



YOUTH WORKERS

Community 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 and family events and support services, and support children and young people to actively participate in their community.

Reduce isolation for young people by offering outreach programs and help with access to transport.

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 or young person. Consider the impact on children and young people when making service delivery decisions.

Develop policies and procedures for your workplace. Child Protection Policies should promote wellbeing and early intervention practices and be consistent with state or territory mandatory reporting legislation. Encourage your organisation to become a Child Safe Organisation and access the training to help integrate child safe practices in your organisation.

Ensure that you, all staff and volunteers engaged in child related work hold a **valid Working With Children Check**.

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, including access Parentline's in their state or territory which provides support, counselling and access to other support services in the community.

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.