

LAWS5224: Special Topic B

Children and the Law

Course Coordinator: Prof Tamara Walsh

This course introduces students to the various areas of law that deal with children and young people. It explores children's rights, children's legal capacity, children's courts, and children's protection. Specifically, topics for discussion include child welfare law, family law, youth justice, discrimination law and family violence. Ultimately, we will examine, from a sociolegal perspective, whether children are just 'little adults' or whether the law should aim to deal with children in a distinct way that recognises their strengths and their needs.

Course content includes:

- Children's legal and decision-making capacity
- Child safety: Protection from exploitation
- Child protection law: risk, harm and orders
- Youth justice
- Dually involved children
- Adolescent family and intimate partner violence
- Children in Family law proceedings
- Children's courts
- Children with disabilities, right to education.