



I am Dr Holly Doel-Mackaway, and I am very pleased to be undertaking the role of *Expert Counsellor for Children, Indigenous people and Gender* for the LAWASIA Human Rights Committee. I was attracted to taking on this role because I believe collaboration across jurisdictions, especially among legal professionals, is vital to advance the realisation of human rights globally.

My background is in law and social work, and I work as a legal academic at the Macquarie Law School in Sydney where I teach *Constitutional Law* and *Child and Elder Law* and undertake research on human rights law with a focus on the rights of children and young people, particularly young Indigenous people and girls. My 2022 book [Indigenous Children's Right to Participate in Law and Policy Development](#) presents a model for reforming and developing Indigenous related legislation and policy in Australia and internationally. The model provides guidance about how to seek, listen to and respond to the voices of Indigenous children and young people. I am currently working on several [grant projects](#) that aim to advance children's rights across five continents.

Before becoming an academic I worked as a children's rights lawyer across 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region for UNICEF, Save the Children and various other international non-government organisations. I also operate a child rights consulting practice providing children's rights research, training, legislative and policy advice nationally and internationally on matters relating to child protection, girls' rights, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, children engaged in armed conflict and child rights-based approaches to research and development. I was admitted as a solicitor to the NSW Supreme Court in 2004 and prior to becoming a lawyer I worked as a social worker with women and children who had experienced domestic violence and sexual abuse.

I am looking forward to meeting more LAWASIA members and working with the Human Rights Committee to progress the advancement of human rights in the region. Please feel free to contact me [holly.doel-mackaway@mq.edu.au](mailto:holly.doel-mackaway@mq.edu.au) if you would like to talk about my role or have any ideas about how I could best fulfill it.