

COMMUNITY WORKERS

Community workers play their part to protect and care for children and young people in their community by supporting carers and parents, as well as being a role model for respectful relationships.

Be a positive role model, and a good influence for children and young people to learn from. Encourage young people to be positive role models and contribute to their community.

Consider the impact on children / young people when making service delivery decisions, ensure that the best interests of children and young people are at the focus of your work. Promote youth events, support services, outreach programs and the agencies that provide them.

Encourage children/ young people to participate in their community and provide transport to reduce isolation for young people, where possible.

Talk with and listen to children you work with, and involve them in the planning of activities and program development. Make sure they are always engaged in decisions that impact on their lives.

Be approachable and youth friendly. A code of conduct for working with children and young people is a practical tool for promoting clear and consistent roles and behaviour.

Develop child/youth related policies and procedures for your workplace. Child Protection Policies should promote wellbeing and early intervention practices and be consistent with state/territory mandatory reporting legislation.

Ensure that all staff and volunteers engaged in child related work hold a valid Working With Children Check. When implemented and supported consistently, these policies work to protect children, workers and the organisation.

Build positive relationships with children as well as other community workers to help gain an informed, well-balanced perspective to give advice on improving relationships and inform best practice.

Support parents to access other services that can increase their parenting skills and knowledge.

Think about safe and respectful ways to be an active bystander if you see an adult being inappropriate towards a child or young person.

Congratulate families and young people when you see or hear good things happening.

