



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

### **Children's Week 2021 – 23 to 31 October**

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Children's Week (23-31 October) is one of the most joyous weeks on our national calendar – a time for us to celebrate the wonderment of children and the myriad of ways they enrich our lives.

The Children's Week Council of Australia and its state and territory affiliates have organised for a range of events and activities to be held around the country during the Week. I encourage anyone interested in participating to look at the Children's Week website.

There is, however, a serious side to Children's Week, and that is child safety. The impact of the pandemic has meant that, for many children, the only way to engage with friends is online. Every child, no matter the circumstances, has a right to feel safe. This year's theme, 'Children have the right to choose their own friends and safely connect with others', reflects this reality. All of us have a responsibility to ensure our children are safe and feel loved.

As Patron of the Children's Week Council of Australia I want to commend the Council for its strong advocacy on behalf of children. My thanks to all at the Council for the critically important work that you do.