



# 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.