



Alasdair Roy | Consultant Psychologist  
alasdair.roy001@bigpond.com

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*Childism* is thinking differently about children (and young people) **simply because of their age**

Elisabeth Young-Bruehl

CONFRONTING  
PREJUDICE

**CHILDISM**

AGAINST  
CHILDREN

## **Elisabeth Young-Bruehl** argued that:

- Prejudice exists against children as a group (simply because of their age)
- And, that childism is comparable to racism, sexism, homophobia, and disability discrimination

## How does Google define 'childish'?

- Of, like, or appropriate to a child
- Silly and immature

**Synonyms:** immature, babyish, infantile, juvenile, puerile, silly, inane, fatuous, foolish, stupid, irresponsible

## What about the Webster dictionary?

- Having or showing the unpleasant qualities, such as silliness or lack of maturity, that children often have
- Simple: lacking complexity



## Survey of just over 250 children and young people which asked:

- What is the *best* thing about being a young person in Australia.
- What is the *worst* thing about being a young person in Australia.

## The best thing:

- The environment and climate, multiculturalism, and the excellent services they have access to (schools, health care, personal support etc).
- And, 80% used at least one of three words in their answers...?

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- A vertical red bar on the left side of the slide, with a gradient from dark red at the top to light red at the bottom.
- *Freedom*
  - *Potential*
  - *Opportunities*

## The worst thing:

- Racism, bullying, peer pressure, and the lack of things to do.
- And, 25% wrote about...?

## Not not being listened to or taken seriously by adults because of their age:

- *Not having adults take your opinions seriously and treating you as just a kid* (15 years)
- *Being underestimated* (17 years)
- *Not being taken seriously* (15 years)
- *Being discriminated against by adults* (15 years)
- *Not being seen as responsible* (14 years)
- *Being patronised by adults* (14 years)
- *Adults think they are more important than kids* (12 years)
- *People not really listening to you because you are young* (13 years)

## **Childism impacts on:**

- How we think about children
- What we let children do, and not do
- The services and supports and laws we design to assist (or control) children

# Childism Checklist

- I am not allowed to vote, even though government makes decisions about me.
- It is often considered acceptable, appropriate and even desirable for my caregiver to physically assault me if I do not please them.
- If I am routinely yelled at, criticized and belittled in my own home, this might not generally be recognised as abusive behaviour.
- I am routinely ignored or told to be quiet.
- Adults often feel they have the right to harass me.
- Society and the media often portray me in a negative light.
- People often make decisions on my behalf and tell me they know better than I do about what is best for me.
- I am not usually given a choice about my place of education.
- I am not usually given a choice about what religion to follow.



I think all men know that occasionally the best thing that we can give a woman is a smack, but it can never be something that hurts them...

Is this ok?

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## Tony Abbott says 'gentle smack' can be good for children

By chief political correspondent [Emma Griffiths](#)  
Updated 12 Dec 2013, 5:18pm

**Prime Minister Tony Abbott says a gentle smack is sometimes the best thing for a child.**

The issue has been raised in [the first report submitted to Federal Parliament](#) by the newly-established National Children's Commissioner.

Commissioner Megan Mitchell points to the United Nations recommendation that all corporal punishment be banned in Australia.

She says the community needs to engage in a debate about corporal punishment.

"One way to do this is to contemplate a law that



**PHOTO:** Tony Abbott, pictured with daughters Bridget and Frances, says he used gentle smacks with his children.  
(Getty Images: Brendon Thorne)

*I think all parents know that occasionally the best thing that we can give a kid is a smack, but it can never be something that hurts them...*



Aboriginal & Torres Strait  
Islander people are too lazy  
to work...

Is this ok?

# Young 'too lazy' to work

By MICHAEL INMAN  
and NINO BUCCI

FAST food chains are struggling to fill jobs at their Canberra restaurants because they say the city's youth are lazy.

