



# OUR KIDS, SAFE + STRONG

A code of ethics for people working  
with children and young people  
in the Northern Territory

This code of ethics is for people to talk about and commit to in our work with children—to inspire us to achieve the highest possible standards. This document will grow and change over the coming years.

Following the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, this code defines a child as any person under the age of 18.

## I believe working with children is a universal responsibility and privilege.

1. I commit whole-heartedly to caring for all children according to their needs. I will not discriminate for or against any child due to family, friendships, language or skin group, ethnicity, cultural background, gender, sexuality, religion or disability.
2. I will never knowingly harm a child physically or emotionally. I will never behave in a sexual way towards or in the presence of a child, and shall protect them from sexually inappropriate material.
3. I commit to being polite and respectful talking with and around children, and will listen to their stories and ideas about their own care needs.
4. I commit to respecting the many different ways of bringing up children. I will support families to make decisions about their children and keep them informed and involved in their child's ongoing care.
5. I will seek to keep children connected to family, community, language and culture in the interests of their well-being, to benefit them now and throughout their life.
6. I will try to be a good role model for children and be my best self in their presence. I will promote the care and protection of children in my community and seek to be a role model for others in the way I live my life.
7. I will be respectful towards my colleagues, seeking their guidance and offering my assistance. I will respect my teachers, leaders and Elders, and will be open to a lot more learning.
8. I commit to respecting the privacy and dignity of children and their families and will keep a high level of confidentiality in relation to information shared with me.
9. I will put the best interests of children ahead of the interests or reputation of others, including my own family, friends, community members and people in authority.
10. I commit to upholding the law in relation to reporting child abuse and neglect and will raise any concerns about the safety of children to an appropriate supervisor or legal authority. I will follow and promote the policies for the safety of children as required by my organisation.



I agree to abide by these principles for working with children and young people, to the best of my ability.

NAME OF EMPLOYEE

DATE

NAME OF ORGANISATION

This code of ethics was initiated by NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and developed in partnership with other Peak Bodies NTCOSS (Northern Territory Council of Social Services) and SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care).

It was inspired by the:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- NT Aboriginal Health Worker Code of Ethics
- Hippocratic Oath
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### SUPPORTED BY

**NAPCAN**  
PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE



**CONTACT** [nt@napcan.org.au](mailto:nt@napcan.org.au)

**RESEARCH** Black Wattle Consulting  
**DESIGN** [designland.com.au](http://designland.com.au) **ILLUSTRATION** © kat chadwick

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