these people are concerned about?

Resources

To guide your discussion,

Hopkins, D (2008), *Teachers, Students and the Law*, Victoria Law Foundation

Australian Human Rights Commission website - *Children's Rights*

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/children/index.html

