



# 2010 CHILDREN'S LAW AWARDS

Promoting the Rights of Children and Young People

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **2010 CHILDREN'S LAW AWARDS OPEN**

**8 December 2009**

Nominations have opened across the country for the 2010 Children's Law Awards. Organised by the National Children's Youth and Law Centre (NCYLC) and Mallesons Stephen Jaques, the Awards will be presented by the Attorney General, Robert McClelland.

The Awards recognise and reward the individuals and organisations who advance the legal rights and interests of children and young people in Australia.

The Awards will also raise awareness of the legal issues and questions affecting children and young people in Australia today, including: Are Australian children adequately protected by the justice and welfare systems? Why has the number of children found to be at risk of abuse or neglect, and children under care and protection orders, risen significantly? How can children best participate in legal proceedings and processes affecting their rights?

Through highlighting these and other important legal issues, the Awards serve as a means to focus the Australian community on the need to continually promote, advocate for and represent children's legal rights.

Nominations are sought in the following award categories and are open to both individuals and organisations:

- Outstanding Legal Representation of the Rights and Interests of Children and Young People;
- Outstanding Advocacy in Policy or Law Reform to Advance the Legal Rights and Interests of Children and Young People; and
- The Media Award for Raising Awareness of Important Children's Legal Rights Issues.

Nominations close on Friday 19 February 2010. The awards will be presented on Friday 16 April 2010, during National Youth Week.

For more information on the awards, or to download a nomination form, visit <http://www.ncylc.org.au/>.

### **More information:**

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The 2010 Children's Law Awards are organised by NCYLC and Mallesons Stephen Jaques.

The **National Children's and Youth Law Centre** is a Community Legal Centre that focuses on addressing human rights issues for children and young people through legal change. Amongst other goals, the Centre aims to provide advice and information to children and young people about their legal rights and responsibilities; support test cases on behalf of children and young people to clarify or further their legal rights; bring about changes to laws, policies and practices to advance the rights of children and young people; and promote the implementation in Australia of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Centre provides invaluable legal education and information to children through online programs such as "Lawstuff" ([www.lawstuff.org.au](http://www.lawstuff.org.au)) which, in the period between January 2009 and September 2009, had almost 2 million hits and "Lawmail" ([www.lawstuff.org.au/lawmail.asp](http://www.lawstuff.org.au/lawmail.asp)), an email information and referral service.

**Mallesons Stephen Jaques** is Australia's leading law firm, recognised for its Corporate Social Responsibility. In 2009, Mallesons was awarded CSR Firm of the Year at the *ALB Australasian Law Awards*.

Since 2001, Mallesons has formalised its contribution to the community through the 'Mallesons in the Community' program. One key Mallesons community partner is NCYLC. This partnership has worked together to protect and promote the individual and collective legal rights of children and young people across Australia.

*Presented by*

the National Children's and Youth Law Centre and Mallesons Stephen Jaques



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