



Contested Rights:

Debating Australia's Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

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The almost universal ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989) is often cited as evidence of progress towards a global consensus around children's rights. Yet, at the level of implementation, the convention has been a mixed success.

This paper provides insight into this gap in implementation from an Australian perspective, through an investigation of the public debates that accompanied the federal government's ratification of the CRC in 1990.

While welcomed by many children's rights, education and welfare groups, the CRC also prompted vocal and ongoing opposition. The sources of dissent reflect persistent sources of conflict over the CRC and other international human rights instruments.

This paper will use a range of sources, including parliamentary debates, government records, media sources and political ephemera, to reconstruct this early contest over the CRC and assess its legacy.

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Details

Tuesday 24 May 2022

4:30 -5:30PM

Sir Roland Wilson Building

2.02 Theatrette

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