

YOUTH WORKERS

Youth workers play their part to protect and care for children and young people in their community by supporting them to participate in their community. They also continuously advocate for the best interests of young people.

Be a positive role model. Be aware of your behaviour, what you say, how you say it and the way you act. Children and young people learn from the people they spend time with, so make your influence positive!

Encourage young people to be positive role models themselves and contribute to their community.

Promote youth events and support services, and support children/young people to actively participate in their community.

Reduce isolation for young people by offering outreach programs and transport.

Consider the impact on children / young people when making service delivery decisions.

Be approachable and youth friendly. Build positive working relationships with child protection workers – it creates a consistency of care and allows you to advocate for the child/young person.

Develop 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 you, 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. A code of conduct for working with children and young people is a practical tool for promoting clear and consistent roles and behaviour. Provide a family friendly space that welcomes children, young people and parents. For example, safe play areas and baby change facilities show families they are valued.

Assist parents with accessing services that can increase their parenting skills and knowledge and/or provide them with additional support.

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.

Value local culture and wisdom and where possible seek input from senior community or family members to improve relationships and inform best practice.



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