

CCYP PROJECT	CHILDWATCH INTERNATIONAL – CHILDREN AND THE LAW				
PROJECT TITLE	CHILDREN AS PARTICIPANTS IN FAMILY LAW DECISION MAKING: INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES				
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Partner Staff	Dr Nicola Taylor, Centre for Research on Children and Families, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand				
Timeframe	2006-2010				
Funded by	<i>Childwatch International</i>				
Project Background	<p>This Childwatch International Study Group is on children and the law. It has been established to explore how children's rights are respected in law across different countries. In 2005, the Study Group has identified children's participation rights in family law systems as an internationally relevant area of children's rights which requires further critical examination. In phase one, a survey of the 45 Childwatch International Key Institutions was conducted in 2006 exploring children's participation in family law proceedings. Fifteen countries completed the questionnaire - Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Slovakia, and the USA. A research report was subsequently published in May 2007. A second meeting was then held in Prague, September 2008. At this meeting, researchers from New Zealand, India, Israel, the Czech Republic, Nigeria and Australia developed the second phase of this collaborative international project. This phase continues our work on children's participation in family law processes related to post separation care arrangements. It is focusing on developing conceptual work on children's participation rights in family law, a literature review, and the identification of models of child participation in family law processes around the world. Our links to the research centres affiliated to Childwatch International make it possible to easily access this information from both Majority and Minority world contexts</p>				
Project Aim	<p>This group will examine how children's participation rights are respected in post separation decision making in international family law contexts. In order to explore this question, the following aims have been developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To analyse how participation and children's participation rights are conceptualised. • To undertake a review of literature, both legal and non-legal, of the research topic. • To identify models of participation (formal and informal) in current practice and the factors contributing to and inhibiting their implementation. • To identify how models of participation relate to the conceptualisation of participation and children's participation rights. • To identify what mechanisms, structures and resources are required to effectively implement children's participation into practice. 				

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Project Stages	<p>PHASE ONE: Stage One – Proposal of the research and formation of the study group. Stage Two – Development and distribution of the questionnaire. Stage Three – Writing of the Report.</p> <p>PHASE TWO: Stage One - Writing of conceptual framework of children’s participation for the study Stage Two - Preparation of literature review Stage Three - Follow up on Phase One survey feedback with case study information from participating KI’s Stage Four - Writing of the Report</p> <p>PHASE THREE: Development of an international empirical study</p>
Current Status (May 2009)	<p>Phase One Report available</p> <p>Phase Two is currently underway: Stage Three survey finalised and ready for distribution in early May. Report due November 2009</p>
Presentations	Paper submitted to 5 th World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights: Children caught in Conflict. Notification of paper acceptance March 2009.
Resources	Report authored by N. Taylor and M. Gallop with contribution from CCYP.
Publications	None, as yet