Domino's Pizza this week made a desperate call for 90 more staff to work at its burgeoning pizza stores, while McDonald's says it has always struggled to fill jobs at its 15 Canberra restaurants.

Both chains blame the problems on Canberra's affluence and poor public transport.

Domino's Belconnen is feeling the pinch more than most.

The store was the busiest of 9000 Domino's franchises worldwide in 2009, selling 267,942 pizzas.

Manager David Hutchinson said the store needed at least two extra staff members a month just to keep up with demand.

"Maybe four or five years ago there were a lot of kids who seemed to want a job, but there's not as many as there used to be," Mr Hutchinson.

"Kids are a bit lazier these days. They will just go and watch TV or go and play the Xbox instead going to work.

"You do get a lot of kids, too, who get a fair bit of coin off the parents."

Mr Hutchinson started work at Domino's as a 15-year-old.

Now 26, he is a franchisee at Belconnen and Mawson and has transformed his part-time job into a career.

Domino's Canberra franchise operations manager Troy Richards said he was staggered the company could not fill the 90 part-time and full-time positions at its nine ACT and Queanbeyan stores.

"We currently employ almost 400 Canberra locals who range in age from 14 to 70 and who all love what they do."

McDonald's spokeswoman Any McNaughton said 86 per cent of restaurant managers started by working in restaurants, and a high number of head office employees,



Domino's Pizza Belconnen manager David Hutchinson says he desperately needs more staff.

Photo: ANDREW SHEARGOLD

including the chief executive, also started their careers selling big macs.

"Hiring and retaining people in the Canberra market has always been a challenge and we put this down to the general level of affluence, which means young people, particularly, don't often need part-time jobs," Ms McNaughton said.

"[Another factor is] the abundance of public service office jobs which appeal to the same people who we'd be looking to bring on board, particularly in management positions.

"For our city stores, Canberra's less than ideal public transport links also create a challenge."

Cantile Recruitment managing director Keith Cantile said job seekers had become more selective in recent years.

"Sometimes I think people's

expectations about what work they would do and what they wouldn't do are different to what they may have been in years gone by," Mr Cantile said.

"In years gone by an unemployed person who was offered a job at Domino's would probably take it because they wanted to earn money.

"But there are now people who would probably say, 'I won't take that job because it's in retail and I don't like retail'.

"Or they'll say, 'I don't want that job because it's on the southside and I live in Belconnen'.

"People won't spend their time doing jobs they don't enjoy [whereas] in the past people got a job and it was a job."

ACT Restaurant and Catering Association president Fiona Wright said the dearth of staff was

a factor across the entire hospitality industry.

Ms Wright said Canberra's youth were no longer willing to put in the hard yards to forge a career.

"As an example, 15 years ago if I put an ad in the paper for a first-year apprentice chef I'd receive 40 applications," she said.

"If I put an ad in today I'd be lucky to receive two, even though cooking programs are very popular on TV.

"The kids in the youth market today are very, very ambitious but they want it all instantly.

"They want instant gratification in their jobs."

Yum! Brands, which claims to be the world's largest restaurant company and owns some KFC and Pizza Hut franchises, declined to comment.

## Supabarn settles for in-house training

By MICHAEL INMAN

CANBERRA supermarket Supabarn has found a way around the skills shortage.

The retailer operates four Canberra and two Sydney stores plans to double the number shops every three years.

Supabarn managing director Eric Koundouris wants to more than 15 outlets within years.

But the tight Canberra 1 market had inhibited this growth, Mr Koundouris said.

"We're always looking for staff and because we're growing it's finding it more difficult," he said.

Supabarn has introduced a house training scheme to overcome the worst of the skills shortage.

"The way we're addressing this is by continually promoting people within the store, who have moved up through the ranks," Mr Koundouris said.

"We do that by training people."

"We have a full-time trainer who educates our staff if we can't find the skills we want - it's the way."

Mr Koundouris said key skills in meat and fruit vegetables posed the biggest shortage.

