Principle 7 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child states: "The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He [sic] shall be given and education which will promote his general culture and enable him, on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society.

The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents." Article 26(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

"... parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."

Australia is a signatory to both statements.