INTERNATIONAL CHARTER & GUIDANCE FOR ETHICAL RESEARCH INVOLVING CHILDREN (ERIC)

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Recent years have witnessed increasing consensus about the importance of children and young people's participation in relevant and appropriate research activities, and a corresponding growth in the involvement of children in research. However, there seems little clarity, guidance or universal agreement amongst researchers (and other key stakeholders such as ethics governance bodies) about how to best assess children's capacity and engage them, in meaningful ways, in the research process.

This project aims to develop resources for the international research community that will improve understandings and approaches to Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC). The project builds upon extensive prior research by the Centre for Children & Young People including a survey of ethical practice in over 40 countries and an International Literature Review undertaken for the Childwatch International Thematic Group focused on Building Capacity for Ethical Research with Children and Young People. The key intention of this ongoing work of the Centre and its partners is to help ensure that the human dignity of children is honoured and that their rights and wellbeing are respected in all research, irrespective of context.

The CCYP is leading the development of the ERIC project in collaboration with UNICEF's Office of Research, Innocenti, Childwatch International and the Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF) at the University of Otago. The ERIC project will develop a compendium of documents including an International Charter, Ethical Guidance, case studies and other resources to guide and support all those involved in research endeavours with children. In addition, an associated website is being developed to facilitate broad dissemination and engagement with ERIC, and other relevant child ethics-related material.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

December 2012 – June 2013

PROJECT PARTNER
UNICEF
Childwatch International

RESEARCH TEAM

Dr Mary Ann Powell
Prof Anne Graham
Dr Donnah Anderson

Associate Professor Nicola Taylor
(University of Otago)
Bethelhem Moulat (UNICEF)