



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Megan Mitchell
National Children's Commissioner
Australian Human Rights Commission
GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Mitchell,

Thank you for your email dated 28 March 2018, regarding your call for submissions on the progress that Australia has made in terms of implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) takes the protection of children and their rights in immigration programmes very seriously and considers the CRC a critical reference document when ensuring the rights of children in our care.

Australia's Joint Fifth and Sixth Periodic Report under the CRC and Optional Protocols was developed by the Attorney-General's Department to provide the Australian Government's view on the implementation of the CRC, submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on 15 January 2018. I refer you to this document for the Australian Government's views and in particular, Section IX and X of this document, titled Special Protection Measures relating to Child Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees and Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, which provides a detailed picture on the work the Department does to ensure the rights of children.

The Department has implemented a range of policies and procedures, including the Child Safeguarding Framework, which refer to the CRC and promote the rights of children in immigration programmes to departmental staff and contracted service providers.

The Department remains committed to the care and welfare of unaccompanied minors who fall under the auspices of the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946* and the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors Programme. The detention of children remains only as a last resort, for the shortest practicable time possible and in alternative places of detention where possible.

Should you require any further information on our Department's policies or alignment with the CRC, please contact me at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Cassandra Koch
Acting Assistant Secretary
Child Wellbeing Branch
Health Services Policy and Child Wellbeing Division
Department of Home Affairs

21 May 2018