

DRAFT CODE OF ETHICS

Workers of the service will:

- Promote the safety of women, their children, relatives and associates and colleagues;
- Observe the highest standard of professional conduct;
- Promote the self-determination and autonomy of women, actively seeking to enable them to make informed decisions on their own behalf;
- Strive to continually improve service delivery and ensure that the services provided meet clients' expressed needs;
- Maintain and expand their knowledge base, theory and skills through continuing education and supervision, to provide quality service and accountable practice;
- Seek to ensure that services are offered and delivered in a culturally appropriate manner;
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries and not engage in inappropriate relationships with clients or colleagues. Inappropriate relationships include sexual relationships or other relationship (such as lender/borrower) where the potential for conflict of interest arises;
- Work with honesty, integrity, courtesy and respect for clients and colleagues and seek to understand differences in viewpoints and practice;
- Ensure that assessments made and information given is within the scope of their professional training or role;
- Be aware of Occupational Health and Safety issues;
- Not participate in any wilful act of misconduct or neglect of duty. Misconduct includes:-
 - Stealing
 - Breaches of confidentiality
 - Offensive language or behaviour,
 - Misappropriation of monies or goods.
- Appropriately challenge, and work to improve, policies, procedures, practices and services which:
 - are not in the best interests of women
 - are inequitable
 - are in any way oppressive, disempowering or culturally inappropriate
 - demonstrate unfair discrimination.
- Respect clients and colleagues right to privacy and confidentiality.

Adapted from Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

What do you think of these suggested ethics guidelines? Are there any items you don't feel comfortable with? That would be challenging to abide by in your work?

Does your organization have written employee expectations? How does this list compare to your organization's written employee expectations?

What do you think of these suggested Client Rights? Are there any items you don't feel comfortable with? That would be challenging to implement or adhere to in your current work?

Does your organization have written Client Rights? How does this list compare to your organization's current Client Rights? Are people routinely given copies of their Rights? How does providing Rights information impact working with survivors, if at all?