

- The Court's obligation to take steps to ensure (with interpreter assistance if necessary) that the proceedings are comprehensible to the child's parents and allowing parents to participate fully in the proceeding;
- The requirement that the Court is respectful of the cultural identity of the child's parents;
- The Court's obligation to explain the orders that it makes to parents;
- The duty upon probation officers to consult and co-operate with parents when directed by the court to visit and supervise a child and in making any inquiries, to cause as little prejudice as possible to the reputations of the child concerned and of his or her parents;
- The duty of child protection investigators to inform the child's parents that any information they give may be used for the purposes of a protection application;
- The presumed entitlement of a parent to know where a child has been placed by protective interveners;
- The right of a parent to receive a copy of reports and to call a report writer for cross-examination;
- The standing of a parent to apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a review of certain administrative decisions concerning the child
- The capacity of a parent to enter into an undertaking on behalf of the child under the Bail Act 1977 (Vic.).

In conclusion, there is no downside to the CYPA amendments and it is a credit to the Victorian Parliament that the bill appears to have progressed fairly smoothly to enactment. Now it falls to all the various organisations concerned with children, including the Children's Court, to incorporate these important changes into their programs, practices and training.

The South African Law Commission recently released an Issue Paper on domestic partnerships, a clear prelude to law reform in this area. The Issue Paper includes attention to relationships of the indigenous culture and can be accessed at:
wwwserver.law.wits.ac.za/salc/issue/issue.html

Youth Representative in Australia's Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Closing Date: 20th December 2001

The United Nations Youth Association is pleased to announce the opening of Expressions of Interest for the position of Youth Representative in Australia's Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly 2002. Each year, a young Australian is chosen to be the Youth Representative in Australia's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. The Youth Representative spends approximately 8 weeks as a fully accredited member of the Australian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Youth Representative is fully briefed by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs with regard to Australia's policy concerns and stances and will be representing Australian concerns to the General Assembly. However the Youth Representative is not only an Australian representative but also acts as a consultant on youth opinion, providing a youth perspective within the Australian delegation and the General Assembly.

In addition to performing a consultative role, the Youth Representative must undertake a number of tasks while at the General Assembly, including preparing and delivering a statement on behalf of Australia on the biennial youth resolution. Other aspects of the role include increasing the priority placed on youth issues by United Nations member States, assisting the Australian Mission in a variety of ambassadorial and administrative tasks, building strong relations with the Youth Representatives from other nations and encouraging other countries to include Youth Representatives in their delegations.

The Expression of Interest form is available in an online format at <http://www.unya.asn.au/>