



*Youth workers exist in the space created by young people's exclusion from full membership of the common wealth, in the struggle by young people for survival and recognition on the one hand and the struggle by society for order and control on the other. The core of youth work practice lies in the relationship with the young person as the primary client, expressed through a commitment to advocacy and healing in their work with the young person and the wider society.*

- Prologue, ACT Youth Work Code of Ethics

## **Youth Work Code of Ethics: Implementation Plan 2007 / 2008**

The youth sector in the ACT has been part of a vigorous debate on a code of ethics for youth work for over ten years. Throughout this time conferences, drafts, expert panels, debates and forums have occurred. In 2003 a Youth Work Code of Ethics was agreed to by the sector and launched at the Youth Coalition conference.

The Youth Coalition is committed to supporting the Code of Ethics and encourages all youth workers and services to adopt it. We have drafted a *Youth Work Code of Ethics Implementation Plan* (see attached). The aim of the plan is to promote and support ethical practice in the youth sector through the voluntary implementation of the Youth Work Code of Ethics in the ACT. We would like to inform and get feedback from the youth sector on this document. The plan will be:

- presented at the Youth Coalition monthly forum on 17 May,
- circulated to the youth sector for comment for 4 weeks, and
- re-drafted and circulated to the sector at the end of June.

If you have any feedback, comments or ideas please don't hesitate to contact:

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Please note: There is no additional funding to conduct this implementation plan.

## Draft Youth Coalition of the ACT Youth Work Code of Ethics Implementation Plan

The *Draft Youth Coalition of the ACT Youth Work Code of Ethics Implementation Plan* has been developed and will be implemented in partnership with the youth sector. The role of the Youth Coalition in the implementation of the Code of Ethics (COE) is to provide support to the youth sector to further one of their stated and endorsed goals. It is assumed that all the strategies will not be able to be completed in a twelve-month period. Some strategies are applicable to more than one objective however they have been listed under the objective with the most relevance.

The table below lists proposed objectives and strategies for the Youth Coalition to support the implementation of the Code of Ethics (COE).

	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
1	Raise awareness of the Code of Ethics in the youth sector	1.1 Promote through the Youth Coalition website: <a href="http://www.youthcoalition.net">www.youthcoalition.net</a> 1.2 Provide hardcopies to the Youth Coalition membership 1.3 Write to the Youth Coalition membership explaining developments 1.4 Distribute the COE in electronic and hardcopy 1.5 Promote through organisational promotional material, such as flyers and the training and professional development calendar. 1.6 Promote through the ACT Peaks Network 1.7 Promote through the Youth Coalition's representational work 1.8 Promote through guest speaker and other presentation opportunities 1.9 Promote the use of the COE through professional development opportunities hosted by the Youth Coalition 1.10 Promote to training and professional development providers in the ACT and surrounding area 1.11 Promote through the Youth Coalition ebulletin 1.12 Promote through the Youth Coalition monthly forum
2	Provide support to youth services implement the Code of Ethics	2.1 Develop a public register of commitment to implementing the COE from services and individuals 2.2 Provide targeted professional development to the youth sector 2.3 Develop an audit tool / checklist 2.4 Collect case studies of how youth services are using the COE and how it has affected their practice and promote these 2.5 Develop information (factsheets, posters, postcards) to promote the COE 2.6 Develop a library of electronic information on ethical practice, the background to the COE, etc. 2.7 Develop and distribute COE promotional material 2.8 Develop a youth friendly version of the COE

		<p>2.9 Encourage youth services to display the COE promotional material in their service</p> <p>2.10 Conduct in-service and deliver presentations on the COE</p> <p>2.11 Provide support to the Youth Centres Network</p> <p>2.12 Provide support to the Family and Adolescent Network</p> <p>2.13 Explore the viability of developing a Youth Services Managers Network</p> <p>2.14 Develop a tool for youth service managers</p>
3	Identify and support opportunities for the Code of Ethics to be incorporated, underpin, and strengthen youth work practice in the ACT	<p>3.1 Develop linkages with tertiary institutions</p> <p>3.2 Encourage youth services to include the COE in their induction processes</p> <p>3.3 Include a COE item in the Board's letter to members</p> <p>3.4 Utilise the Big Red Book as a tool to promote the COE</p> <p>3.5 Target the COE at new workers</p> <p>3.6 Conduct intra and cross-sectoral in-services and information sessions on the Big Red Book</p> <p>3.7 Include as an agenda item to be included in the Youth Coalition forum each month</p> <p>3.8 Include as an agenda item to be included all forums / networks the Youth Coalition facilitates</p> <p>3.9 Include as an item in the Youth Coalition's Annual Report</p> <p>3.10 Incorporate the COE into Youth Coalition policy work where applicable</p>
4	Encourage the Code of Ethics to be a dynamic document	<p>4.1 Provide opportunities for discussion and debate on the COE</p> <p>4.2 Develop monthly ethical dilemmas</p> <p>4.3 Facilitate discussion on ethical practice and issues</p> <p>4.4 Develop a web forum/blog</p> <p>4.5 Develop a webpage dedicated to the COE</p> <p>4.6 Facilitate additional case studies to be included in the COE</p>
5	Commitment to action research and evaluation	<p>5.1 Develop an evaluation plan</p> <p>5.2 Provide quarterly updates to the youth sector on the implementation of the COE</p> <p>5.3 Develop a register of people who want quarterly updates</p> <p>5.4 Identify and recruit COE Champions</p> <p>5.5 Explore the development of a COE Steering Committee / Advisory Group</p> <p>5.6 Write and distribute an implementation plan (this document) on the COE to the youth sector</p> <p>5.7 Develop feedback mechanisms</p> <p>5.8 Conduct an annual review</p>

		5.9 Document ethical issues, gaps, emerging issues and other practice issues as they arise
6	Positively promote the youth sector and its practice	6.1 Incorporate the COE into the Yogies Award 6.2 Utilise the COE as a tool to foster positive identity building in the youth sector 6.3 Utilise the COE as a tool to positively promote the youth sector 6.4 Utilise the COE as a tool to promote positive sector building activities and initiatives 6.5 Promote the COE outside of the youth sector
7	Sustainability	7.1 Lobby for funding to further roll out the COE 7.2 Incorporate the COE implementation in the Youth Coalition's Strategic Plan 7.3 Develop further links with other State and Territory youth affairs peak bodies to discuss the development of the COE nationally 7.4 Document processes and share learnings with stakeholders and other interested parties

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