

Children by Choice Charter of Commitment to Children and Young People



Children by Choice will:

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Keep you safe:

- a) protect you from all forms of harm, abuse and discrimination
- b) create safe spaces where you feel comfortable and secure
- c) check that everyone who works for us is safe to be around
- d) act quickly if someone tries to hurt you or makes you feel unsafe
- e) never tolerate bullying, racism or any behaviour that makes you feel bad.

2

Listen to your voice:

- a) listen when you speak and take on your views openly
- b) include you in decisions that affect you, if safe to do so
- c) provide different ways for you to share your thoughts and feelings
- d) respect your ideas even when they are different from ours
- e) act on your feedback to make our services better.

3

Respect your rights:

- a) always treat you with dignity and respect
- b) recognise your right to privacy and confidentiality
- c) support your right to practice your culture and spirituality
- d) ensure you can find information in ways you understand
- e) advocate for your needs and best interests.

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Celebrate your identity:

- a) welcome and celebrate who you are
- b) respect your culture, language and beliefs
- c) support your connection to family and community
- d) recognise and value your unique experiences
- e) stand against racism and discrimination in all forms.

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Support your wellbeing:

- a) provide services that help you thrive
- b) connect you with other types of support when you need it
- c) work with your family and community to keep you safe
- d) recognise when things are hard and respond with care
- e) celebrate your achievements and who you are.

6

Being accountable to you:

- a) be transparent about how we protect children
- b) regularly check with you that we do what we said we would do
- c) fix things when we make mistakes
- d) report on how well we are doing at keeping children safe.

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Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children:

- a) ensuring you can stay connected to your family, community, culture and Country
- b) creating culturally safe spaces free from racism
- c) celebrating and strengthening your cultural identity
- d) recognising the strength and resilience of your culture.

8

Commitment to children facing extra challenges:

- a) children with a disability can fully participate and access all services
- b) children from different cultural backgrounds feel welcomed and included
- c) LGBTIQ+ children are supported and affirmed in their identity, sex variation or gender expression
- d) children experiencing vulnerability receive additional supports they need and
- e) all children have equal opportunity to be safe and thrive.

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You have the right to:

- a) feel safe and be protected from harm
- b) have your voice heard and opinions valued
- c) access information about our services and your rights
- d) make complaints without fear of getting in trouble
- e) have your privacy respected
- f) get help from someone you trust
- g) be treated the same way regardless of your identity
- h) practice your culture and beliefs
- i) celebrate who you are and enjoy being a child.

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This charter is more than just words. We commit to:

- a) regular training for all staff on child safety
- b) clear policies that protect children
- c) swift action when concerns are raised
- d) regular review of our child safety practices
- e) transparency in our child protection efforts.