"[For example], we have a difficulty getting butchers; aren't becoming butchers more."

"So we'll take someone with skills and our full-time trainer will train them."

Supabarn also offers its Sydney employees the chance to transfer to Canberra.

"We've had a few people that offer up - not as many as like, but it does happen."

Me, I can tolerate noisy,  
thoughtless or anti-social  
behaviour from people with  
a disability because they  
have a disability and they  
don't know better...

Is this ok?

*Me, I can tolerate noisy, thoughtless or anti-social behaviour from those aged 14 and under because they're children and don't know better...*

# The Telegraph

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## Allison Pearson

Award-winning journalist Allison Pearson is a columnist and the chief interviewer of the Daily Telegraph.

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Have we got an entire group of returned soldiers that has been so coddled and that is so spineless that it is completely incapable of dealing with the harsh realities of the modern world?

Is this ok?

*Have we got an entire group of young people that has been so coddled and that is so spineless that it is completely incapable of dealing with the harsh realities of the modern world?*

The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. On the left is the logo "DAILY LIFE" in a serif font. To its right is a dark orange banner with the text "For a comfortable retirement" in white. Below these are five black navigation buttons with white text: "HOME", "NEWS & VIEWS", "LIFE & LOVE", "HEALTH & FITNESS", and "FOOD". A breadcrumb trail reads "You are here: Home > News And Views > DL Opinion >". The main article title is "Trigger warnings have nothing to do with 'political correctness'", dated "July 5, 2016" and by "Claire Pullen". At the bottom are social sharing buttons for Twitter, Facebook (1.4k shares), Google+ (0 shares), and LinkedIn. A "Pin it" button shows 1 pin and a "submit" button. Below these are links for "Email article", "Print", and "Reprints & permissions".

