What are the Rights of the Child Diagnosed with Cancer?

All children around the world should have, or be able to have the same rights. These rights are provided for by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989.

The United Nations recognises that as a child you should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society and be raised in the spirit of happiness, love, understanding, peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.

As a child diagnosed with cancer, you have the right “to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health”. It’s the responsibility of the international community to ensure that countries “strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services”.

Children and young people diagnosed with cancer, other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and chronic health conditions in low- and middle- income countries need help with five key action areas. Fortunately, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) recognises these needs as the rights of children.
What do young people diagnosed with cancer and their families ask for?

• The inherent right to life (Article 6).
• Governments recognise that as a child living with a mental or physical disability you should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure your dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate your active participation in your community ... and ensure access to health care services and rehabilitation services (Article 23).
• The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and facilities including the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care (Article 24).

Your rights and responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

• The right to express your views and be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings that affect your rights (Article 12).
• The right to information and material aimed at promoting your physical and mental health and to ensure appropriate guidelines to protect you from information and material that is injurious to your wellbeing (Article 17).
• The right to be informed, have access to education and be supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition (Article 24).
• The right to education directed at the development of your personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest potential and the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (Article 29).
• Governments commit to making your rights in UNCROC available to you (Article 42).

• Governments shall ... ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for your care (Article 18).
• Governments recognise that as a child living with a mental or physical disability you should enjoy a full and decent life ... and opportunities in a manner conducive to you achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development (Article 23).
• The right to a standard of living adequate for your physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development ... including through material assistance and support programs (Article 27).

1CLAN (Caring & Living As Neighbours) is an Australian non-government organisation committed to equity for children and young people diagnosed with cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and chronic health conditions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Families with whom CLAN works in LMICs consistently request collaborative focus around five key pillars to help their children enjoy the highest quality of life possible. These five pillars are the intellectual property of CLAN. Further information about CLAN’s community development approach is available at www.clanchildhealth.org.

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For more information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) please visit www.unicef.org/crc
What do young people diagnosed with cancer and their families ask for?

"Family support group meetings help us a lot!"

Your rights and responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

• You and your family have a responsibility to learn about your rights and how to exercise them (Article 5).
• The right to freedom of association (Article 15).
• The right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities (Article 31).
• The right not to be detained unlawfully or arbitrarily (Article 37).
• Governments recognise that as a child living with a mental or physical disability you should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate your active participation in the community ... As a child living with a disability you have a right to special care, subject to available resources, as do those responsible for your care (Article 23).

"We are poor - my family needs financial security!"

• Governments shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognised in the present Convention ... to the maximum extent of their available resources and where needed, within the framework of international cooperation (Article 4).
• The right to benefit from social security, including social insurance (Article 26).
• The right to a standard of living adequate for your physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development (Article 27).
• The right to education (Article 28).
What Treatment do Children Diagnosed with Cancer Need Access to?

There are many types of childhood cancer...
- Brain
- Eye (Retinoblastoma)
- Lymphoma
- Blood (Leukaemias)
- Bone (osteosarcoma & Ewings Sarcoma)
- Kidney (Wilms Tumour)
- Muscle (Rhabdomyosarcoma)

Cancers are caused by mutant cells that divide uncontrollably.

Due to the side effects of cancer and the treatment, children with cancer might need blood (packed red blood cells and platelets) during their treatment.

Children with cancer usually need chemotherapy, and sometimes surgery and radiotherapy to control and cure their cancers.

The good news is more than 80% of children can now be cured of some types of cancer and live active, happy lives afterwards.

The process of cancer treatment(s) is draining and depressing. It’s REALLY IMPORTANT that EVERY child diagnosed with cancer has access to high quality pain medicine and other support so that they don’t suffer unnecessarily from pain or treatment side effects.

NO PAIN  HURTS A LITTLE BIT  HURTS A LITTLE MORE  HURTS EVEN MORE  HURTS A LOT  HURTS WORST