

Youth Work Practice Responsibilities

To work ethically within a human rights framework with young people, youth workers will adopt the following practice responsibilities.

Young People as the Primary Consideration

The primary consideration and key responsibility of the youth worker is the young people with whom they work.

1

Duty of Care

Youth workers will act in the best interests of young people, avoid exposing them to physical, psychological or emotional harm or injury, and always uphold the principle of 'do no harm'.

Privacy & Confidentiality

Youth workers respect young people's rights to privacy and confidentiality.

Boundaries

The youth work relationship is strictly professional. Professional boundaries intentionally protect both the young person and the worker. Youth workers will maintain the integrity of these limits.

Transparency, Honesty & Integrity

Youth workers will be open and honest with young people, enabling them to access information to make choices and decisions in their lives and in relation to their participation in youth work activities. Youth workers will act with integrity, adhering to the principles and practice responsibilities of their profession.

Social Context

Youth workers will recognise the impact of social and structural forces on young people, so that their practice is responsive to young people's experiences and needs and to break down barriers that restrict young people's life opportunities.

Anti-Opressive Practice: Non-Discrimination, Equity and Self-Awareness

Youth workers will ensure that equality of opportunity is promoted and will enable and encourage young people to respect and celebrate their own and others' cultural backgrounds, identities and choices.

Cooperation & Collaboration

Youth workers will cooperate and collaborate with others, including families, in order to secure the best possible outcomes for young people.

Knowledge, Skills & Self-Care

Youth workers will keep abreast of the information, knowledge and practices needed to meet their obligations to young people.

Recognition of Indigenous Peoples

Youth workers recognise the traditional lands and waters of Indigenous peoples. They will be respectful of Indigenous culture recognising

Find the Full Code and other Youth Work resources at caywa.global

(Dr Tim Corney, Commonwealth Youth Program June 2017)

The author gratefully acknowledges the following youth work codes YACVIC 2007; YACWA 2003; and NYA 2005.