DAILY LIFE

For a comfortable retirement

HOME NEWS & VIEWS LIFE & LOVE HEALTH & FITNESS FOOD

You are here: Home > News And Views > DL Opinion >

## Trigger warnings have nothing to do with 'political correctness'

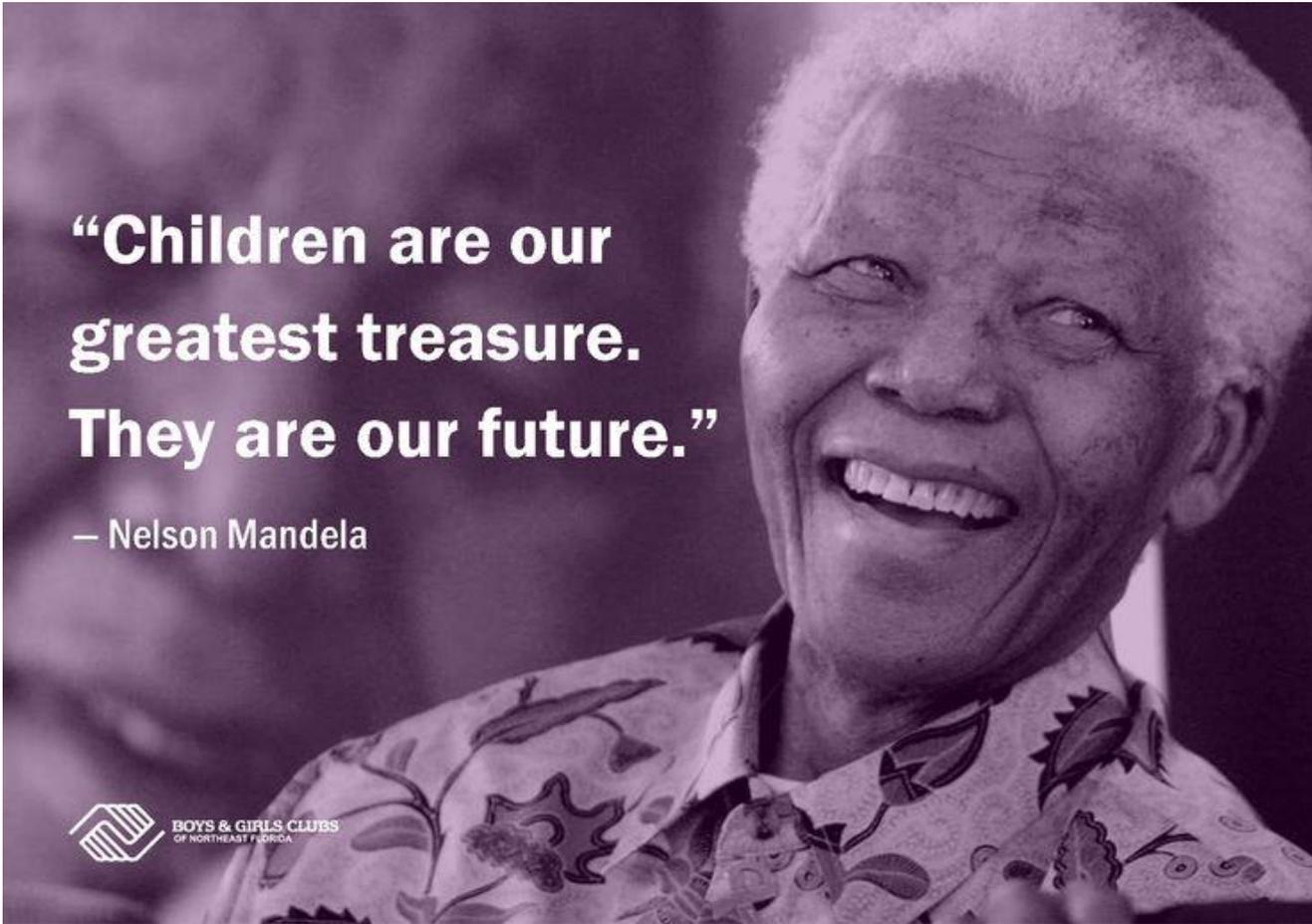
July 5, 2016  
Claire Pullen

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And, the WORST one of all...



**“Children are our  
greatest treasure.  
They are our future.”**

— Nelson Mandela



CHILDREN are NOT THE PEOPLE OF  
TOMORROW, BUT PEOPLE TODAY.

—*Janusz Korczak*  
*Polish children's author*



 Cultural Care  
Au Pair



**A person's a person,  
no matter how small.**

**-- Dr. Seuss**

# Protectionist model

- Children are not capable of making their own decisions, and are inherently vulnerable
- Hold few rights outside of the family
- Have inferior views to adults

# Liberationist model

- Children are experts in their own worlds, and are competent to express their own views
- Hold rights as individuals
- Have alternative views to adults

## **Ask yourself:**

- Where do you sit?
- Where do your colleagues sit?
- Where does your agency sit?
- Are any of your agencies policies, procedures or programs childist?

## 11

### **Protection of the family and children**

*Note* Family has a broad meaning (see ICCPR General Comment 19 (39th session, 1990)).

- (1) The family is the natural and basic group unit of society and is entitled to be protected by society.
- (2) Every child has the right to the protection needed by the child because of being a child, without distinction or discrimination of any kind.

# When is it ok to treat a child differently because of their age?

- Minimum age should be 18
- No minimum age
- Capacity and age should be considered

## **Minimum age should be 18:**

- Voluntary enlistment?
- Conscription?
- Criminal responsibility?
- Hazardous labour?
- Anything else?

## No minimum age:

- Right to vote?
- Access to justice?
- Consent to non-therapeutic interventions?
- Chose religion, or no religion?
- Access to sexual and reproductive health services?
- Anything else?

# Capacity and age should be considered:

- Admission to employment?
- Beginning and end of compulsory education?
- Marriage?
- Age of sexual consent?
- Consent, and non-consent, of medical treatment
- Access to media and advertising
- Anything else