

Sample Code of Conduct for a Child Safe Organisation

Health Services

This sample template outlines an example code of conduct for an organisation providing health services to children and young people. It is provided for demonstration only and must be adapted to reflect the size, nature and business of an organisation.

Codes of conduct provide the minimum expected behaviour of all personnel within your organisation. Strategies to support your code of conduct should include:

- *Requiring all personnel to acknowledge and sign your code of conduct*
- *Ensuring your code of conduct is published, made widely available and communicated to all relevant personnel; and*
- *Ensuring your code of conduct is supported by clear organisational reporting and response mechanisms to address breaches.*

NOTE: This template is for use by private and community health service providers. SA Health divisions, regions and service agencies should visit <http://inside.sahealth.sa.gov.au/> to view the Child Safe Environments Policy Directive that applies to SA Health staff, volunteers and students on placement or work experience.

Caring for children and young people brings additional responsibilities for practitioners and employees of this practice/organisation.

In addition to the obligations placed on practitioners under the (relevant professional code)

all employees of this practice/organisation are responsible for promoting the safety and well-being of children and young people by:

- Adhering to this practice/organisation's child safe policy at all times.
- Respecting that all children and young people who access this service have a right to feel and be safe.
- Treating all children and young people with dignity, equality and respect.
- Being aware of responsive to the particular needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people (such as age, language barriers, developmental capabilities, disability, mental health, trauma or abuse).
- Ensuring clear age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate explanations are provided to children and young people about the consultation and allowing for questions prior to examination.
- Seeking the consent of the child, young person and their parents or guardians (where applicable), particularly where treatment requires physical contact.
- Being alert to children and young people who are, or may be at risk, and reporting this to the Child Abuse Report Line (13 14 78).
- Encouraging children and young people to 'have a say' on issues that impact on their care
- Ensure that children, young people and their families know their rights and how to access the complaints procedures available to them
- Ensuring a physically and socially safe environment, for children and young people, that is free of any identifiable hazards.

Employees must not

- Discriminate against any child or young person because of age, gender, cultural background, religion, vulnerability or sexuality
- Develop any 'special' relationships with children or young people outside of the professional relationship.
- Take part in any unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person.

I agree to abide by this code of conduct

Name:.....

Signature:..... **Date:**.....