

# THIS BOOKLET IS FOR YOU



It's important that you know you have rights while you are in care. A lot of things change when you are being cared for in a different home, but many things don't. Your rights are the same now as they were when you lived with your own family. Everyone involved in making decisions about where you live and what you do each day has to make sure your rights are respected.



This Charter of Rights booklet explains your rights. 'Charter' is a legal word that means these rights are really important and have to be respected. Other kids being cared for in different homes helped us to write it.



Most of your rights are things we all take for granted, like getting information and help when you need it. These rights mean that you should always feel safe, and that what you think and feel is important and should be heard. You also have responsibilities, like letting someone know if you have a problem.



It is important you understand your rights. Read the Charter of Rights booklet and ask your carer or a caseworker to explain anything you don't understand.



If you feel like you don't have all these rights at the moment, or if you would like more information or help, there's a list of people you can contact on page 14. It's best to speak to your carer or a caseworker first. You can also contact your local Department of Community Services' Community Services Centre (look under 'Community Services, Department of' in the White Pages).

**Want to know more?**  
The Charter of Rights and other information about living in a different home is in the 'for young people' section of the NSW Department of Community Services website at:  
[www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)  
You can get extra copies of the booklet by contacting your local Department of Community Services or the agency responsible for your placement.

